












An den Wasfern
zu Babelon
sassen
wir,
⊗

und weineten, wenn
wir an Zion
gedach-
ten.
⊗



Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare,
down to its foundations!"

~ Psalm 137:7

What we saw last week in v. 1-2 ~

- The Lord gave His prophet Obadiah a vision, to comfort and encourage the exiles of Judah.
- He calls the nations to war against Edom: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!"
- And then in v. 2, God makes His declaration of judgment: "Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised."
- It will be a harsh, humiliating, and thorough judgment He brings upon Edom.
- The Sovereign King of the nations will work in human history to accomplish His will for the good of His chosen people.

Where we're heading this week ~

The big picture in v. 3-16: God is laying out His case against Edom—

- God's charges against the Edomites ~ v. 3-11
- God's instructions to the Edomites ~ v. 12-16

We're going to focus mostly on v. 3-11 and see the three charges He makes against the Edomites...

...but first, a question: tell me some things that the Lord hates. Like, six things, or maybe seven.

See Prov. 6:16-19. Notice that all of these come straight from the evil human heart. I think it is safe to say that we can find all seven in Edom's actions.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: "The pride of your heart has deceived you" ~ v. 3

- Notice here that God describes the root, or location, of the pride ("your heart")...
- ...and also the result of that inward pride ("has deceived you")

The Heb. word translated *pride* here is interesting...

- In Ex. 15:7 it describes the "greatness" of God's majesty.
- In Jer. 12:5 it is "the *thicket* of the Jordan."
- And it was the (pre-exile) sin of Israel: Amos 6:8; Is. 9:8-10.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: "The pride of your heart has deceived you"

Before we look at Edom's pride, let's ask this general question: how does pride deceive?

- It exalts self—it has to: if there is no humility and submission to God, self is all that's left to exalt.
- It distorts the way you see things—self is central.
- Exaltation of self naturally leads to a sense of privilege, entitlement, deserving, diminishing others
- It blinds you to your faults.
- You begin to think your faults are strong points.
- You become deaf to correction and incapable of self-evaluation.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: "The pride of your heart has deceived you"

Before we look at Edom's pride, let's ask this general question: how does pride deceive?

- You begin to compare yourself to others and find you are always right—their sin is always worse than yours. Proud people don't repent.
- It can make you proud of your humility—it is one of the worst forms of hypocrisy: you can think you are humble and warm-hearted and right with God, while you are mean-spirited and arrogant.
- So it always leads to being hard-hearted and defiant, and to a lack of love and compassion.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: "The pride of your heart has deceived you"

It's interesting—of the three charges God will bring against Edom, He raises the issue of pride first.

The other two are a direct result of it.

What was Edom so proud of?

This: "you who live in the clefts of the rock..."



God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: "The pride of your heart has deceived you"

Edom was, really, a small and insignificant people, not a player on the world stage at all, no threat to mighty Babylon. Except in their own opinion.

- The mountains they lived in S.E. of the Dead Sea rise up to 5000' above sea level. The Edomites thought they were invulnerable—no one could drive them out. No one could touch them.
- They said, "Who will bring me down...?" And God said, "I will bring you down."
- Notice the word picture in v. 4—like a proud eagle with a nest so high it was untouchable.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: "The pride of your heart has deceived you"

So—what is God's opinion of man's arrogant pride?

We can say this: He takes a dim view of it. Let's take a quick run through these verses—it will give us a brief theology of God's view of arrogant pride ~

- Prov. 8:13
- Prov. 16:5
- Prov. 16:18
- Isaiah 9:9
- Luke 18:14
- 1 Cor. 13:4
- Titus 1:7
- James 4:6

Pride is the opposite of the character of God (1 Cor. 13:4), and so brings His active opposition (James 4:6). That is not a place you want to be in.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: "The pride of your heart has deceived you"

In v. 5 the Lord, through Obadiah, gives two word pictures that he will use to emphasize how thorough the judgment against Edom will be:

- A thief might rob you, but would not take absolutely everything, something would be left.
- One gathering grapes would not take absolutely every grape, but would leave a few on the vines.

In v. 6-9, however, God says, in effect, "but I will leave nothing": "every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter" (v. 9).

God's charges against the Edomites – Obad. 3-11

Charge #1: “The pride of your heart has deceived you”

Notice the words used here—*destroyed, pillaged, sought out, prevailed.*

- Those hadn't occurred yet...but as we see often in the writings of the prophets, it is speaking of a future event as though it had already happened.
- v. 7 is most likely a reference to Babylon –
- Babylon was willing to let the Edomites pillage Jerusalem (v. 11, 13), but Babylon's patience ran short, and they became the instrument of God's judgment when they defeated Edom in 553 BC.
- Edom was later driven out by the Nabatean Arabs.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #2: "Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob..." ~ v. 10

What kind of violence? Look down at v. 14...

- Apparently the Edomites showed up along with the Babylonian army and were capturing fleeing survivors and turning them in.
- Take a look at Amos 1:6, 9—the implication here is that the Edomites were involved in slave trade. The word "deliver(ed)" in the Heb. means "to shut, close", like doors or gates (Gen. 19:6). The word is also used in this sense, *to deliver*, implying that once captives were delivered to the Edomites, there was no way out, no way of escape.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #2: "Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob..." ~ v. 10

What kind of violence? Look down at v. 14...

- Also notice Amos 1:11-12; Joel 3:19; Mal. 1:4.

And God points out clearly who the violence was against: "...your brother Jacob..."

- Sons of Abraham, sons of Isaac; both Jacob and Esau received the covenant sign of circumcision... John Calvin says this: "We hence see, that the name of brother in this clause is mentioned for the purpose of enhancing the crime."

