

Obadiah 1

Sunday 12/12/2004

One of the joys of working with people in the ministry is one of the greatest blessings. My wife feels the same way, just having a group of people that are willing to do whatever needs to be done. So many people serve God with conditions. To have a group of people who will do whatever it takes to get the job done, no matter what it is, is more than any man could ever ask for with people. Those are the kind of people that God brings to us, and I just thank God for it. That is the kind of people that we want to build.

Again, I want to thank you, and everybody just stay with it until we get all this stuff done. Then we will just thank God for everything that He does. God has some tremendous things for us. Every time I meet with you guys individually or in Bible study, or talk to you, I see the potential that is in everybody in this church, and I just thank God for it. That is why we are doing what we are doing as we are coming through the Bible. We are laying down a baseline, laying down the foundation structure for you that you are going to use the rest of your life, because the Bible is going to have to be the key component.

If you have your Bible this morning, we are in the book of Obadiah. The little book of Obadiah is just one short chapter in the Old Testament, and it only has 21 verses. In fact, it is the shortest book in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the shortest book would be 3 John. But in the Old Testament, Obadiah is the shortest, smallest, littlest book in the Bible. Yet this little book is an absolute bombshell. It is probably one of the most misunderstood books in all of the Bible because it takes the Bible and believing the Bible to figure this little book out.

You would think just by reading it that it just talks about a group of people that God talks about down through here and all of that. But this little book is the key to some of the greatest doctrinal teachings in all of the Bible. It is really a key to understanding the process by which heresy gets defined in the Bible. We are going to use this book today to show you some tremendous truths because all of you, as we grow, as we continue to work together, and you continue to be part of the ministries here, and we forge and shape and direct all of the aspects of your spiritual life, if we work together as a church, you are going to see how these books come into play and how you use them.

The breakdown of the book is really simple because you only have one chapter.

- Verses 1-16 focus on the judgment of Edom.
- In verse 17, you have a paragraph mark. With that paragraph mark, you find from verses 17-21, the deliverance of Israel.

That is basically how this little book breaks down.

With that in mind, let us go to the Lord today and ask God to bless us as we come to His Word. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We thank You for all that You do for us. We thank You, Father, for Your love for the Word of God that You have given us. We thank You for those that have come today, Father. Lord, the ones that made it a priority to be here today because the most important thing to them is learning the Word of God. I thank You for

their faithfulness. I thank You, Lord, for men and women, boys and girls, who let nothing stand in their path of learning the book. Thank You, Lord, for the fact that we can open it today to give us a word, Lord, that shows us and gives us insight into all that we do. Father, we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

I. Understanding Heresy

I want to talk to you this morning and I want to show you how to use this little book because this little book is just an example of things that you are going to find all the way through the Bible. Sooner or later, as you grow into the Bible, and right now most of you who are studying the Bible, you have been somewhat protected from this. That is by design because when you have young Christians that are trying to learn the Bible and get their feet on the ground, many times they do not understand all of the things that are out there that will bite them, so to speak. So the Lord kind of puts a hedge about.

You see that in the Old Testament. When the nation of Israel came out of Egypt, God took them away in a time where He really did not let anybody mess with them. Once they got out of Egypt and Pharaoh was drowned in the Red Sea, you find that God took their journey in a fashion that gave them some time to get their feet on the ground. He did not put them right up against another nation that they had to deal with. He gave them some time to regroup and find out exactly what they needed to do. God does that with young Christians. God will never throw you to the wolf, so to speak. By the time He drops you into the wolf den, He will have given you a double-barreled shotgun and showed you how to use it.

You are going to find as you grow up that there are heresies within the world that we have to deal with. You are going to find that heresies simply define bad teachings. You are going to find that there are teachings that go contrary to the scriptures. You will find that in the New Testament, when Paul is writing the New Testament, he is talking about in a number of places where men are corrupting the Word of God, men are teaching false doctrines, that it is not something that just came on the last hundred years. When Paul was penning the words of God, the devil was busy coming up with concepts that were heresy as far as confusing young Christians, and in some cases, damning people's souls to hell.

That brings up another thing we need to discuss. Heresies come in two forms:

1. Heresies that are within the body of Christ. That is bad teaching that saved people get into.
2. Heresies that are without the body of Christ. That is the bad teaching that will send you to hell.

Baptism for salvation will send you to hell. That is a heresy. Believing that living a good life and going to church will merit favor with God is a heresy that will send you straight to hell. Within the body of Christ, you find bad teachings that confuse Christians. Here is the reason for it: the devil wants to do two things. One, he wants to damn your soul to hell. So he will have men, and the list is endless down through church history. If you go down through the history of the church, you will find, we have talked about it before, a guy like Origen, Clement. There is even one guy called Marcion the heretic. Trigallus, Augustine, all of these guys. All of these men, and many

more, all of these men had one thing in common: they perverted the Word of God. They came up with ideas that were contrary to Scripture, because the devil in his number one concept of heresy wants to damn your soul to hell.

So guys would come up and say, "Jesus Christ really was not God. He is another God, a lesser God, a begotten God." That brought up the controversy, the fact that Jesus Christ was not God. So there was an issue over the deity of Christ. That thing took place all the way back there while Paul was still writing. Yet we find that alive today in many religions. There are people today in this city, probably walk two or three blocks and bump into some of their churches, that simply teach that Jesus Christ is not the eternal Son of God, that He is a created prophet, a good man, a good teacher, but He is not God. Of course, that is heresy, and that heresy will send you straight to hell like a silver bullet, faster than anything that I know.

