

Book of Obadiah; Book of Jonah

By Charles Feinberg

Charles Feinberg:

Real eat. The doctor's wife indicated that evening. You're all looking well. How many of you ready to praise the Lord.

Class Response:

Amen.

Charles Feinberg:

Well do it. Praise the Lord. Now this evening we are still on the minor prophets. We have in our time. Oh we're going to get the largest of them all yet, next the last. Zachariah, Zachariah is to the Minor Prophets what Isaiah is to the Major Prophets. But this evening, we've come to Obadiah. Now, some people take a lot of offense if a word has more than one syllable, I'm sorry. [Laughter] This one has more than one syllable, but the name is a beautiful one. Obadiah, four syllables. That is the Hebrew equivalent of the name that we hear often Abdullah A.B.D.U.L.L.A.H which is the Arabic equivalent meaning servant of the Lord. What is this one chapter book? The shortest book in the whole of the Old Testament. What is its theme? What is its burden that God wants to get across?

The Doom of Eden. When you say, "Do you know I'm a bit embarrassed when I speak to unbelievers and they have just this smothering of knowledge of the Bible" and they'll say, "You know, God seems to be partial" he takes up the cause of an Israel or a Jacob against Esau or he'll take up for an Isaac against Ishmael. They love it. When you and I can't understand all the ramifications of the divine choice and healing and action, give God the benefit of the doubt.

Allows God to know something we don't know and not only that friends. Though those who are contrary to the will and purpose and plan of God in the world and for the universe though they may, from the human eye, from the eye of the wording appear to be very very acceptable. Very proper as the young people say very gung ho. God sees way beyond what we do and if God seems to be favorable to certain ones that we don't, remember God has a view. An eternal view in mind, there must be something about Edom.

Edom we remember was going and did go contrary to the will of God. So we mentioned last night, did we not that [inaudible] four New Testament books, but one chapter is only one Old Testament book with one chapter. The prophecy of Obadiah did very much neglected and there is no good reason for neglecting any book of the Bible. Wouldn't you hate to be like an Obadiah in the Old Testament left out? No. There's nothing in the Bible that needs to be left out. There are some [inaudible] that belonged to the snip and pace club. There everlastingly getting at the wordsmithing and pasting. Well, if they want to be in an editorial position you know, that's all right with a newspaper or something else like that or a book, but not with the word of God. We come a little too late for that. This is God's mind and here's another thing in understanding the word of God friends that the less a dealing of God, hear me, the less a dealing of God appeals to our so-called quote unquote reasoning the less it appeals that there is more divine wisdom there and we need to ask God what particular meaning do you have in this portion, or in this dealing or in this book. Neglected, but it has a real place in the revelation of God. A special message concerning Eden Edom.

The name. Here it now of a prophet means servant of the Lord, beautiful. That I A H is an ending for Jehovah. Obad like [inaudible] means servant of, servant of the Lord. We know nothing of the prophet. We say, "My, I'm lazy by nature anyhow that's your helps." Now wait a

minute. If a little fellow said he was learning English for the first time but he was from Germany "As you put nothing in you'd get nutting out." That's the way of a Bible study. The more you put in the more God will give you. So we don't know anything more about this prophet. Attempts have been made to connect him with one of the men so named in the scripture, there is an Obadiah if not he. He probably lived earlier than Jeremiah in the deliver the Spirit of God. To quote a part of his prophecy. He's earlier than Jeremiah and so Jeremiah was led of the Spirit of God to quote part of this prophecy. If you've ever written a book or more than one book there may come a time when you want to quote something wrong and it from a previous writing of yours. In a later one. What's wrong with that? You know they allow that to don't know how many writers, but when it comes to the Lord everything has to be according to their prescriptions. You see when we try to alter the word of God, then God is not the sole author of the book. [Inaudible] he's not the only author of the book. He has a companion, he has a co-author or author as in you and me and that's an impermanence, and I think that word means it ought to be that way. You probably lived earlier then Jeremiah and his prophecy seems to deal with several events of history and prophetic events rather than just the capture and destruction of Jerusalem under Nebakanezer.

