

## GAINING PERSPECTIVE

*Memorial Day* ... Power Point slide

In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans' group known as the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War.

Every Memorial Day, the U.S. flag is quickly raised to the tops of flagpoles, slowly lowered to half-mast, and then raised again to full height at noon. The time at half-mast is meant to honor the million-plus fallen U.S. soldiers who have died for their country over the years. Raised again ...

**Opening:** It seems fitting we should study the book of Obadiah on Memorial Day Weekend

The American Civil War resulted in families fighting each other literally brother killing brother.

Obadiah's prophecy is for Edom and Israel – two nations that fought each other

**Emotional Connection:** Who here has ever been mistreated by people close to you?

It's bad enough when it's someone you don't know

- You get cut off by that driver who just can't wait
- Short changed by the attendant behind the 7<sup>11</sup> counter
- You find out that a co-worker has taken credit for a project that you spent weeks working on

But when it's a close friend or worse yet a family member it's like a knife to the heart

If you're a visiting here today - and not on board with this Christianity thing – you get the chance to see how we, who call ourselves Christians, handle problems like these

So how does a Christian handle this kind of life problem? The answer: most of the time poorly

Followers of Jesus Christ don't receive immunization shots against life's problems

**The difference between the person who chooses Jesus and the one who doesn't - is not in who we are but who we've committed to.**

Our failures - come mostly as result in forgetting to depend on God for help – failure to stay grounded in His Spirit when these problems threaten us

We listen to those destructive thoughts in our mind – we become angry - despondent

My wakeup Call ... Jen's gentle voice "John" I'm hoping you hear His voice speak to you this morning

Account: This week pastor Jerry and Nick and I got to spend some time with a friend a wonderful man who is going through terrible turmoil – the kind that wakes you out of sleep – makes you turn and toss wrestling with your pillow like an enemy.

He was in trying to do the right thing to people who had put him in a compromising and didn't know what the right thing was

Have you been there – you want to do the right thing ... but you have no idea which way to turn or where to begin

As we talked the lines in his face began to relax the tension in his body began to ease after we prayed a smile came back to his face –

That's what God's presence can do – turn worry into rest – bring hope out of hopelessness

We need that daily dose of time with God– without Him– there is no difference between being a Christian or not being a Christian because both operate under our own power!

**Quote:** The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders, and interfering with God's work within us. A.W. Tozer

So what does any of this, have to do with Obadiah? Glad you asked

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament –one chapter ... you would think we could read all of it today right? Nope – that will be your homework assignment

Obadiah's name means "**Servant of the Lord**" written somewhere around 855 BC

The book has two main sections:

1. God tells Edom through Obadiah that they are not going to get away with their acts of: treachery, stealing and murder against his people Israel
2. Israel's restoration and return to the land

**Obadiah verses 1 – 4, 6-9** (MSG)

<sup>1</sup>Obadiah's Message to Edom from GOD, the Master.

We got the news straight from GOD by a special messenger sent out to the godless nations:

“On your feet, prepare for battle; get ready to make war on Edom!

<sup>2-4</sup>“Listen to this, Edom: I'm turning you to a no-account, the runt of the godless nations, despised. You thought you were so great, perched high among the rocks, king of the mountain, Thinking to yourself, ‘Nobody can get to me! Nobody can touch me!’ Think again. Even if, like an eagle, you hang out on a high cliff-face, Even if you build your nest in the stars, I'll bring you down to earth.” GOD's sure Word.

Your world will collapse. You won't know what hit you. So don't be surprised”—it's GOD's sure Word!— “when I wipe out all sages from Edom and rid the Esau mountains of its famous wise men. Your great heroes will desert you, Teman.

There'll be nobody left in Esau's mountains, Because of the murderous history compiled against your brother Jacob, You will be looked down on by everyone.

You'll lose your place in history. On that day you stood there and didn't do anything.

Strangers took your brother's army into exile. Godless foreigners invaded and pillaged Jerusalem. You stood there and watched.

**The book of Obadiah is a dramatic example of God's response to anyone who would harm his children**

So who are the Edomites?

Famous for two things: Wise men and Warriors and in this word God promises to destroy both

**City of Petra** – uncovered by archaeologists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century out of stone (Petra means the rock)



fortress city carved

They are the ancestors of Esau the older brother of Jacob – sons of Isaac

The Story begins with the birth of twins – Isaac and Rebecca (**Genesis 25: 19- 21**)

Rebecca was unable to bear children – Isaac prays to God –she becomes pregnant with twins Esau and Jacob and the fighting begins while they are still in the womb

- **Esau** was a hunter, big burley kind of guy and first to be born – favored by his father
- **Jacob** was smaller, smoother skin a farmer more of a home boy – Mom's favorite
- **Jacob** (heal grabber) plays every angle against his brother – managing to get him to trade away his Birthright and steal his father's blessing – Jacob took everything ... had to run for his life

**Oh by the way Jacob is the good guy in the story** – Not because he was good, the man was a cheat

- Jacob turned his life around because he surrendered his heart to God - began to live the life of faith God planned for him
- The history of bad blood between families is worse than the Hatfield's and McCoy's
- Esau's ancestors Edom become antagonists – hatred and jealousy

### **God's list of grievances [Verses 12 -14](#)**

- When King Nebuchadnezzar lead the Babylonians against Israel ... The Edomites Cheered them
- Chanted : kill them all dash their little ones against the rocks

Think about the ramifications of that comment – if they had gotten their way Jesus could not be born to Mary – Not Emanuel – no savior of the world

- They Caught escaping Israeli refuges, up killing them or turning them over to Babylonian soldiers
- God was about to give back to them all that they had done
- They thought their city was impregnable – God tells them no way you're goin down

### **Edom Destroyed, Israel Restored [Verses 15, 16](#)**

<sup>15</sup> “The day is near when I, the LORD,  
will judge all godless nations!

As you have done to Israel,  
so it will be done to you.

All your evil deeds  
will fall back on your own heads.

<sup>16</sup> Just as you swallowed up my people  
on my holy mountain,  
so you and the surrounding nations  
will swallow the punishment I pour out on you.

Yes, all you nations will drink and stagger  
and disappear from history.

**Edom is an example to all to nations that are hostile to God.** Nothing can break God's promise to protect his people

**Let's put the shoe on the other foot... How should we as God's children – representatives, act or react when abuse comes our way**

### **[Romans 12:17-21\(NLT\)](#)**

<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

<sup>19</sup> Dear friends, never take revenge.

Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD. <sup>20</sup> Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

**John Craig letter** , Executive Director of LI Mentoring letter

**Job 42:10** (NLT) If anyone knew what it was to be tormented by “friends” it was Job. *With friends like that who needs enemies?*

<sup>10</sup> When Job prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes. In fact, the LORD gave him twice as much as before!

Let God give you Fresh perspective this morning

You're not alone

He hasn't left you nor will he ever

If you've never heard His voice ... He's calling your name today