

Sin Has Consequences

Text : **Obadiah**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Obadiah is a somber message from God.

1. **Vs. 1 ... The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom—**
2. It is a message of the total destruction of a once great nation.
Vs. 16- Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow And become as if they had never existed.

B. God explains the reasons they will be destroyed.

1. They were filled with pride.
 - a. They did not view themselves properly.
 - b. They did not view others properly.
 - c. They did not view God properly.
2. They put their trust in things other than God.
 - a. Their natural defenses
 - b. Their riches
 - c. Their military might
 - d. Their alliances
 - e. Their wisdom
3. They were also to be judged for the sin of **not** doing good.
 - a. *Withholding good is just as much a sin as actively committing wrong.*
Vs. 11- On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem— You too were as one of them.
 - b. The eternal God is eternally consistent. **His standard never changes.**
Heb. 13:8- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
 - c. Thus, this eternal principle is still true today.
James 4: 17- Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

TRANSITION :

Because God is totally consistent we can be assured that He will deal with us exactly as He dealt with the people of old. That which He approved or disapproved of in the past will engender the same response. (Pos. or neg.)

I. God will punish sin. (i.e., bring judgment to bear.)

A. Justice demands judgment, i.e., it demands enforcement of law.

1. No government is just if it does not apply it's laws equally and consistently.
2. Being just, God will hold everyone to exactly the same standard.
3. **Psa. 96: 10-** Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

B. NO sin will be left unpunished.

1. No one is above God's judgment. **Psa. 110: 6-** "scatter chief men"
2. God will most certainly punish ALL sin.
Nahum 1:3- The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.
3. The wages of sin IS death.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 23**
 - b. God will leave no wages unpaid.
 - c. All have sinned (**Rom 3:23**) so all will be judged.

II. Even so, God does not want to punish anyone.

A. Some have tried to paint God as one who just looks for a reason to punish.

1. Were this the case, God would not have sent Jesus to die for us.
2. No parent enjoys punishing his children.

ILL. - Personal example.

B. God takes no pleasure in judgment, but justice demands it.

Ezek. 33: 11- "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'

C. Because God doesn't like to punish people, He is most often not quick to do so.

1. He waited more than four generations to judge the Amorites.
Gen. 15:16- "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

2. In times of old, God sent prophets to warn people to avoid judgment.
Eccl. 3:17- Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.
3. Today **ALL** of the followers of Christ have been sent out into the world to warn.
Mark 16: 15-16 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. ...”
4. Why would Christ mobilize all His followers to cry out the message ?
 - a. Because God does not want to be required to punish anyone.
 - b. **II Pet. 3:9-** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

III. God’s judgment is just.

- A. He judges people only for the sins they commit.
 1. **Ezek. 18: 30-** Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct,” declares the Lord God. “Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.
 2. **Ezek. 18: 20-** The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

* **No one can inherit the sins of his ancestors.** (Not of Adam & Eve)
- B. God will judge every single person equally.
 1. **Eccl. 3:17-** I said to myself, “God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,” for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.
 2. **Ezek. 3: 27-** The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with horror, and the hands of the people of the land will tremble. According to their conduct I will deal with them, and by their judgments I will judge them. And they will know that I am the Lord.’ ”

IV. Though judgment is individual, it is not personal.

- A. Judgment is not personal.
 1. When disciplined, people tend to make the excuse “*He doesn’t like me.*”
 2. God has proven His love by sending His Son to die for **ALL** people.

B. God judges SIN not people.

1. **Rom. 6:23-** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. Spiritual death is a result of sin, **NOT** personality.
Rom. 5:12- Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

C. God will judge everyone by the very same standard.

1. **John 12:48-** He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.
2. The standard is available to all men. (*All Christians are to spread the word.*)
 - a. More copies of the bible have been sold than of any other book in history.
 - b. The bible is published in more languages than any other book.
3. God will even allow men to set their own legal standard. (**Can't keep any law.**)
 - a. **Rom. 2: 12, 14** For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; ... **14** For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

D. Jesus Himself will be the one to Judge everyone.

1. In the U.S. legal system defendants seek the most lenient judge.
 - a. Some seek to move their trial to a more favorable venue.
 - b. In big cases, both defendants and prosecutors hire jury consultants.
2. Before God, ALL people have the same judge ... **Jesus Christ the righteous.**
Acts. 17: 30-31 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.
3. Compare ... **Heb. 10:30-** "The Lord will judge His people."

V. Though God is totally just, but in the end, man does not want justice; he wants mercy.**A. No person can stand before God on his own merit.**

1. **Rom. 3: 10, 23** ... None righteous because all sin and fall short.

- a. To fall short is to fail to measure up to the standard.
 - b. The wages of even one sin is death; **thus**, justice is death for all.
2. **Heb. 2: 2-3a** For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,
3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

B. Every man will give an account to God for :

- 1. All of the deeds done in the body. (**while alive**)
II Cor. 5: 10- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- 2. Every single word one has spoken.
Matt. 12.36- But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.
- 3. Every thought one has thought.
Heb. 4: 12-13 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
* Compare ... **Acts 8: 22 , Rom. 2: 16**

C. As Edom learned, there are also consequences for doing nothing.

- 1. **Obadiah 11-** On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem— You too were as one of them.
- 3. Christians understand this to be the eternal command of God.
James 4: 17- Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. (To fail to serve is to rebel.)
- 2. **Read ... Ezek. 3: 16-21** (**Compare ... Mark 16: 15-16**)

CONCLUSION :

A. God uses the book of Obadiah to teach us that :

- 1. Everyone will give an accounting to God for every single thing he :
 - a. Does
 - b. Says
 - c. Thinks

2. Everyone will also give an accounting to God for his every failure to act.
 - a. Christians cannot just watch others be captured by Satan and do nothing.
 - b. To do so is to be guilty of the same sin as Edom.

B. No man can stand before God justified.

1. However, all must stand before God.
2. God doesn't want to punish anyone, but His divine justice demands that he must.
3. God delays judgment hoping that people will turn from their sins. (**repent**)

C. Jesus has died to provide a way for people to escape the judgment.

Read ... Rom. 5: 6-11

D. Jesus offers us an opportunity to stay justified in that day

Read ... Titus 3: 1-7 (If time is short, just summarize.)

INVITATION :

- A. Are you ready to stand before God in Judgment ?
- B. Ready or not, you, me and all mankind **will** stand before Him.
 - a. Will you stand before Him alone as did Edom ?
 - b. Or will you stand before him justified by the sacrifice of Jesus ?
- C. You now have that opportunity to accept what Christ has done for you.