Who are the Edomite's? Well they came from Esau. And Esau offspring soon prosper became strong. We have the national cheeks of Edom in Genesis 36 chapter given to it. There were kings and eat them before they were kings in Israel, before Israel ever had them. Genesis 36:31. In Exodus 15, that song of Moses. We read of the dukes of Edom. They got along in the world verse 15 in Exodus 15. Their behavior toward Israel in the wilderness is found in numbers 20:14 to 21 and that's where they incurred the wrath of God. God never pursues a certain line of action without there being a reason and there is definitely a reason why, why the Lord has put

Edom under a definite censure and a definite curse. Here it is, they dislike the people of God. Why? Some people say, what's different between hatred for the Jews or hatred for anybody else? I'll tell you right off of bat. The hatred for anybody is not a God. No matter how far a first person falls all of us are fallen creatures and were told not to hate folk. That never helped anybody. We are told to love them. It's easy to hate somebody, you know why? That's what you call a transfer of guilt. I mean I've been good, but oh I'm sure is worse than I am. And they get ready to be praising the Almighty and so on. I know that's not if. They have a strong dislike for God's people Israel and when that happens, suppose Edom had its way and Israel went for the board. Where with you and I have a savior? Let's begin to see things in the long view and the long run, and here it is. So it was during the time of David and the time of David the Joab, the general, conquered then in the eighth chapter second Samuel during the reign of Jorum the revolt that gains their independence, but when Judah and Israel declined Edom rejoiced greatly we read. They dwelt in the cliff dwellings of sandstone for protection in their wards. If you visit the Holy Land you've been to Petra. That's where the Edomite's and that city shows even in its ruins the power of their golden days and when the Babylonians came in to destroy Judah they encouraged them. Aha, they said psalm 137 verse 7. You're put out of commission Israel.

My friend if you want to know where the blessing of God is and those that are there, then in connection with Bible study fellowship through the years, know the reason God blesses because you go in accordance with these words. There's no magic there. There is no hocus pocus there, it's just this. Find out what God's doing and go in line with. He's got a blessed because God has gotten his word. He's God of the word Amen. It's going to be that way. God is not like man wishy washy. Here there and everywhere. No, when the Babylonians came in to destroy Judah they were happy if that had happened the way they wished it would. Edom, where would we had

a say [inaudible]. You see all of Israel had been blotted out. If Herod had the opportunity to do to slay all those babies and all, where would the savior come from? Herod reigned in Jerusalem. Edomite displayed such venom toward the Savior that man was an Edomite and [inaudible] Herod the Great quote unquote. They were prominent in the period of the Maccabees, that's between the book of Malakai and the New Testament, and so we have prophecies concerning Edom. Amazingly enough they are going to be revived when Israel and Judah are regathered. Isaiah 11:14 and as a future judgment for Edom Isaiah 34:6. There's more in the Bible than just this book of Obadiah of these few verses, 21 verses. The prophecy of this book has been only partially fulfilled to be completely sold in the day of the Lord.

God summons the nations. He begins with summoning the nations against Edom who thinks her trust is so secure in her position, she was a rock city the Red Rock City of the ancient world and when Jerusalem was plundered of the Philistines and the Arabs. Verse 10 Second Chronicles 21, oh, they were real thrilled. Any enemy that could seem to make God's promises invalid that pleased them. In the final analysis they are going to repeat that when Jerusalem is compassed about with the combined armies of the world in the last chapter of Zachariah, 14th Chapter. 1 to 5 we will be spending a fair amount a legitimate amount of time with Zechariah. He actually has. He has the same number of chapters as Hosea, but he has more of individual material. Just one thing that may prepare you as you may be looking on towards Zechariah, just go on one theme that will amaze you. You have a Christology, a beautiful elaboration setting forth of the person and work of our Lord Jesus. As I said, Zechariah to the Minor Prophets what Isaiah is to the Major Prophets. Individual nations have had the judgment of God on them, but here we have all the nations as we read Obadiah and the nations will drink a cup of the wine of the fury of God and Edom will not escape. Now, that is the book of Obadiah.

