

# *The Enemies of God*

#2 in Series: *The Rise and Fall of a Nation*  
*The Book of Obadiah*

## Obadiah :1-16

Have you ever had someone say to you – “*You’re missing out!*”... It might have been some kind of food that your friend really likes – and they asked you if you liked it. You said you’ve never had it and they say “*You’re missing out!*”... For example – if you’ve never had a good *chili relleno* (stuffed chile), or *roasted jalapeno*, or *beef tongue taco* – I can say to you – “*You’re missing out!*”...

We come to the second message in our study of the book of Obadiah... I would dare say that many Christians – and even many “Bible-saturated” churches know very little about this book. Oh, we may recognize the name – but, outside of quickly reading it while “reading through the Bible” – we haven’t given the book a lot of thought... We don’t know its content, theme or what, if any application we can make to 21<sup>st</sup> Century living... And – YES by virtue of the book being a part of God’s Word – there are things within it that need to be applied to our lives today – and we are simply *missing out* when we remain unfamiliar with what God is saying in this book.

**Clint Archer** – a writer for IX Marks – wrote an article challenging pastors why this book needs our attention – he said:

“Obadiah is the spleen of the Old Testament; we know it’s there, but most of us are hazy about its role in the body.

And yet, anyone who knows about terrorism should know about Obadiah. As should anyone who feels frustrated that injustice sometimes goes unpunished. Obadiah teaches us about God’s long-term plan to bring closure to issues that military and judicial action struggles to accomplish. It’s a comforting book to read after hearing an unsettling news report of terrorism, racial injustice, genocide, or ethnic cleansing. Anytime the innocent are targeted *en masse* and we’re left waiting for justice to be done, the book of Obadiah reassures us that God never relegates unresolved injustices to a shelf of cold cases. He never forgets.”

So – last week we began our study of this book and didn’t even get out of verse 1... We focused on the truth that *God is God*. That God is Sovereign, Holy and – without any contradiction – God is Love... In that introductory message we learned that God has something to say about the rise and fall of any nation throughout history...

As we reflect on the book of Obadiah, I think you will come to agree that this book is unique compared to all we know about the other prophets of the Old Testament... Obadiah speaks more directly to a time like our own... Most of the other prophets speak directly to Old Testament believers – as well as to Christians today... But Obadiah proclaimed a vision from the Sovereign God about a people who knew no theology and who had no place for the knowledge of God in their lives... We see that God is going to deal with a people who – in the words of Mark Dever – “*made no pretense of acknowledging God*”... That sounds like a society much like our own...

In this little book, God teaches us about Who He is, who His friends are, and who His enemies are... Let’s begin by reading, in its entirety, this brief prophecy of Obadiah, as he prophesies God’s judgment on the people of Edom, the people who lived just southeast of Judah:

<sup>1</sup> The vision of Obadiah.

Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom—

We have heard a report from the LORD,

And an envoy has been sent among the nations *saying*,

“Arise and let us go against her for battle”—

<sup>2</sup> “Behold, I will make you small among the nations;

You are greatly despised.

<sup>3</sup> “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you,

You who live in the clefts of the rock,

In the loftiness of your dwelling place,

Who say in your heart,

‘Who will bring me down to earth?’

<sup>4</sup> “Though you build high like the eagle,

Though you set your nest among the stars,

From there I will bring you down,” declares the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> “If thieves came to you,

If robbers by night (Lit *devastators of the night*)—

O how you will be ruined!—

Would they not steal *only* until they had enough (Lit their sufficiency)?

If grape gatherers came to you,  
Would they not leave *some* gleanings?

<sup>6</sup>”O how Esau will be ransacked,  
*And* his hidden treasures searched out!

<sup>7</sup>”All the men allied with you (*Lit of your covenant*)

Will send you forth to the border,  
And the men at peace with you  
Will deceive you and overpower you.

*They who eat your bread*  
Will set an ambush for you.

(There is no understanding in him. (in Esau))

<sup>8</sup>”Will I not on that day,” declares the LORD,  
“Destroy wise men from Edom

And understanding from the mountain of Esau?

<sup>9</sup>”Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman,  
So that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

<sup>10</sup>”Because of violence to your brother Jacob,  
You will be covered *with* shame (*Lit Shame will cover you*),  
And you will be cut off forever.

