

## *From the Garden to Glory*

# Obadiah

**Author:** Probably Obadiah

**Timeline:** c. 841 B.C. (2 Kings 1 - 7)

**Location:** Edom and Israel

**Category:** Prophetical, Minor Prophet

**Theme:** The Judgment of Edom

### **Overview:**

The Edomites were descendants of Esau. They held an ancient grudge against Israel because they felt Jacob had cheated Esau out of the birthright. Consequently they had refused Israel passage through their country (Numbers 20:14-21). Through Obadiah God pronounced judgment on Edom because of their pride (vs. 3) and their treatment of Israel (vs. 15).

### **Introduction:**

As we begin our study of the book of Obadiah, consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. The Hebrew name *Obadyah* means "Servant of Yahweh" or "Worshiper of Yahweh." List the qualities of a servant and a worshiper. Consider your own relationship with the Lord. In what ways are you a servant and a worshiper? How can you grow in these areas?
2. The Edomites had stubbornly refused to come to Israel's assistance in the wilderness and during a time of invasion. Look up the word *stubborn* in a dictionary. Ask the Lord to search your heart to identify

any areas of stubbornness in your own life. Confess them to Him, repent and walk in the freedom of forgiveness.

## **The Judgment of Edom**

Read the book of Obadiah

1. Many commentators believe that Obadiah was written during the reign of Jehoram. What do you learn about Jehoram and the nation of Judah during his time from 2 Chronicles 21:1-6?
2. What does the Lord say concerning Edom in verses 1-4? The word *pride* means "to boil up, to be presumptuous". How does pride deceive the one who is proud? Edom was proud of her geographical location, her wealth and treasure, her wisdom and her military prowess. What could cause you to be proud? How do you resist the temptation to be overcome by pride? Be specific.
3. Pastor Damian Kyle said, "Pride is at the heart of every sin and all rebellion." Summarize Isaiah 14:12-15. What do you learn from these verses about the "author" of all pride?
4. Look at verses 10-14. What was the reason for God's judgment on Edom? How were their actions symptoms of their pride?
5. Look at verses 15-21, and summarize the results of God's judgment on Edom.
6. According to Jeff Lasseigne, "Obadiah's prophesy was the end result of an ongoing feud that began hundreds of years before that time in the womb of Isaac's wife Rebekah...Edom, the descendants of Esau, acted cruelly towards their brethren Israel (Jacob), and it led to their total extinction as a race of people." Hatred, and the bitterness which

results from it, have disastrous results. Ask the Lord to search your heart for any bitterness which has taken root there. Confess anything He shows you and walk in freedom.

## **Summary**

As you conclude your study of the book of Obadiah consider the following questions and write your answers:

- 1.** What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
- 2.** What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
- 3.** List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord:

# Joel

**Author:** Joel

**Timeline:** c. 825 B.C. (2 Kings 11 - 12)

**Location:** Southern Kingdom of Judah

**Category:** Prophetical, Minor Prophet

**Theme:** The Day of the Lord

## **Overview:**

Joel's ministry was to Judah during the reign of Joash. Joel warned the people of Judah of God's imminent judgment upon their sin; he called them to repentance in order to receive God's blessing rather than His judgment.

## **Introduction:**

As we begin our study of the book of Joel, consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. Disaster struck without warning in the book of Joel. What is one character trait you need to be prepared to deal with "unexpected disaster" in a godly manner when it strikes in your life?
2. Joel was an uncompromising preacher. In what areas in your life has the Lord called *you* to be uncompromising?

## **The Plague**

Read Joel 1

1. Many commentators believe that Joel was written during the reign of Joash. Read 2 Kings 11:1-3, 2 Kings 12 and 2 Chronicles 23:16-24:27, and note what you learn about Joash and the nation of Judah during the time of his reign.
2. Look at verse 3. What are the people told to do? What mighty acts of God's judgment or mercy are you sharing with those who are spiritually and/or chronologically younger than you?
3. Summarize verse 4. According to So That's Why! Bible, "An adult locust has a wing span of 5 inches and can fly 100 miles in a day. A locust swarm may number billions of locusts and eat several tons of leaves in a day." Imagine that you lived in an agrarian society around the time of 800 B.C. What would you think or feel as you heard that billions of locusts were approaching?