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #2: "Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob..." ~ v. 10

- It would have been a comfort to the suffering exiles in Babylon to know that God—in His love for His people—would punish their tormentors.

One last thought on this ~ a sad commentary on the sinfulness of the human heart: it is the ones who are the closest to us that we often hurt the most deeply. Harsh attitude, sarcastic tone of voice, indifference, lack of kindness, biting words—these are often reserved for those closest to us; things we would never say, for example, to a co-worker.

God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #3: "On the day that you stood aloof..." ~ v. 11

Yeah, ok—Judah was being judged severely by God for their persistent idolatry (see 2 Chron. 36:15-21), but did the Edomites really have to stand there and gloat, rejoice, and boast (v. 12-13)?

- Even if they had not come to fight actively on Israel's behalf, maybe they could at least have come to mourn their brothers' ruin.
- Or if nothing else, maybe Judah's ruin might have caused them to consider their own sin, and to ask whether the Lord might have cause to be angry with them ~ see Prov. 17:5, 24:17-18.

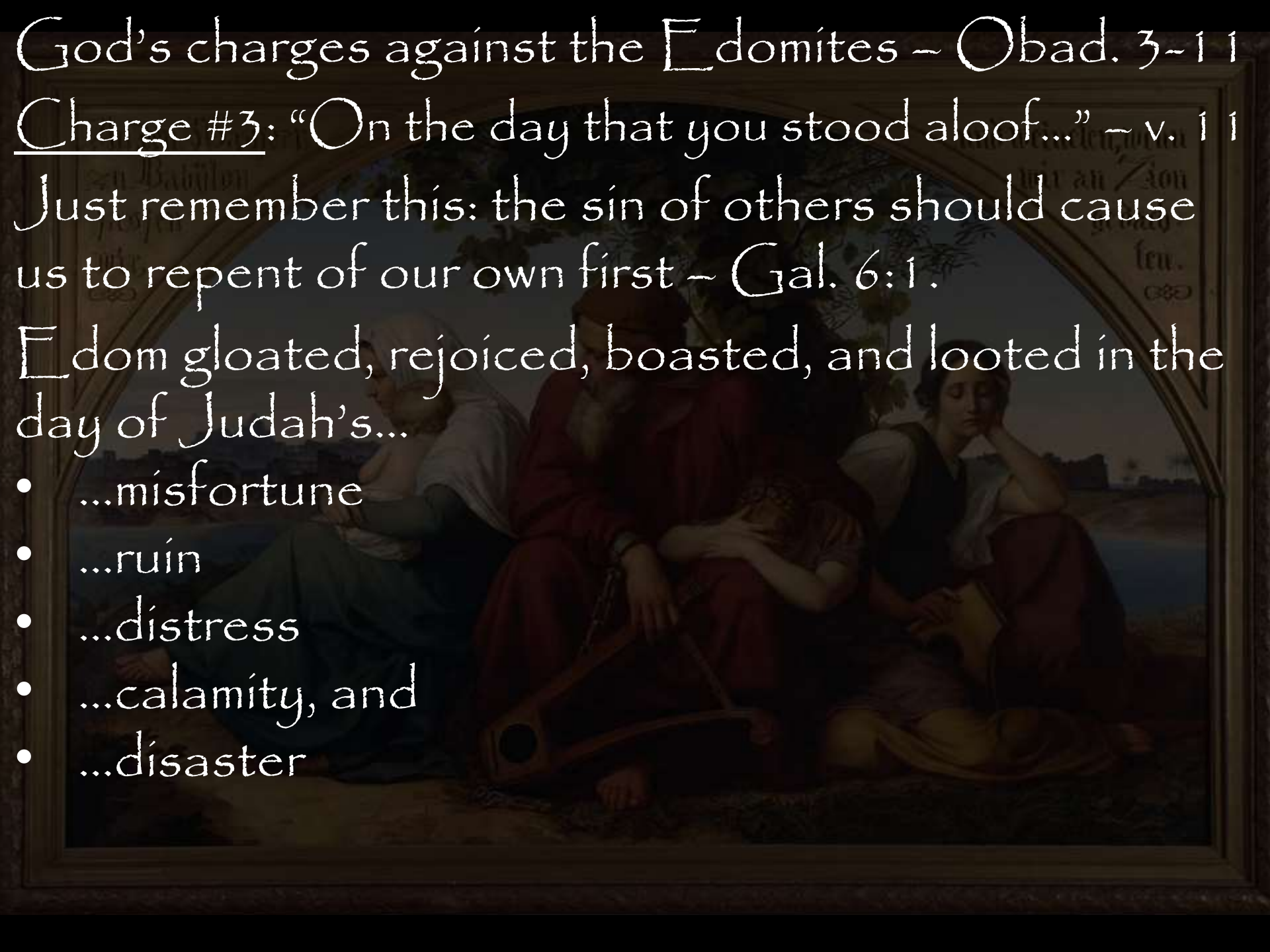
God's charges against the Edomites ~ Obad. 3-11

Charge #3: "On the day that you stood aloof..." ~ v. 11

Just remember this: the sin of others should cause us to repent of our own first ~ Gal. 6:1.

Edom gloated, rejoiced, boasted, and looted in the day of Judah's...

- ...misfortune
- ...ruin
- ...distress
- ...calamity, and
- ...disaster



God's charges against the Edomites – Obad. 3-11

Arrogance, violence, and indifference...

...instead of humility, kindness, and compassion.

How cruel and depraved and corrupt must the heart be to actively seek someone else's ruin, distress, destruction, disaster, and calamity?

There is a reason why the first recorded teaching of the Lord Jesus to His brand new disciples is this: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3).

- Heaven belongs to the ones who know their spiritual bankruptcy, who mourn over their sin.