Next we come to Jonah. To Jonah. You heard of the Jonah, song so [inaudible] and so on. Well, he's come in for a lot of ribbing and he went they say to fish seminary and got a whale of an education and so on and so forth and the like and they've even written poems. Here's one, can you guess this? Have you ever seen this one? Adam, God made out of dust, have you seen that one? But thought it best to make me first so I was made before the man to answer God's most holy plan. Have you seen that? Oh, I have before me a number of intelligent people, all of you, but you, you have to be good to guess what this is. Your first question is did you guess it? And the answer honestly is no. Here it is, Adam, God made out of dust, but thought it best to make me first so I was made before the man to answer God's most holy plan. My body, God did make complete, but without arms or legs or feet my ways and acts he did control but to my body gave no soul. A living being I became an Adam gave to me my name. I from his presence then withdrew and more of that I never knew. I did my maker's law obey, nor from it ever went astray. Thousands of miles go in fear, but seldom on the earth appear for purpose wise which God did see, he put a living soul in me. A soul for me my God did claim and took from me that soul again. For when from me the soul.

You have it? [Inaudible] Not fair. That's not cricket as we say in England. For one from me the soul had fled. I was the same as when first made and without hands or feet or soul I travelled on from pole to pole. I labor hard by day and night to follow man I give great light. Thousands of people young and old will by my death great life behold. No right, no wrong can I can see the scripture I cannot believe. Although my name there in is found, they are to me an empty sound. No fear of death does trouble me. Real happiness I shall see. To heaven I shall never go or the grave or hell below. Now when these lines are slowly read go search your Bible with all speed for that my name is recorded there. I honestly, to you declare. How many you

know who that is. Oh well forever and a day. That's like King, that's like carrying coals to Newcastle. Now you from Great Britain know what that means, carrying coals to Newcastle. How many of you know what that means? In other words doing something that is not nice. Who is this? It's the fish that swallowed Jonah.

Adam, God made out of dust. God made Adam out of dust, but thought it best to make me first. You see the lower creatures were made first, fish. So I was made before the man. He's the, he's the [inaudible] he's a top with woman of course. That's what living means the wife of a man. To answer God's most holy planet my body God did me complete. You wouldn't add anything to a fish or a whale, but without arms or legs or feet. My ways and acts he did control, but to my body gave no soul. Fish don't have souls. A living being I became, came alive. Don't put your hand in his mouth. A living being I became and Adam gave to me my name. He named all of those creatures of God. I from his presence then withdrew and more of Adam never knew I did my make law all day nor from it ever went astray. Oh he's, he's not an intelligent creature. Of course thousands of miles he was going to fear that some of them on the earth appeared. For purpose wise which God did see. He put a living soul in me. That was when he swallowed Jonah. I stole from me my God did claim and took from me that soul again. For when for me the soul had fled I was the same as when first made and without hands or feet or soul I travel along from pole to pole. I labor hard by day and night to follow a man I give great light. How? Oh you know wale blubber and all that [inaudible]. Thousands of people young and old will by my death great light behold. You [inaudible] light, or when you call the oil. Go on.

No right no wrong can I conceive. He has no sense of moral values my scriptures, I cannot believe. Not human. Although my name are in his found they are to me an empty sound. The name is there, the fish that swallowed Jonah. No fear of death does trouble me, real

happiness I near shall see. To heaven I shall never go. Heaven is not for animals or for other creatures only for those for whom Christ died. So to heaven I shall never go to the grave or hell below. Now when these lines you'll slowly read. Go search your bible with all speed for that my names recorded there. Honestly he did declare. That is not too easy to figure out, but you have done it beautifully. Now, the word Jonah Yoann means dove, only he was one of those doves that ruinith the wrong way. It's been unceasingly attack, but it is supported by the greatest of Heaven. How? Our Lord Jesus. Matthew 12:40 to 41, he is the last word. He is the word in the beginning was the word. The Bible is the word of God. Christ is the word from God and the Bible tells of him. The book here, Jonah, God's love to all nations is the theme. It's a narrative, a story of a prophecy, rather than a prophecy itself. It's like a narrative that you read in historic books concerning Elijah and Elisha. Where did he live? He lived in Gath-Hepher, hyphenated name. It was a village on the eastern frontier of Zedulan about an hour journey north of Nazareth. Second King's 14:25. Jonah was one of the earliest of the prophets. no prophecy here in Jonah concerning Israel, before a century and a half past the wickedness of Nineveh was so fragrant all so out broken so fragrant that Nahum the prophets announced its final doom. Never read Jonah just by itself. Get the sequel in the book a Nahum.

