

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 31

Obadiah

Objects to have:

Sign for this new book of the Bible: OBADIAH

The Punishment of Edom

- Pictures:
1. A family group (which includes a young boy)
  2. A young man
  3. A young lady
  4. Another family

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review with the children the names of the books of the Bible learned thus far.) Our story today is taken from a very tiny book in the Bible. (Show the children the book of Obadiah.) There is only one chapter in this book.

Obadiah is the name of a man. The book of Obadiah, however, does not tell the story of the man Obadiah. The book of Obadiah tells about a lot of people—a whole country. It tells about God's telling Obadiah what was going to happen to a country named Edom. The people in the country of Edom thought they could get away from God. Listen to our story—you will hear how it all happened. We will also find out if their story ended happily.

Telling the story:

See this picture of a family? (Hold up that picture.) Let us pretend that this boy (point to a boy in the picture) is Esau. Now we know that this is not a picture of Esau; let's just pretend that it is. Nobody has real pictures of Bible people; they're "pretend" pictures.

Esau had a brother named Jacob. We read about Jacob and Esau 'way back here in the front of the Bible. (Show the children Genesis chapter 26.) Pretend that this family in our picture is the family of which Esau was a member.

Now, God has special plans for Esau. God's plans for all boys and girls are that they trust Jesus, that they be obedient, that they be kind, that they love one another. God's plans for boys and girls as they grow up include having them choose the right college to attend, getting the right jobs and marrying the right people. For the boys and girls as they grow up, God wants to choose the colleges, the jobs and whomever they marry. God wants His people to marry people who trust Him. God has definitely commanded: "You are not to marry anyone who does not trust Jesus as Saviour." That's because God wants the best for all His people.

(Show the picture of the young man.) Let us pretend that this is Esau grown up from a boy to a man. As a young man Esau did not love God. Esau decided himself whom he would marry. (Show the picture of the young lady.) Let us pretend that this is the young lady whom Esau decided to marry. There was something wrong about this young lady; she did not trust Jesus as her Saviour. Esau married her anyway. God was not pleased because Esau married the wrong lady. Esau's mother and father were not pleased that he had married the wrong young lady.

Esau and his wife had many children. In fact, Esau had other wives, and they had children, too. Esau's family was all mixed up!

Esau's family was growing up. Esau's children got families of their own, and they moved into their own houses. They thought everything was all right. They could live without God. They could do as they pleased.

The children of these families grew up. They got married. They got their own houses. Their children grew up and they got married. They got their own houses.

You can see that the family of Esau was getting bigger and bigger. There were so many houses of the people of his family that they became a nation. Edom was the name of the nation. From just the one family of Esau and his wife grew many, many families; there were thousands and thousands of people. This whole country was called Edom. The people who lived in Edom were called Edomites.

The people of Edom—the Edomites—did not love Jesus. None of them ever trusted Him. They pretended to be good people.

One year, when the Israelites were going from Egypt toward the country that God promised them, the road to that country went right through Edom. Moses sent some of his men ahead to the king of Edom. The men asked, “O King of Edom, will you please let all of us Israelites walk through your country? We still stay on the road. We won’t walk through any of your yards or your fields; we won’t hurt anybody or anything. We won’t even drink your water; if we should happen to drink any of your water, we’ll pay for it. Please let us go through your country. We are God’s people, and He is leading us to a country of our own.”

The Edomite king listened to Moses’ men, and he said, “No! Stay out of our country.”

“But we are God’s people; He has taught us to do right. We won’t hurt anything.”

The Edomites said, “No! Go around the long way.”

God said, “I heard that! I’ll remember what the Edomites said to My people. I’ll remember how bad Edom was to My people.”

The Israelites had gone another way. Many years passed. The Israelites were settled in the Promised Land. One day an enemy army was on the march. This enemy army went marching toward the land of the Israelites. The people of Edom saw the enemy army marching to fight the Israelites. You would think that the people of Edom would want to help the Israelites fight against the enemy. But the Edomites did not fight against the enemy, and what is worse, they joined the enemy. They fought against God’s people. God saw that happen. God said, “I will not forget that; I will remember that.”

There were other times when the people of Edom did bad things against God’s people. One time they went in and robbed the palace of the king of Israel. Another time they killed the son of the king. How wicked the people of Edom were!

The Edomites seemed to get by with their wickedness; however, no one ever gets by with wickedness. God sees, and sooner or later God will punish whenever people do not ask forgiveness.

God told His preacher Obadiah what He was going to do with Edom. (Hold up your Bible that is open to the book of Obadiah.) God says in this book, “Obadiah, I am going to show you what I am going to do to the country of Edom. Obadiah, you tell the king of Edom that God is against him. Obadiah, tell Edom that I said, ‘Edom, you are so proud. You think that you are so strong that no one can harm you. I, God, will show you, Edom, that you have been wicked all this time. Other nations will hate you. They will come and destroy you, Edom. I know all about you!’” God was telling Obadiah to tell them, “I know how you have tried to hide your wrong from Me.” But God always learns about the hidden things—the secret things.

The people of Edom probably thought, “No one can destroy us. We live in the mountains. We are safe here in the mountains. We can always look down on an enemy army as they climb the mountain, and we can kill them before they see us. Nobody can hurt us!”

But when God decides that someone needs to be punished, no one can hide. So, the words that God gave Obadiah came true. God did destroy the people of Edom—all the people who were of the families of Esau.

Children, we can never get by with doing wrong. Even though Mother might not see your wrong or Daddy might not see your wrong or Teacher might not see what you have done that is wrong, God still sees it. God is made sad when we do wrong. He wants us to confess our wrong to Him, and He will forgive us. He wants us then to turn from wrongdoing, and He wants us to do right. If we do not do this, sooner or later God will punish us.

Let's all decide to live right. Let's all decide to obey. Whenever it is hard to do right, let's tell Jesus about that, and He will help us to do right. Let's not be like Esau and all the people of his family who were called the nation of Edom. Let's trust Jesus, obey Him, and do right.

That is what the tiny book of Obadiah is about.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Obadiah 15, "For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee...."