<sup>11</sup>”On the day that you stood aloof,  
On the day that strangers carried off his wealth,  
And foreigners entered his gate  
And cast lots for Jerusalem—  
You too were as one of them.

<sup>12</sup>”Do not gloat over your brother’s day,  
The day of his misfortune.  
And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah  
In the day of their destruction;  
Yes, do not boast  
In the day of *their* distress.

<sup>13</sup>”Do not enter the gate of My people  
In the day of their disaster.  
Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity  
In the day of their disaster.  
And do not loot their wealth  
In the day of their disaster.

<sup>14</sup>”Do not stand at the fork of the road  
To cut down their fugitives;

And do not imprison their survivors  
In the day of their distress.

<sup>15</sup>”For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations.

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

Your dealings will return on your own head.

<sup>16</sup>”Because just as you drank on My holy mountain,

All the nations will drink continually.

They will drink and swallow (or- *stagger*)

And become as if they had never existed.

<sup>17</sup>”But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape,

And it will be holy.

And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.

<sup>18</sup>”Then the house of Jacob will be a fire

And the house of Joseph a flame;

But the house of Esau *will be* as stubble.

And they will set them (the people of Esau) on fire and consume them (the people of Esau),

So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,”

For the LORD has spoken.

<sup>19</sup> Then *those of* the Negev (South country) will possess the mountain of Esau,

And *those of* the Shephelah (the foothills) the Philistine *plain*;

Also, possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria,

And Benjamin *will possess* Gilead.

<sup>20</sup> And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel,

Who are *among* the Canaanites as far as Zarephath,

And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad

Will possess the cities of the Negev.

<sup>21</sup> The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion

To judge the mountain of Esau,

And the kingdom will be the LORD’S.

Today, as we begin to get into the book – we need to address an uncomfortable question – *does God have enemies?*... What might be uncomfortable about that question is that anyone would even doubt that He does...

The first 16 verses of this book clearly reveal just who the enemies of God are:

## 1. The Proud

Historically, Obadiah appears to have been written sometime after the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 587 B.C.

While God's people were going through this terrible ordeal – they had some “distant relatives” who were also their “next-door neighbors” to the southeast, the Edomites... The Edomites were the descendants of Jacob's brother Esau ([Genesis 36](#)). And the Edomites did nothing to help (to put it mildly!).

As we noted last time – Obadiah did not merely give his own opinion – but rather, he delivered the Word of God:

<sup>1</sup> The vision of Obadiah.

Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom—  
We have heard a report from the LORD,  
And an envoy has been sent among the nations *saying*,  
“Arise and let us go against her for battle”—

It seems that there were rumblings of war about the time this book was written. The Edomites may have been slightly fearful that Babylon would invade them. Obadiah's language of wartime was not merely rumor... He was not scaremongering... He was genuinely warning them. Disaster was coming, and it was coming from God!

The envoy calling to the nations to do battle was calling, it seems, to the nations of the Babylonian empire to wage battle on Edom.

At the same time, nothing in the book suggests that Edom was weak, depressed or vulnerable when Obadiah delivered his message. In fact, God's promise to make Edom “[small among the nations](#)” (:2) suggests that they regarded themselves somewhat proud and strong...

They were proud... Obadiah's message would probably have come as a surprise to them. Yes, a few rumors of war may have been circulating, but the people certainly were not aware of any approaching “judgment”. Besides, they lived in a naturally fortified position... The Edomites lived on top of mountains in cities that could be reached only by narrow, winding passages... Judah had just fallen, and, to be honest, its fall made it possible for Edom to only get richer and stronger... There was more north/south trade passing through Edom's side of the Jordan... In short, times were good.

... But then that's how pride always works...

If you are a non-Christian, please recognize the emptiness – the futility of making anything your ultimate security other than God Himself... God made us in His image so that we might know Him – and one day He will call us to account... There is nothing else in this world that is so certain. It does not matter how strong or prosperous or successful you feel. God made you to give account to Him, and you will... He is your only security.

That is what Obadiah told the nation of Edom, who felt so strong and self-sufficient... The Lord said to Edom –

<sup>3</sup>”The arrogance of your heart has deceived you,  
You who live in the clefts of the rock,  
In the loftiness of your dwelling place,  
Who say in your heart,  
‘Who will bring me down to earth?’

Edom was a small nation, but it was situated in an apparently in a region of rocky heights and passes that made it an almost perfect place for defense... You can google it and see just how difficult their geography was... And their geography seemed to symbolize their hearts... High and hard, certain and proud... And that's what is so blinding about pride! They thought they could see and survey all the surrounding country because of their position. But they could not see themselves. Their pride deceived them.

<sup>4</sup>”Though you build high like the eagle,  
Though you set your nest among the stars,  
From there I will bring you down,” declares the LORD.

God was not as impressed with their natural strategic defenses as they were... Even if they were in the most impenetrable place on earth, God declares that no earthly power or material advantage can resist His justice!... Once the Lord decided to bring down a proud and boasting people – He would.

But the Edomites were mindless of all this. Remember, their pride had deceived them. That's the nature of pride, isn't it?

It is amazing to see what people proudly put their trust in... History is replete with those who have trusted their military might, their financial success, their

intellectual capacities, their personal achievements to protect them – but in the end God will have His say about our pride – and He has said a lot:

**Proverbs 16:5 (NASB)**

Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;  
Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

**Proverbs 6:16-17 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> There are six things which the LORD hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

<sup>17</sup> Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,

**Isaiah 2:11 (NASB)**

The proud look of man will be abased  
And the loftiness of man will be humbled,  
And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

**James 4:6 (NASB)**

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

Consider for a moment – what is it that you expect will last as long as you do? Then ask yourself, what will you do if it doesn't? What if your employer, your wealth, your parents or children, your house, your health, your ministry, a particular relationship, even your physical life does not last as long as you do?... That's what the Bible teaches will happen... Listen again:

<sup>4</sup> “Though you build high like the eagle,  
Though you set your nest among the stars,  
From there I will bring you down,” declares the LORD.

When God decides to judge a proud nation, no economic stimulus package or Department of Homeland Security can save it... The nation that puts its trust in its own strength is the nation that will soon encounter the limits of its strength and eventually the loss of it, just as God promised Edom in Obadiah.

Christians need to be the ones who understand the reality of power's temporary and passing nature... We need to address it honestly, humbly, and lovingly...

Edom was not a superpower; it was a small nation. But it was a proud nation. And such pride is never appropriate for creatures like us.

Humility is the way of God Himself. In humility, God put on human flesh in Jesus Christ. In humility, Christ came and washed the feet of his disciples, pointing to an even greater cleansing. In humility, Christ went to His death on the cross, offering this greater cleansing from sin for all those who would ever repent and believe in Him... Humility is the way of Christ.

So must it be for all Christians. Remember, God resists the proud. So we must humble ourselves before God.

If you are a Christian, let me remind you that humility is the fruit of God's Spirit in you... It is the typical result of God's work... Be encouraged when you observe yourself fighting against pride. That is God's Holy Spirit working! In the same way, be concerned when you regard your pride with smug satisfaction...

**John Stott** has wisely written – “At every stage of our Christian development, and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is our greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.” (John Stott, “Pride, Humility, and God,” in J. I. Packer and Loren Wilkinson, eds., *Alive to God*, 119.)

If you are offended by the idea that pride is your greatest enemy, consider what other things offend you... If you were more humble, you would find fewer things that offend you... If you knew what you deserve because of your sins, and how merciful God has been to you in Christ, then there would be less cause to take offense when someone treats you far better than your sins deserve... That's true for us as individuals, and for us as a church... May we never forget that we are utterly dependent on God... May God preserve us from such pride, the pride that makes Him our enemy. He will judge us for it.

## 2. The Opposition to God's People

Consider what Edom had exactly done... Notice how their pride actually showed itself...

This is what verses 5–16 address... Here we find that God opposes not just the proud, but those who oppose His people!

In verse 5, God shows that Edom's pride led them to commit vicious sin against Judah!... God compares their actions to robbers and grape pickers:

<sup>5</sup>”If thieves came to you,  
If robbers by night (Lit *devastators of the night*)—  
O how you will be ruined!—  
Would they not steal *only* until they had enough (Lit their sufficiency)?  
If grape gatherers came to you,  
Would they not leave *some* gleanings?

