

OBADIAH

THE vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

2 Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

3 ¶ The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation *is* high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

4 Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

5 If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave *some* grapes?

6 How are *the things* of Esau searched out! *how* are his hidden things sought up!

7 All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee *even* to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, *and* prevailed against thee; *they that eat* thy bread have laid a wound under thee: *there is* none understanding in him.

8 Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise *men* out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

9 And thy mighty *men*, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

10 ¶ For *thy* violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

11 In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou *wast* as one of them.

12 But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in

the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldst thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldst thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

13 Thou shouldst not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldst not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid *hands* on their substance in the day of their calamity;

14 Neither shouldst thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldst thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

15 For the day of the LORD *is* near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

16 For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, *so* shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

17 ¶ But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob

shall possess their possessions.

18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be *any* remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

19 And *they of* the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and *they of* the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin *shall possess* Gilead.

20 And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel *shall possess* that of the Canaanites, *even* unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which *is* in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

21 And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.

JONAH CHAPTER 1

1. Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amitai, saying,

2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

4 ¶ But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil *is* upon us; What *is* thine occupation? and whence comest

thou? what *is* thy country? and of what people *art* thou?

9 And he said unto them, I *am* an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry *land*.

10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 ¶ Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest *is* upon you.

13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring *it* to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

14 Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

17 ¶ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

CHAPTER 2

THEN Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardest my voice.

3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

5 The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her

bars *was* about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD.

10 ¶ And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.

CHAPTER 3

AND the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5 ¶ So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a

fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *him* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands.

9 Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

10 ¶ And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

CHAPTER 4

BUT it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, *was* not this my saying, when I was yet

in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live.

4 ¶ Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

5. So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

6 And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made *it* to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, *It is* better for me to die than to live.

9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, *even* unto death.

10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came

up in a night, and perished in a night:

11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and *also* much cattle?

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The Book of Obadiah is the shortest book in the Bible (21 verses), written by Obadiah, whose name means “the servant of the Lord.” It was written about 586 B.C., and contains Edom’s condemnation, because of her treachery toward Judah; the prophecy of her utter destruction; and the salvation of Judah in the Day of the Lord. The book was written in Jerusalem, at the time when Jerusalem was being destroyed by the Babylonian armies. The book deals with Esau, Jacob, Edom, and Israel.

The prophet presents a twofold message. Verses 1-16 consider God’s vengeance on Edom. In verses 10-14 Obadiah names some of the sins of Edom, and in verse 15 we note that God would treat the Edomites just the way they had treated the Jews. Violence would fall upon them and their own confederates would betray them (verses 10,11).

In verses 17-21 God promises Jacob the victory. God also promises deliverance and cleansing for Mount Zion. The constant struggle between Esau and Jacob continues throughout the Bible. The Herods were the New Testament Edomites. One killed the Jewish babies in an effort to destroy Christ (Matthew 2:16-18). Another murdered John the Baptist. Another killed James, the brother of John. The struggle between the Israelites and the Arabs today is a continuation of this same battle that began in Genesis 25.

Jonah was, in fact, an actual person in history (see II Kings 14:25). He was a very popular preacher, but when God called him to go to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, Jonah rebelled. History tells us that the Assyrians were cruel and heartless people who thought nothing of skinning their enemies and burying them alive, or impaling them on sharp poles under the hot sun. Jonah did not love his enemies, and did not care that the city was going to

be overthrown. He had rather disobey God than see his enemies saved.

Chapter 1 records God’s patience with the rebellious preacher. So many people today are like Jonah. They are disobedient to God’s leading. We learn from the Book of Jonah that God has a perfect will for each of us. When we do not follow His leading, we suffer. Likewise, many people today are like Jonah in that they do not love their enemies. They would rather see them destroyed than try to help them. Christ loved even those who rebelled against Him, those who spit upon Him, those who drove the nails into His hands and feet. As followers of Christ, we should have the mind of Christ.

In chapter 2 Jonah is chastened by God, and Jonah repented from his sin. God then cleansed him and gave him another chance.

In chapter 3 we have a lesson in God’s power. As Jonah went to Nineveh to preach, God gave him the message he was to proclaim to the people. Chapter 4:11 says there were more than 120,000 persons who could not discern between their right hand and their left hand. Nineveh was the center of the rising empire of Assyria. The faithfulness of Jonah to preach the message God had given him brought a great change in the city. From the king to the lowest citizens, there were expressions of fear and repentance, and God forgave their sins. This was undoubtedly one of the greatest revivals in history, and it shows what the Lord can do with a frail human instrument who will preach His message.

Chapter 4 again shows the rebellion of Jonah. Instead of being happy and rejoicing at what had taken place, Jonah was angry at the people and at God. This proves that it is possible to serve the Lord, and yet not love people. Jonah is so unlike Jesus in this chapter, for Jesus looked upon the city of lost souls and wept.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 29: For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

ANGELIQUE NAPOLEON

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

THE FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN.

Autumn represents many things. It reminds us of death. The leaves falling from the trees and the grass turning brown again remind us that each of us must some day come to the autumn time of life. Jeremiah said, “*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved*” (Jeremiah 8:20). Let us dedicate ourselves in the autumn time to service for Christ.

