

LESSON 23: Obadiah, Jonah, Micah

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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(REVISED) TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Lesson 1:	Overview
Lesson 2:	Genesis
Lesson 3:	Exodus
Lesson 4:	Leviticus
Lesson 5:	Numbers
Lesson 6:	Deuteronomy
Lesson 7:	Joshua
Lesson 8:	Judges, Ruth
Lesson 9:	1st & 2nd Samuel
Lesson 10:	1st & 2nd Kings
Lesson 11:	1st & 2nd Chronicles
Lesson 12:	Ezra, Nehemiah
Lesson 13:	Esther
Lesson 14:	Job
Lesson 15:	Psalms
Lesson 16:	Proverbs
Lesson 17:	Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

--- SUMMER ---

Lesson 18:	Isaiah
Lesson 19:	Jeremiah, Lamentations
Lesson 20:	Ezekiel
Lesson 21:	Daniel
Lesson 22:	Hosea, Joel, Amos
Lesson 23:	Obadiah, Jonah, Micah
October 16, 2024:	Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
October 23, 2024:	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
October 30, 2024:	INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
November 6, 2024:	The Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
November 13, 2024:	John
November 20, 2024:	Acts
November 27, 2024:	Romans

--- ADVENT / CHRISTMAS ---

January 8, 2025:	1st & 2nd Corinthians
January 15, 2025:	Galatians
January 22, 2025:	Ephesians
January 29, 2025:	Colossians
February 5, 2025:	1st & 2nd Thessalonians
February 12, 2025:	1st & 2nd Timothy
February 19, 2025:	Titus, Philemon
February 26, 2025:	Hebrews
March 5, 2025:	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
March 12, 2025:	James
March 19, 2025:	1st & 2nd Peter, Jude
March 26, 2025:	1st, 2nd, 3rd John
April 2, 2025:	Revelation

Lesson 23

OBADIAH

- Obadiah means “Servant of Jehovah,” or “Worshiper of Jehovah.”
- He was God’s messenger to Edom.
- At least 12 Old Testament men were named Obadiah including an officer in David’s army (1 Chron. 12:9), Ahab’s servant (1 Kings 18:3), a Levite in the days of Josiah (2 Chron. 34:12), and a leader who returned from the Exile with Ezra (Ezra 8:9).
- While there are at least three different opinions, most scholars believe this book was written about 586BC, soon after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.
- The animosity between the Edomites and the Israelites traces all the way back to the days of Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:21–26). A little history:
 - When Esau was hungry, he traded his birthright to Jacob for some red stew. Because of that Esau was also called Edom (Genesis 25:30), which means red.
 - Esau’s descendants came to be known as Edomites and lived southeast of the Dead Sea.
 - The Edomites refused to let the Israelites pass through their land when Israel was on the way to the Promised Land (Numbers 20:14–21).
 - Even though God told Israel not to hate Edom since they were related (Deuteronomy 23:7), hostility developed and continued for centuries (Ezekiel 35:5).
 - Saul (1 Samuel 14:47), David (2 Sam. 8:13–14), Joab (1 Kings 11:16), and Solomon (1 Kings 11:17–22) all had problems with the Edomites.
 - During Jehoshaphat’s reign Edom joined the Ammonites and the Moabites in an attack against Judah, but the attack ended with the Ammonites and Moabites defeating the Edomites (2 Chronicles 20:1–2, 10–11, 22–26).
 - In 586BC Edom encouraged Babylon to destroy Jerusalem (Psalm 137:7).
 - Around 500BC Nabateans, from northern Arabia drove most of the Edomites out of their country. Those that remained were absorbed by the Nabateans.
 - The expelled Edomites settled in Idumea, the Greek name for southern Judea, and became known as Idumeans.
 - At the time of Christ’s birth, Herod the Great, king of Judea, was an Idumean (Edomite).
 - The Idumeans joined the Jews in their rebellion against Rome in 70AD, but were almost obliterated by Titus, the Roman general. Only a few Idumean refugees escaped and the Edomites faded from history.

OUTLINE

*With just one chapter, this is the shortest book in the Old Testament.

- Prophecy of Edom's Destruction (1–9)
 - *The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Sovereign LORD says about Edom — We have heard a message from the LORD: An envoy was sent to the nations to say, "Rise, let us go against her for battle"— "...I will make you small among the nations; you will be utterly despised... (1-2)*
 - *Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD. (4)*
 - *Your warriors... will be terrified, and everyone in Esau's mountains will be cut down in the slaughter. (9)*
- Edom's Crimes (vv. 10–14)
 - *Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever... (10)*
 - *You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction... (12)*
- God's Judgment on Israel's Enemies. *The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you... (15)*
- God's Blessings on Israel's People (17–21)
 - *But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and Jacob will possess his inheritance. Jacob will be a fire and Joseph a flame... (17-18a)*
 - *Esau will be stubble, and they will set him on fire and destroy him. There will be no survivors from Esau. (18b)*
 - *The Lord has spoken... This company of Israelite exiles... will possess the land... the exiles from Jerusalem... will possess the towns... And the kingdom will be the Lord's. (18b-21)*