## **The Coming Day of the Lord**

Read Joel 2

1. Look at verse 1. A major theme in the book of Joel is "The Day of the Lord." According to John MacArthur, "The phrase (the Day of the Lord) does not have reference to a chronological time period, but to a general period of wrath and judgment uniquely belonging to the Lord. It is exclusively the day which unveils His character--mighty, powerful, and holy, thus terrifying to His enemies. The day of the Lord does not always refer to an eschatological (future or "end times") event; on occasion it has a near historical fulfillment...As is common in prophesy, the near fulfillment is an historic event upon which to comprehend the more distant, eschatological fulfillment." Look up the following references to the "Day of the Lord" and note what you learn:
  - Obadiah 15
  - Joel 1:15, 2:1, 2:11, 2:31, 3:14
  - Amos 5:18, 5:20
  - Isaiah 2:12, 13:6, 13:9

- Zephaniah 1:7, 1:14
- Ezekiel 13:5, 30:3
- Zechariah 14:1
- Malachi 4:5

2. Look at verses 12-13. What are the people told to do? What does it mean to "rend your heart"? How is this demonstrated in your life?
3. Look at verse 25-27. How has the Lord restored the years in your life which you thought were hopelessly lost forever?

## **The Promise**

Read Joel 3

1. Look at verse 1. To what or by whom were you "held captive" before coming to know the Lord? How has He freed you from that captivity?
2. Look at verse 10. In what way can you, being *weak*, say, "I am strong"? Be specific.
3. Read these words from Thomas J. Finney, "Joel moves his readers from horror and hopelessness to mourning and repentance, dread and awe, joy and assurance, hope and expectation." How has this progression paralleled your own walk with the Lord?

## **Summary**

As you conclude your study of the book of Joel consider the following questions and write your answers:

- 1.** What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
- 2.** What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
- 3.** List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord:

# Jonah

**Author:** Probably Jonah

**Timeline:** c. 782 B.C. (2 Kings 14)

**Location:** The Great Sea, Nineveh

**Category:** Prophetical, Minor Prophet

**Theme:** God's Concern for the Lost

## Overview:

Jonah prophesied at a time when Assyria was a threat to Israel. Assyrian cruelty was legendary. God sent Jonah to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. Jonah refused to do this fearing that the city would repent and be spared God's judgment. After being swallowed by a great fish Jonah finally conceded and preached to the city of Nineveh.

Salvation is of the Lord and His salvation extends to any who will repent and turn to Him, even the Gentiles.

## Introduction:

As we begin our study of the book of Jonah, consider this story from Highway 66 by Jeff Lasseigne, and write your responses to the following questions:

In February of 1891, the whaling ship known as "The Star of the East" was hunting off the Falkland Islands. When a whale was spotted, smaller boats were lowered to harpoon the mammal. One of those smaller boats capsized, and a sailor named James Bartley disappeared without a trace. After the whale was killed...the sailors heard intermittent sounds from the stomach of the whale, and upon cutting the

stomach open, discovered their lost sailor. Though initially unconscious, within three weeks he was well enough to return to his ship duties.

1. When has the Lord worked in a miraculous way in your life? How did you grow in your relationship with Him due to this experience?
2. John E. Hunter said, "If the story of Jonah and the whale is a myth, then so is the story of the resurrection." How do you explain the truth of God's Word to an unbeliever? Why is it important to accept the entire Bible as infallible and inerrant?

## **The First Commission of Jonah**

Read Jonah 1 and 2

1. Read 2 Kings 14:23-29, and note everything you learn about Jonah and the time in which he lived.
2. Look at 1:1-3.
  - What did the Lord tell Jonah to do? What was Jonah's response?
  - Have you ever tried to "flee from the Lord's presence"? What was the result?
  - Look at Psalm 139:7-12 and Jeremiah 23:24. What do you learn about trying to flee from the Lord's presence?
3. Look at 1:4, 1:7 and 2:10. What do you learn about the Lord's sovereignty from these verses? How has the Lord shown Himself to be sovereign in your own life?
4. How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish *before* he cried out to the Lord? Why do you think he waited so long?

5. Summarize Jonah's prayer in 2:1-9. In your opinion, is there something missing from his prayer? If so, what is missing?

## **The Second Commission of Jonah**

Read Jonah 3 and 4

1. Look at 3:1-4. What did the Lord tell Jonah to do? What was Jonah's response this time? According to Henrietta Mears, the outstanding lesson of the book of Jonah is "Arise and go!" Where is the Lord asking you to "arise and go" today? What is your response?
2. Summarize 3:5-10. What do you believe is the most important lesson from these verses?
3. Look at 4:1-3. What was Jonah's response to the repentance of the Ninevites?
4. Look at 4:5-11. What was Jonah's heart toward the Ninevites? What was God's heart toward them? Ask the Lord to search *your* heart concerning the unsaved in our world. Is your heart more like Jonah's or more like God's?

## **Summary**

As you conclude your study of the book of Jonah consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?

**2.** What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?

**3.** List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

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