I'm glad that God spared Nineveh them or any time, we ought to. After all, these are creatures of God. We don't delight, it's only the devil that delights in God's judgment. Men and women give their lives, their whole, outlook in the world to the mission of bringing the gospel of our Lord Jesus to those who've never heard. So the city of Nineveh was the capital of the Assyria, the greatest power in the east before Babylon became prominent. It was built by Asher, A.S.H.H.U.R, which we get the word Assyria, Genesis 10:11. It was a city of three days journey. That means sixty miles, sixty miles round. It had a population of something over a half a million

about 600,000 population according to some. You know the story, we read here to begin with arise verse 2, "Go to Nineveh, that great city, great city and cry against it. Their wickedness has come up before me." Nothing like that goes without the attention and concern of God. Ancient Greek and Roman writers say that this Nineveh, Nineveh was the largest city in the world of that day.

So what is Noah, what does Jonah do? God says go to Nineveh go east. What does he do? Like so many others who belong to the same school seem to have gotten degrees in the same college. He decides he knows better, so he goes west. Goes west. Directly the opposite. Oh my dear friends, why did you do that? Why did he do that? Because he didn't have a heart like God. He would rather see judgment poured out on Nineveh, a gentile nation than to allow God to have the joy of redeeming those and sparing those in Nineveh. Now there are four chapters, not a long prophecy the first chapter is on the prophet called, he's called. And they were not automatons. They were not just some machine, you press a button and you have. No no no. They had a way all they could say no or they could say yes. The value of choice. Not all of God's creatures have that. They don't all have the intelligence of man and woman has, but here she decides to go his own way. So called what did he do? Chapter 2, he has to be chased because he says, "I'll do no such thing as that. You mean I'm going to be a messenger of redemption. I'm going to be a messenger of joy of forgiveness. Not a bit of it. No I'm not going to do that for a split second. No, no" and Jonah in that is a type of Israel. They were told to go to all the nations, he began to sit and take care of their knitting at home. Began to roll their thumbs and be satisfied with what they had and forget about the others. Oh that's not it. God does not want us to be unfeeling when he himself is concerned for the loss of the world. No we dare not be.

Now look. At the second chapter. [Recording skips]. Chapter 2 the profit chased. He didn't want to go to Nineveh. God says, "Well, you say I have a mind of your own. You will obey. You will yet learn what is in the throbbing, blessed, forgiving heart of God." And in the third chapter he does go, you remember? He goes to Nineveh. Certainly did and the Lord of the Lord came unto Jonah. Thank God for these words the second time. Some people will get the words theologically about a second chance. There is no chance after death. Not a second chance not even the half of a chance, but before death there are all kinds of chances. Did you believe the gospel the first time you heard it? So the lord, that's not, let's not want to deny Nineveh that never came to Jonah the second time. Arrived going to Nineveh that great city. Again, that great city and preach under the preaching that I bid the. Don't change it. He wanted to go to Tarshis. Lord told him to go east. He goes directly west Tarshis we know now, is Tartessus in Spain. He went west and it was known as a great maritime power. You preach what I've did you. So he arose all this beautifully. This isn't the first chapter, this is the third. So he arose and went unto Nineveh according to the word of the Lord.

