
Day 160 - June 9

The Divided Kingdom (930-725 BCE)

Obadiah's Prophecy Against Edom

Readings: *Obadiah 1-21*

Reflections:

- Obadiah whose name means “Servant of God” is only known because of this small prophecy against Edom. When it was actually written is debated, whether during this period or later, but its message is timeless.
- The fundamental flaw in Edom is pride. They are guilty of what many humans fall into. They simply believe they are better than others and that they rest securely as people who are superior in strength and wisdom. In this place of pride, they sit back and stand aloof to their brothers, Judah and Israel, and do nothing as they come under attack. Again pride has a way of making us judge other people and when things go wrong for them, instead of feeling compassion and a desire to help them, pride convinces us that they are simply getting what they deserve. In fact, a prideful heart quietly delights in watching others fail because it reinforces their basic belief that they are better than everyone else.
- A prideful attitude really ticks God off and we see that clearly here in Obadiah. Edom is called to account and the judgment God declares is very just. It is quiet simple: “As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return on your own head.” In other words, you will reap what you have sown. Edom, the house of Esau, will be burned to stubble by the fire of God, the house of Jacob, Judah and Israel. The brothers they judged and abandoned will consume them and rule them. The one who was proud and thought she was better than the others will be brought low to that of a servant. In this, God will show his kingdom. “For God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)