In other words, neither robbers nor grape pickers will take everything... They take only what they need. But Edom had been relentless in its treatment of Judah... If you have ever been the victim of a robbery, you have probably felt the strange thoughts of vulnerability, anger, and violation often experienced by such victims. But that feeling of injustice that victims of robbery can feel, God is saying to Edom, does not adequately portray the injustice that the Edomites had committed against the Israelites...

Also, the picture of what a robber does was inadequate for portraying the loss God would bring upon Edom – “O how you will be ruined!” God says in the middle of verse 5... Their destruction would not be partial; the nations would enter their strongholds and leave their towns and houses bare –

<sup>6</sup>”O how Esau will be ransacked, *And his hidden treasures searched out!*

Nothing they had was secure and no home was safe... All protections and precautions would be useless, because God would use the Babylonians to conquer and destroy them!

With God's protection, there is safety – no matter the dangers we face...  
Without God's protection – all of our protections are worthless!

And who better to bring God's judgment than the very ones Edom had trusted and relied upon in place of God.

<sup>7a</sup>”All the men allied with you (Lit *of your covenant*)  
Will send you forth to the border,  
And the men at peace with you  
Will deceive you and overpower you...

If you like suspense films – you know that skillful writers and directors will often use the gullible trust one character will place in another individual who appears to be a friend – but is really their enemy...

The Edomites placed such trust in the Babylonians – and now their protectors would become their devourers:

*:7b - They who eat your bread [meal-sharing companions]*

*Will set an ambush for you. (There is no understanding in him. (in Esau))*

They would not even detect how the Babylonians were about to devour them... The Edomites thought they were wise, but they were deceived. They detected nothing.

God promises that the proud will be humbled... And He stands against the nation that treats other people as if those other people belonged to the nation rather than to God... Especially when those others are God's own special people!...

God makes this point throughout the Bible...

Do you remember what the risen Christ said to the Christian-persecuting Saul when He appeared to him on the road to Damascus? –

**Acts 9:4 (NASB)** “and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’”

Christ identifies so closely with His people that He refers to them as Himself. God demonstrates a similar kind of identification with His people in the book of Obadiah... Actions against God's people are actions against God.

If you have acted against God's people, you have sinned against God!

In fact, the Bible teaches that all of us have sinned, not just Edom –

**Romans 3:23 (NASB)** “<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

All of us have sinned against God by our actions.

In verse 8, God restates His promise to destroy Edom, but in much more explicit terms:

<sup>8</sup>”Will I not on that day,” declares the LORD,  
“Destroy wise men from Edom  
And understanding from the mountain of Esau?”

Whatever cleverness or wit Edom’s political leaders had – it shallow and short-sighted. Their wise men could not save them now.

Neither could their strong men:

<sup>9</sup>”Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman,  
So that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

Why would this happen?

<sup>10a</sup>”Because of violence to your brother Jacob...”

The Lord refers to Edom’s “brother Jacob” because Edom, or Esau, was the brother of Jacob (also called “Israel”). God is referring to them according to the individual ancestors to whom they trace their identity – Esau for the Edomites and Jacob for the Israelites... The larger point being made, of course, is to demonstrate how outrageous it was for Edom not to offer hospitality to fleeing Israelites, but violence instead. Their violence was not violence against strangers, but against brothers. Because of this outrage – God says “You will be covered *with shame* (Lit *Shame will cover you*),  
And you will be cut off forever. (:10b).

Notice, God would not temporarily destroy them, as he temporarily sent the Israelites into exile... He would destroy them forever... And did He? Did God destroy them?... Well, when was the last time you ate at an Edomite restaurant? When did you last purchase Edomite clothing, or listen to their style of music? Where is Edomite architecture represented today?... The Edomites have been obviously and permanently exterminated!

Listen – God cares how His people are treated.

We need to be very concerned about this today... We need to ask God to give Christians around the world – a government that will not oppose the spread of God’s gospel... Every nation and government around the world should realize that it is not in the best interest of the nation to abuse its citizens. God has made all people in His image to worship Him freely, and He has called His people to worship Him specifically... As we have already said, opposing God’s people is opposing Him, as Edom did.

In verses 11–14, Obadiah explains more fully the nature of Edom’s violence against Israel. Part of their violence was simply to comply with the violence of others:

<sup>11</sup>”On the day that you stood aloof,  
On the day that strangers carried off his wealth,  
And foreigners entered his gate  
And cast lots for Jerusalem—  
You too were as one of them.

If any nation should have known better – it was Edom – because of their relationship to Judah... So God reproaches them:

<sup>12</sup>”Do not gloat over your brother’s day,  
The day of his misfortune.  
And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah  
In the day of their destruction;  
Yes, do not boast  
In the day of *their* distress.

By “gloat over,” God means an active condemnation and gloating...

Even more – the Edomites joined in with their brother’s destroyers.

<sup>13</sup>”Do not enter the gate of My people  
In the day of their disaster.  
Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity  
In the day of their disaster.  
And do not loot their wealth  
In the day of their disaster.

Edom took advantage of the situation and exploited Judah’s weakness... Like looters after a hurricane, they plundered the family’s store. Edom became an accessory to the destruction and murder of his own brother.

In all this, the book of Obadiah pictures – or foreshadows the figure of Herod... I read this week that extrabiblical literature records that Herod was a descendant of the Edomites. He too attacked the infants in Bethlehem, attempting to kill God’s chosen One.

The “Chosen One” is, of course, the Lord Jesus – Who is called the Christ... Just thinks about all the opposition Jesus faced throughout His life here on

earth... It is the same type of opposition described in Obadiah... He was opposed and rejected by men. And like the Edomites in Obadiah's book, those who oppose God and God's people will one day face "the wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:16).

The Edomites had been cruel in their sin.

<sup>14</sup> "Do not stand at the fork of the road  
To cut down their fugitives;  
And do not imprison their survivors  
In the day of their distress.

If robbers take only what they need, robbers are more considerate than the Edomites!... Edom waited at the crossroads for those who fled. When they found survivors, they handed them over to their killers. The invaders would not have known the local roads, but the Edomites did. And they guided the invaders right to the miserable people who were fleeing...

Keep in mind, this is not some grim fairy tale, this really happened... This is history!... There were a real attack, a real siege, and a real fall. Real people ran from Jerusalem screaming. And it was in the very roads of Edom – reached only after an exhausting flight – roads leading to the Israelites' only hope for survival – that their cousins, the Edomites waited to ambush and then pounced, hoping to curry favor with the Babylonian superpower...

Some people have thought that the book's tone and attitude suggests that Obadiah's relatives must have been cut down by the Edomites... We don't know... We do know that the Lord was indignant with the Edomites, whether or not Obadiah's relatives were present... The Edomites could hardly complain that God was being too severe on them.

God would bring justice:

<sup>15</sup> "For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations.  
As you have done, it will be done to you.  
Your dealings will return on your own head."

There are many implications of God's justice that we could consider, but let's consider just one... The promise of divine justice should encourage us as Christians. It should encourage us when we personally face unjust suffering,

and it should encourage us when we hear of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world facing unjust suffering... It will not always be so!

Also – we can expect that the world will hate and oppose us, even as they hated and opposed the one we follow – The Lord Jesus Christ... Listen – if we get to the point that we complain about the trials that we experience for following Christ – we need to stop and consider – just Who we are following... After all, what was Christ’s life like? How can we complain when lesser things happen to us? Suffering and persecution was the way of Christ (1 Peter 2).

We know from other prophets – that Judah was punished by God because of their idolatry. Through God’s Sovereign rule, He used the Babylonian army to invade, conquer, and exile His people... So likewise, we trust that Edom’s sinful compliance was also ordained by God as part of God’s punishment of His own people... How God worked all this out is beyond us. But this much is clear: even though God employed the Edomites to participate in bringing His judgment on Judah, the Edomites had no intention of serving as God’s minister of justice... Where God sought what was holy and right, the Edomites sought what was carnal and wrong.