Now Nineveh was a exceedingly great city of three days journey. He said, "I want you to know a lot of people there. This isn't just some little tempest in a teapot." Jonah began to enter into the city, a day's journey, cried and said yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown. You hear that, yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown that message itself was a message of grace. Why? It doesn't take God forty days to overthrow any city. Or to overthrow the whole world. In the message itself that indicated doom water was contained in a message of God's love, and blessing, so the people of Nineveh believe God, there it is. That's more than you found in Israel a number of times proclaimed a fast, put off sackcloth from the greatest of them to the least of them for word came out of the kingdom of Nineveh. He arose from his throne, laid his

robe from him. That's really something to get a king to do that, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes and they proclaimed by the decree of the king. Let there be man nor beast heard nor fought taste. Let them not feed nor drink water than be Covered with Sackcloth. Signed mightily under God. That third chapter is as beautiful as the first chapter is heart rending. It is a complete reversal. Complete reversal of right about face. All the degrees you want to think of. 180, 360 400 and some, that's what that was. Yes the prophet called, The Prophet [inaudible]. What happened here, oh it was beautiful. Was Beautiful.

How the turn of the Lord. Yes, God saw their works. Verse ten, because there's a heart behind it. They really meant to be grieved for their sins that they turned from the evil way. That's God saying it, not Jonah, and God repented of the evil. That means not that God said, well I made a mistake and all. No no no. This is the language of common speech and writing. God always treats adherence to his word and his commands this way. He always treats denial of his words an obstinate opposition to his words this way. And if man turns from this opposition to the other or does believe the word. Then there's no reason for God to issue the judgment he said. There's always an, if there is always a moral conditioning.

How do you know? Oh my dear friends if God was irresistibly committed to destroy Nineveh. He could have happened right then and there. Why didn't he wait? Why didn't you just send Jonah to spar. Spare him that fish ride. No not at all. So the third chapter is the profit successful. Now the climax. The climax my dear friends is not in the third chapter. I'm sorry to have to. To go contrary to what you think is the case with the climax to the book of Jonah is in the fourth chapter and I might as well warn you right no beloved. Get ready, it's not in the verses you think, but it's there in that fourth chapter. And they hear you correctly you can really weep of the marvelous, marvelous working of God. What do we have in the fourth chapter, the instructed

prophet, the instructed prophet? My dear friends. If man unaided by the Spirit of God had written this account it would have concluded with Chapter 3, like so thy married and went happily ever after then, it's part of the bills.

Now apparently the climax has been reached with a repentance and sparing of Nineveh. Why don't you stop while you're ahead Jonah? He says I'm not head until I'm through the verse of the fourth chapter. Yes, how do you mean? Well mercy of God has been displayed, the obedient prophet has been successful in his work. Nineveh is no longer in danger of punishment. Thank God, they had been spared. Now why doesn't the record close? The Bible isn't there just to fill up pages. I think I mentioned at one time how some students when they answer their questions, seems the less they know the more they want to write, they want to keep you busy and want to throw the fog in your eyes. Now the Bible is not like that. The Bible isn't padded. You can pad a fellow who's going out to play football. You don't pad the Bible. Why didn't that record close? Because, believe it or not beloved the climax to the book of Jonah is not in the first three chapters. It's the fourth chapter. The true goal of the whole book. God has to teach Jonah and us trues of our own hearts as well as a boundless greatness of God's own heart.

The first verse of a fourth chapter. It's almost unbelievable you'd thought. Well he has been to the woodshed Jonah has. He's learned, but he didn't learn enough but it displeased, imagine that word. But it displeased very displeased Jonah. If you have the reference bible the Scofield reference. It reads in the footnote on page 943, "The old nature resist the display of God's grace to any of us creatures that's for sure." An example of Jonas own admission. In Chapter 4 Verse 2 he was exceeding me, that doesn't mean a little bit as we say in Texas. He was sure enough displeased. And he was very angry and angry. He almost he almost popped the tonsils and he prayed unto the lord. You mean to tell me a man that was out of sympathy with the

world would pray? You don't know man. He prayed under the Lord, he sure did, the scripture says so and said I pray the Lord was not this man. He is instructing God didn't I tell you you have to prove yourself right even when he's wrong. His wrong as all outdoors. When I was yet in my country, that's what I meant, wasn't I right? Therefore I fled before unto Tarsus where I knew, underscore that new, if that wears your bible out I'll get you a new one. For I knew that though are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger. This is one of the most beautiful statements concerning the character of God and every word of that is right and true. Merciful, slow to anger, great kindness and repentance of evil means. If lord we just give you the dear indication.