Autumn means that summer has passed and school has started. It is time to get back to busy service for the Lord Jesus Christ. I trust that you will have a wonderful autumn and that God will bless you as you spend the fall season.

1889

BIRTHDAY OF WALTER LIPPMAN.

520 B.C.

LAST DAY OF PREPARATION.

This was approximately the last day of preparation before recommencing the building of the Temple under the preaching of Haggai. Why could we not today thank God for the Temple. Some years ago, I stood on the Temple spot where that Temple was built, looked at the Mount of Olives, and thought of the meaning of this spot. This is the place where Solomon built the Temple. This is the place where the Jews rebuilt the Temple, the Temple of Zerubbabel. This is the place where Herod’s Temple was located and the place where some day the Temple shall stand again. Let us look forward then to that day when the

Temple shall be rebuilt and Jesus Christ Himself shall rule and reign on the earth from Jerusalem and be King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let us also, as we think of the House of God, thank God for our own church, the church building, the air conditioning, the lights, the heating, and for the comfortable places we have in which to serve and worship God.

Let us thank God for a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church. If you have the privilege of attending such a church, a soul-winning church, thank God for the soul-winning fervor and evangelistic zeal that permeates your church. Let us thank God for faithful pastors and faithful preachers today as we think about the day of rebuilding the House of God. Then, why not pledge our loyalty to the church and faithfulness to its services. If there is one thing that will *cause* a person to backslide more than any other thing, it is unfaithfulness to the house of God. Then if there is one thing that will *keep* a person *from* backsliding more than any other single thing, it is faithfulness to the House of God.

You may not be able to give as much as others. You may not be able to dress as nicely as others. But there is no one who can be more faithful than you can! Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night—all the services of the church ought to find God’s people faithful to God’s house.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1863

MARY CHURCH TERRELL, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, BORN (death in 1954).

1961

PRESIDENT KENNEDY NAMED THURGOOD MARSHALL TO U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS.

1979

LOU BROCK STOLE A RECORD 935TH BASE and became the all-time major league record holder.

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 90 and 91

AUTHOR: Moses

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALMS:

The Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years. They had crossed the Red Sea. They had marched toward the land of promise. They have come to the very door and sent out twelve spies. These spies came back with glowing reports about the land, but negative reports concerning their power to conquer it. The people were frightened because of the spies reporting that there were giants in the land, and they chose not to enter into the land of promise. Because of this they were cast into the wilderness for 40 years. Sometime during that 40-year period, Moses wrote these two Psalms. Notice that they start basically the same way, dealing with God being their habitation. They had no permanent place to live; they lived in tents and were tossed to and fro and wandered from place to place. Hence, God was their home. His presence was their habitation. Not only did they live because of Him and by Him and through Him, they lived with Him.

One of the more interesting things of Psalm 91 is the statement in verse 1, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Now the secret place of the most High was the holy of holies inside the tabernacle. Next to the tabernacle, therefore, next to the secret place, and in the center of the camp was the tent of Moses. It was Moses who dwelt in the secret place of the most High. The shadow of the Almighty was the shadow of the pillar of cloud by day that hovered over the tabernacle; that is, the secret place of the most High. So Moses was talking about his own habitation and rejoicing that he dwelt in the secret place of the most High and that he himself was under the shadow of the Almighty. The

enemy had to break through rank after rank to get there. Ah, here is the danger of living on the fringe. The closer one lives to God the nearer to the heart of God one walks, the safer he is. The danger is at the fringe of the camp, not in the center. When one lives in the center of God's will, there is a safety that none other can know.

In Psalm 91 there are many different names used for God. For example, He is called the "most high." This means He sees all. One of David's favorite names for God was the "high tower."

Then he is called the "Almighty." This means He does everything and can prepare the way for His people while in the wilderness.

Then He is called "Jehovah," the intimate God. He is very personal. He is the high tower that looks ahead, He is the Almighty that prepares the way, and He is Jehovah Who personally loves His people.

Then the words, "my God," are used. This word is "Elohim." This is the great, mighty God Who is the object of worship. Moses has known God in all these aspects, as the most High Who oversees all, as the Almighty Who can do all, as Jehovah Who loves intimately His own and as Elohim Who is all powerful. Notice the first two of these, most High and Almighty, are impersonal. The second two, Jehovah and Elohim, are personal.

The Way They Are Used by God's People

These Psalms were used when the Jews were in trouble, especially in times of war. They were also very popular Psalms while the Jews were in captivity in Babylon, for in some sense the Jews were in captivity in the wilderness. They were not held there by a heathen nation or a king such as Nebuchadnezzar, but they were held there by God Himself as chastening for their lack of faith in entering into the promised land.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: PROPHETIC DETAILS OF CHRIST'S DEATH

(Assignment 29)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

Identified with a rich man in His death (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:9

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence neither was any deceit in his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:57-60)

Beaten and spit upon (700 B.C.)

() Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:67)

Silent in His own defense (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:12-14)

Condemned on the basis of a false testimony (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 35:11

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:59)

His Body resurrected and saw no corruption (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 16:10

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (Fulfilled—Acts 2:27-32)