

Transforming Daily
“... arise, and let us rise up ...”
Obadiah v.1

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. Obadiah's prophecy is short and to the point. God is going to destroy Edom (descendants of Esau) for their hatred toward the children of Israel, and specifically for their cooperation with the surrounding nations to capture Jerusalem. The hatred Edom has for Israel goes back as far as Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:21-34). But as always, the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.

The date for the writing of Obadiah has been debated for years. Scholars say it can be dated anywhere in between 850 B.C. to 539 B.C. The date is important only for historical reasons. The message is still the same. Whether Obadiah spoke to the Northern kingdom or the Southern kingdom matters not. Whether Obadiah spoke before, during, or after the exile, again, matters not. What matters is that God spoke to His people in an effort to get them to repent and see that He is God and that what He says will come to pass. For the Edomites, it was too late, but for the Israelites (remnant, during and after the exile) it was not. And most certainly for the church it is not too late.

I have been involved in many, many, disciplinary moments. Sometimes I have been on the receiving side and sometimes on the giving. Irrespective of the perspective of the circumstances the outcome has often been the same especially if more than one child was directly involved or only looking on. In some forms of discipline the latter is called a deterrent. However, when I have been disciplined and others were watching on, the whole demeanor of the child changed when they saw the authority (Dad, principal, law enforcement, etc.) meeting out punishment. In some cases, the one meeting out punishment might say to the onlookers, “And that goes for you too.” Or maybe, “do you want some of this?” Sometimes they would say, “If you know what's good for you, you'll learn from his mistake.” On the other hand, when I have been the one to meet out discipline, irrespective of the circumstances, I could literally see the onlookers shrink back from intimidation, or find another place to be. Much like it was when Jesus was eating the Last Supper and when He told the disciples, Apostles, that one of them was going to betray Him, all of them fearfully and rightly said, “Lord, is it I?”

Are you in need of God's discipline? Are you directly or indirectly, for reasons of your own, in league with the enemy (bad attitude, jealous, envious, lethargic, complacent, etc.)? Do you understand the ultimate end of God's prophecy for Israel and the church? If so, let us now, against the enemy of God, in prayer and with spiritual discipline (Ephesians 6:10-18) arise, and let us rise up!