JONAH

- Jonah was a prophet called by God to preach in Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria.
- According to 2 Kings 14:25 Jonah was from Gath-hepher, a village just three miles from Nazareth, the eventual hometown of Jesus.
- He was a contemporary of Hosea and Amos and prophesied during the reign on Jeroboam II (Northern Kingdom, 793–753BC).
- A literal interpretation of the Book of Jonah is imperative. Jonah was a real man who was swallowed by a real fish – probably a sperm whale or a whale shark, both of which have been known to swallow men who were later found alive in their stomachs.

OUTLINE

- The Disobedience of Jonah (1–2)
 - *The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” (1:1–2)*
 - *But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port... he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. (1:3)*
- The consequences of Jonah’s disobedience (1:4–2:10)
 - *Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid... they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship... Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” ...the lot fell on Jonah... He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) ...So, they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied... “I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not... Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm... (1:4–16)*
 - *Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (1:17)*
 - *From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD... “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me... You hurled me into the depths... But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit... I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you... What I have vowed I will make*

- *And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. (2:10)*

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MICAH

- The Book Micah is usually quoted at Christmas because he prophesied about the birth of Christ. “*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*” (5:2)
- Micah was a farmer. His name means, “Who is like Jehovah?” He was a prophet to Judah (the Southern Kingdom), though he often included Israel (the Northern Kingdom).
- He prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

OUTLINE

- Micah’s first message. (1–2)
 - Introduction. *The word of the LORD that came to Micah... during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah — the vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.* (1:1)
 - Coming judgment. *Look! The LORD is coming from his dwelling place... because of Jacob’s transgression, because of the sins of the people of Israel. What is Jacob’s transgression? Is it not Samaria? What is Judah’s high place? Is it not Jerusalem? Therefore, I will make Samaria a heap of rubble... All her idols will be broken to pieces... ”* (1:2–7)
 - Lament. *Because of this I will weep and wail... For Samaria’s plague is incurable; it has spread to Judah. It has reached... even to Jerusalem itself... disaster has come from the LORD, even to the gate of Jerusalem...* (1:8–16)
 - Sins of Judah (2:1–11)
 - Sins of the people. *Woe to those who plan iniquity... At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it. They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud people of their homes; they rob them of their inheritance. Therefore, the LORD says: “I am planning disaster against this people, from which you cannot save yourselves...”* (2:1–5)
 - Sins of the false prophets. *“Do not prophesy,” their prophets say. “Do not prophesy about these things; disgrace will not overtake us.” ...You strip off the rich robe from those who pass by without a care... You drive the women of my people from their pleasant homes. You take away my blessing from their children forever... If a liar and deceiver comes and says, ‘I will prophesy for you plenty of wine and beer,’ that would be just the prophet for this people!* (2:6–11)
 - Deliverance promised. *I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel... The One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the*

gate and go out. Their King will pass through before them, the LORD at their head.” (2:12–13)

- Micah’s second message. (3–5)
 - Judgment on the nation’s leaders (chap. 3)
 - *Then I said, “Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice, you who hate good and love evil...?” Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them... he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done. (3:1–4)*
 - *This is what the LORD says: “As for the prophets who lead my people astray, they proclaim ‘peace’ if they have something to eat, but prepare to wage war against anyone who refuses to feed them. Therefore, night will come over you... The sun will set for the prophets... The seers will be ashamed, and the diviners disgraced... (3:5–8)*
 - *Hear this... you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right... leaders judge for a bribe... priests teach for a price... her prophets tell fortunes for money... because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets. (3:9–12)*
 - Kingdom blessings for the nation (chaps. 4–5)
 - *In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. (4:1)*
 - *“In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles... I will make the lame my remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever. (4:6–7)*
 - *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. (5:2–15)*
- Micah’s third message. (6–7)
 - *“Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. (6:2)*
 - *Am I still to forget your ill-gotten treasures, you wicked house... Shall I acquit someone with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights? Your rich people are violent; your inhabitants are liars*

and their tongues speak deceitfully. Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins. (6:6–8)

- Micah pleads with the Lord (7)
 - *What misery is mine! ...The faithful have been swept from the land; not one upright person remains. Everyone lies in wait to shed blood... Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire — they all conspire together... The day God visits you has come... Now is the time of your confusion. Do not trust a neighbor; put no confidence in a friend... a man's enemies are the members of his own household. (7:1–6)*
 - *But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD's wrath, until he pleads my case and upholds my cause. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness... (7:7–13)*
 - *Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago. (7:18–20)*

NEXT WEEK: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah.