

Divided Kingdom Period:  
The Prophets to the Nations: The Destruction of Edom *Obadiah 1:1-21*

*Obadiah*, "The servant of the Lord," is the first of three books that can be classified as the Prophets to the Nations. Jonah and Nahum are the other two. These three Minor Prophets of this STEP did not prophecy to the kingdoms of Israel and Judah but almost exclusive to the nations surrounding them.

*Obadiah* is the smallest Old Testament book with only 21 verses. The thrust of the prophet's message is to the nation of Edom.

**I- Who was Edom?**

***Obadiah 1:6*** tells us that they were the descendants of Esau. ***1:10*** calls them Israel's "cousins."

Edom had a history of being cruel to Israel. ***Num 20:14-21*** records an instance during the exodus of Israel when they needed to travel through the land of Edom but were denied. They were also cruel to their brothers the Jews during their existence in the land as we will see.

**II- Prophecy Explored:**

***1:3*** Their great sin was pride. They ask, "Who shall bring me down to the ground."

The "***Cleft of the rock***" probably refers to hilly countryside of Edom, which was a very mountainous place with some over a mile high.

***1:8*** Shall I not, "...**destroy the wise men of Edom...**" God ask.

***1:10*** "**For violence against thy brother Jacob**" was the cause.

During the reign of Jehoram the Philistines and Arabians invaded Judah and plundered Jerusalem. (***II Kings 8:20-22; II Chron 21:8-10***) Edom reaction to these events is what is mentioned here.

***1:11-12*** When Jerusalem was destroyed they rejoiced. [For a history of this see ***II Chron 21:16-17; Joel 3:3-6; Amos 1:6***] We see according to ***1:13-14*** that Edom did their share in the attack.

The ultimate end of Edom is prophesied in ***1:18***. Esau would be "***Stubble***." Esau would be destroyed. Notice the contrast of this destruction to the promise to the house of Jacob (Israel) which would be a flame that burned.

**Application to Life's Steps:**

- 1- God was/is concerned with how His people are treated.
- 2- Pride leads nations as well as individuals to destruction.
- 3- When all is said and done Israel will still be a flame.

Divided Kingdom Period:  
The Prophets to the Nations: "A Mirror to Our Soul" *Jonah 1:1-4:11*

Jonah, "***Dove***," is one of the most soul searching books in the Word of God. Jonah makes us take a look at ourselves in a mirror, if you will allow. When we take a look at this story of Jonah we see our prejudices, our sin, our

lukewarm service to God. We see ourselves.

Jonah the Prophet was a real man who lived and died. Christ tells us he was a prophet ***Matt 21:41*** but the ironic thing is there is no prophecy in

Jonah. Jonah prophesied during the years of Jereboam II and it was some 30 years after Jonah that Israel would be taken into captivity.

Jonah can be seen having two natural divisions. First commission of **Jonah 1-2** and the second commission of **Jonah 3-4**. This is BF (before fish) and AF (after fish).

#### **I- Assyria the Enemy.**

The nation of Assyria is represented in the book of Jonah by its capital Ninevah. Ninevah was a city 60 miles around with about a million people. The nation of Assyria was extremely cruel. They killed, skinned alive, pulled out the tongues of victims and impaled them alive.

#### **II- First Commission: Jon 1:1-2**

In the midst of this setting God calls Jonah to go to Ninevah to preach. Jonah however would not obey this first commission.

**1:3-16** God sent a great storm that put Jonah right where God wanted him, in the ocean.

#### **III- The Fish Story: Jon 1:17-2:10**

The question we must ask is not could God, for the Creator certainly has the power as sovereign God to do it, but would God. Not only would He, He did prepare a great fish to swallow Jonah.

The three days and three nights is a picture of Christ in the grave after His death. The great fish placed him on the shore when God's purpose was fulfilled.

#### **IV- The Second Commission: Jon 3:1-2**

Jonah is now ready to go anywhere, except back in the fish. God allows him to finish the job He called him to do, preach to Ninevah.

#### **V- Revival in the Land: Jon 3:3-10**

Some see the greatest miracle in Jonah not as the fish swallowing Jonah but Ninevah repenting of their sins.

This repentance and revival caused God to spare Assyria. **3:10** Ninevah would survive another 100+ years.

#### **VI- The Pouting Prophet: Jon 4:1-11**

**4:1** says when Jonah saw God spare them it "**displeased,**" him, "**exceedingly.**" He was, "**Very angry.**" Who was he angry at? He was mad at God for sparing Ninevah. He told God this was the reason he ran. He knew God was, "**a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.**"

**4:3** says Jonah was so upset he wanted to die. He went out of the city and sits down. God was going to teach him another lesson with a gourd.

God allowed a gourd to grow overnight to shade Jonah. He demonstrates typical behavior when one of Gods children is out of fellowship. He was selfish. God however allowed this gourd to be cut down by a worm. Jonah fainted under the sun's heat. He again wanted to die.

God told him that he had more compassion for the vine than he did the city and its children.

Before we are to hard on Jonah I remind us all that Assyria was a cruel nation who Jonah hated as an Hebrew for what they were doing and would do to his nation.

#### **Application to Life's Steps:**

- 1- Jonah teaches us that our obedience is important to God.
- 2- Jonah also teaches us about our loving God who had compassion on Jonah and did not kill Him.

3- We see that the ultimate purpose of God's chastisement is to redeem us for service not to satisfy God ego.

4- We should look at our attitudes in light of Jonah and attempt to see ourselves as God sees us.

**Divided Kingdom Period:  
The Prophets to the Nations: Judgment of Ninevah *Nahum 1:1-3:19***

Moving forward 100+- years to the time of the Assyrians demise is where we find ourselves in the book of Nahum. Nahum, "*consoler or comforter*," prophesies the destruction of Assyria.

I outline Nahum as follows:

**I- The Judge of Ninevah *Nah 1:1-5***

**II- The Judgment of Ninevah *Nah 2:1-13***

**III- The Justification of the Judgment of Ninevah *Nah 3:1-19***

**I- The Judge of Ninevah *Nah 1:1-5***

In *Nahum 1* we see the attributes of God as a jealous God who revengeth, is slow to anger and just. The weather, the seas and rivers, and the mountains that quake are at His disposal to do His will.

Nahum asked the question of who can stand. It certainly was not Assyria. The events here refer to the invasion of Sennacherib recorded in *II Kings 18*. Assyria had taken Israel into captivity when they come up against Judah. God killed the army of Assyria. (See *Isaiah 37:36-38*.)

God broke the yoke of Assyria that had troubled His people. **1:12-13,15.**

**II- The Judgment of Ninevah 2:1-13**

Nahum seemed to ridicule Ninevah by telling them to get ready for the attack. He said to guard the fort and get ready.

**2:3-4** gives a very graphic picture of the invasion of the Babylonians with their red scarfs and copper colored shields. Their chariots were covered with copper that made them look like fire also.

**2:6** says the gates of the river will open. The river that protected them will lead to their fall.

**III- The Justification of the Judgment of Ninevah 3:1-19**

Was God just in sending this judgment? YES! *Jonah 3* has been called the lament and the epitaph of Ninevah. God said they had endless prey and corpse **3:1,3b**. They sold nations and families. He also reminds them of the fall of the city of No-Ammon (Thebes) which had similar defenses. They had reached the point of no return. **3:18-19.**

**Application to Life's Steps:**

- 1- No city is defendable against the judgment of God.
- 2- Even in His judgments God's attributes of grace shine through.
- 3- God is just in His judgments.

**Retracing our Steps:**

- 1- The name Obadiah means? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- The name Jonah means? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- The name Nahum means? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4- Who did Obadiah prophecy to? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5- Who did Jonah preach to? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6- Who did Nahum prophecy about? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7- What was the greatest miracle in the book of Jonah? \_\_\_\_\_