God uses His enemies as skillfully as a surgeon uses a scalpel to cut, but that does not mean God’s enemies are exempt from responsibility or punishment. They earn His judgment for their malice:

“As you have done, it will be done to you.  
Your dealings will return on your own head.” (:15b)

Or as Jesus would later say –

**Matthew 7:2 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup>For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

**Mark Dever** – “Oh, Christian friend, we who belong to the church must never be unwitting coconspirators with those who persecute God’s people; we are part of God’s people who are persecuted! We must therefore remember the importance of membership in the church, which assists us in clearly and publicly identifying ourselves with God’s people. Church membership helps us to remember that we cannot rely on the culture of the world to define virtue and good.”

Sadly, most American churches have become so diluted because of decades of embracing the secular American culture... And that is something for which we need to repent... We see the effects of this mistake today in everything from marriage to modesty, from morality to murder itself, in which the church has been shaped by the culture. Christians must recognize that God teaches us to live according to His standards – which are revealed in His laws... We should seek to live in a manner that reflects Who God is – regardless of what the state or the culture says is vice or virtue...

Remember – we are to stand for the Lord – even when, and especially when so many are opposed to Him... Think about it. Why is it that in Obadiah's day – and certainly in our day – would anyone seek to oppose God?... After all – if God is Love, as we saw last week – why would anyone oppose that?... It is because God is Sovereign and Holy and Being the Ultimate Authority He is – and being the sin-ravaged people we are – we push against the truth that we are accountable to this Holy God...

That is what the Lord was saying through Obadiah:

<sup>16</sup>“Because just as you drank on My holy mountain,  
All the nations will drink continually.  
They will drink and swallow (or- *stagger*)  
And become as if they had never existed.”

Listen – we will all be giving an account of our lives to Him one day (Rom. 14:12)...

When you stand before Him – will you be found to be His enemy – or a member of His family?...



## Questions to consider in Community Group:

- Please discuss the Clint Archer quote. What is encouraging about this?

“Obadiah is the spleen of the Old Testament; we know it’s there, but most of us are hazy about its role in the body.

And yet, anyone who knows about terrorism should know about Obadiah. As should anyone who feels frustrated that injustice sometimes goes unpunished. Obadiah teaches us about God’s long-term plan to bring closure to issues that military and judicial action struggles to accomplish. It’s a comforting book to read after hearing an unsettling news report of terrorism, racial injustice, genocide, or ethnic cleansing. Anytime the innocent are targeted *en masse* and we’re left waiting for justice to be done, the book of Obadiah reassures us that God never relegates unresolved injustices to a shelf of cold cases. He never forgets.”
- If God is Love, as we saw last week, why would He have enemies?
- What is pride? Why is it something that God hates? Since “pride” is an abomination to the Lord – is it wrong to say to someone “I’m proud of you”? (Not throwing this question out to be nitpicky, but to generate a discussion between a healthy attitude we should have toward others and an unhealthy attitude we have toward ourselves.)
- How do we recognize when we are be proudful?
- Pastor said; “Humility is the way of God Himself. In humility, God put on human flesh in Jesus Christ. In humility, Christ came and washed the feet of his disciples, pointing to an even greater cleansing. In humility, Christ went to His death on the cross, offering this greater cleansing from sin for all those who would ever repent and believe in Him... Humility is the way of Christ.” What other evidence can you cite that shows the humility of the Lord?
- How do we recognize if we are being humble?
- Pride leads to opposition – opposition to God and the people of God. How did the Edomites oppose God and His people? What evidences are most prevalent that people are opposing God today?
- Is it a boastful, proud position for Christians to take, to say that when Christians are being opposed by the world – that they are in fact opposing Christ? Please explain your answer. Is there ever a time when the world could be opposing Christians, but not opposing Christ (the Christ in us)?
- Why should the promise of Divine Judgment encourage Christians? Should we rejoice in that fact? Please explain.
- Mark Dever said – “Oh, Christian friend, we who belong to the church must never be unwitting coconspirators with those who persecute God’s people; we are part of God’s people who are persecuted! We must therefore remember the importance of membership in the church, which assists us in clearly and publicly identifying ourselves with God’s people. Church membership helps us to remember that we cannot rely on the culture of the world to define virtue and good.”... Two questions: How can Christians be “unwitting coconspirators with those who persecute God’s people”? How can being in a covenant relationship with other Christians (church membership) help us in this context?