

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of December 8, 2024
THEME: "Obadiah"

THE VISION

Sunday..... Read Obadiah 1:1-8

"The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom." Our loving God wants people to understand what He has done, is doing, and plans to do. God loves the world and has kept people informed by recording His actions and His plans in the Holy Scriptures. In the days of the Old Testament God spoke in various ways to advise people of His thinking. That is pointed out in Hebrews 1:1-2: *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."* In today's reading we read that He spoke to the prophet Obadiah in a vision in which He detailed some truth about the nation of Jordan, the descendants of Esau, Jacob's oldest son and twin brother of Jacob.

ABRAHAM'S SONS

Monday Read Genesis 27:34-40

"And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept." Isaac was tricked into passing on the blessing of the family heritage to the younger son Jacob, who disguised himself as Esau. Esau then pleaded with his father to bless him as well. But that second blessing was second best. God's blessing resulted in the coming of the Jewish Messiah and it went through the line of Jacob. Both were the progenitors of great nations, but the nation that extended through Jacob would prevail. The Edomites, mentioned by the prophet Obadiah, were the descendants of Esau. The rivalry that existed in the family of Abraham is a rivalry that continues today in the Middle East. As a matter of fact it is the focal point of world news. Today the opposition to Israel comes from people named the Hezbollah and the Hamas. Our omnipotent God will have the nation of Israel prevail because His Son the Lord Jesus will eventually take the throne of David in Jerusalem.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Tuesday Read Hebrews 4:1-3

"For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world." Faith in God brings God's blessing: unbelief results in God's righteous judgment. God is sovereign, the eternal ruler. He is the almighty Creator and the final Judge. This is His universe, His enemy, the devil, is powerful, but ultimately will be subjected to God's omnipotence. In the end, God will have His way! All nature and all nations are in God's control. For now, there are rulers of nations who do not recognize God's sovereignty. In His mercy, God has patiently restrained from imposing His righteousness. He does have His witnesses to share

His love and His message of redemption. This gives sinful humanity the opportunity to see and to hear of God's light in this world of spiritual darkness.

GOD'S JUDGMENTS

Wednesday Read Isaiah 66:14-16

"For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many." The sad truth regarding God's judgments is that more people will suffer the wrath of God's judgments than those that will receive His rewards. When the prophet talked about "many" being slain, he is referring to eternal torment in the hell prepared for the devil. Jesus spoke of that place of eternal torment in Matthew 25:41: *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."* Jesus went to the cross of Calvary so people would not have to suffer that eternal punishment. Receiving Jesus as Savior delivers us from God's judgment of sin.

JUDGMENT OF NATIONS

Thursday Read Matthew 25:31-32

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne." No ruler of any nation can stand up against God. The rulers of nations in the Old Testament found out that the God of the Jews was unbeatable. When the Philistines tried to subdue the Jews, Goliath found out that their God was supreme. He went down with the stone thrown at him. God did not need nuclear weapons. His Word is powerful! We read of the power of God's Word in Hebrews 4:12: *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Jesus Himself will show His power at the Battle of Armageddon when He defeats the nations of the world who had invaded God's chosen nation of Israel!

GOD'S CALENDAR

Friday Read Genesis 8:20-22

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." God has arranged His calendar into days and months and years and seasons. There is a time for work and play, and a time to sleep. There is a time to plant and a time for harvest. God is a God of order, and plans properly. Careful planning brings good results. To ignore God's calendar brings trouble. He started with the Creation and populated His earth with people and brought animal life into existence. He divided the world into nations and assigned one nation, Israel, to be special. It would be the nation into which His Son Jesus would be born in His assigned time. We read of that in Galatians 4:4: *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."* The coming events are the Rapture, the Tribulation, and the Millennial Reign.

GOD'S THRONE

Saturday Read Revelation 22:1-3

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb." The most important place in all of the universe is

the throne of God in heaven. We know that from reading I Peter 3:22: *"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."* Nothing can escape the eye of God. He is carefully watching what is going on here on His earth. He is especially looking for people to do His will. We know that from reading II Chronicles 16:9: *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars."*