Then you had somebody come up with the idea that, "It is not putting your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. It is being baptized. That is what saves you." That doctrine is a heresy, and that will send you to hell. Then there were other teachings that said, "No, no, just join a church, live a good life, keep the Ten Commandments, do unto others before they do it to you," and all those great golden rule concepts. Somebody said, "If you do that, you will go to heaven." Of course, that teaching is a heresy, and that will send you to hell.

Then there were heresies that men designed that were in the body of Christ. Remember now, heresy number one is to get you lost in hell, eternally damned. But the devil knew that there were people that are already saved. So heresy number two, or plan number two, was heresies that were among God's people. Heresies, what I call within the body of Christ. Those are things that will not send you to hell, but they will confuse you to the place that you will never grow. One of them is, "You can lose your salvation." That is a heresy. If you go through your life not sure you are saved and thinking you can lose your salvation, you will never do anything meaningful for the Lord Jesus Christ. You know why? Because you will be too busy worrying about your own soul to worry about the soul of somebody else. This is basic 101 Bible doctrine.

Another one is things like the Charismatic Movement. Doctrines, another one is like predestination. Another one is things that others, all kinds of them. But those are doctrines within the church that stop the church. They stop your growth. They stop you from being everything that God wants you to be. Those kind of teachings, those kind of heresies are within the church of saved people. A basic study of church history will show two lines developing in the Bible. The two lines that we are studying when we get together, the biblical line and non-biblical line. I have taught most of you those things. You find those two lines developing. The one line is a biblical line that stays true to the Bible. The other one is a non-biblical line that deviates from the Bible. The one stays pure in its doctrine, in its teachings. The other one deviates all over the place and creates both heresies: heresies within, heresies without.

II. The Purpose of Heresy

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:19, and I know now you are probably thinking in your mind, "Well, that is too bad. Why did not God let that happen?" Well, heresy is not a bad thing. I mean, heresy

is a bad thing, but heresy is not a bad thing. Notice the inflection of my voice. I am using inflection here. Inflection is a way of communicating. I am inflecting things to you. I am deflecting what I am reflecting. That is my job.

In 1 Corinthians 11:19, here is what Paul says:

1 Corinthians 11:19

For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

He says there has got to be. He says it is okay. You do not need to be afraid of heresy. As a young Christian, you do not need to be afraid of bad teaching when you are in a good Bible-believing church. As long as you submit yourself to this church, as long as you submit yourself to me, and I submit myself to you—it is two-sided—I will never allow bad teaching in this church. We will always go back to the Bible, and you will see in a moment why you do not have to be afraid of heresy. Because Paul says, "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."

Look at that verse. You know what that verse says? That verse says that heresy or bad teaching is good because it approves who are the people who really have the truth. That is a tremendous concept. A tremendous concept. Because a man or a woman, and they come in both categories, a man or a woman who is a false teacher in the middle of people who know the Bible will never survive. I can remember the times in Bible studies over the years where somebody came in who believed something other than the Bible, and they were heretics. I would just step back, give them the floor, and step back and let you guys just whack them up one side and down the other. I would go out and get a Coke, go get a hamburger someplace, come back an hour later, and you guys were still beating them up.

You know why? Because when a group of people believe that book, and that book becomes the foundation for which you believe, a heretic cannot exist. That is why they always prey on young Christians. That is why you need to be in a Bible-believing church that stands on the Bible, that protects you and teaches you the right doctrine until you get up on your feet to beat them up yourself. That is the plan. You have got to come to the point where you get your own spiritual legs. That is my job. That is what we are trying to do by showing you some of these great concepts here. Because I am telling you, a man or a woman who is a false teacher in the middle of people who know the Bible simply will not survive.

You will find them hanging out at Bible studies in churches that do not have any real doctrinal stand themselves, and they will watch for the young Christians and then corner them. I remember, I think I told you the story a number of months ago. I was at an astronomy meeting out in Lee's Summit at a pastor's church, a friend of mine who allows the astronomy club, not the astronomy club, but what I am in to have there. I was standing out, and what they do is they would set the telescopes up in the yard out there in the ball field, and they would have their meeting, and I would stay out there and watch the scopes so nobody would bother them.

I am standing out there and two guys drive in. At this point in my life on a Saturday night, I do not look much like a pastor. I probably do not this morning, but I worked less than I did then. I am just kind of standing out there, and they drove up and came in there, and they walked in the thing, and there was a meeting, and they asked me, they said, "Is this a church meeting?" I said, "Oh, it is an astronomy club meeting." They said, "Oh, okay." And they walked out. I thought to myself at that point, "Well, maybe they are looking for directions." So I go back out, I said, "Hey, guys, can I help you? You need something?" I said, "I am sorry." They said, "Well, we wanted to talk to somebody about the Bible." I said, "Well, okay. Fine. Can I help you? I do a little bit about the Bible. I am kind of a little bit about it. Can I help you?"

Then he started going to this thing about, he started going through this thing about a verse in Acts, and just dropped the verse on me and said, "You know," and it was a confusing verse if you did not know your Bible, and what they were trying to do. I found out later they belonged to a church that what they do is they send out people, they go to churches, Baptist churches, because they know that most Baptists are stupid as a stump. They prey on, and they thought I was a stump-stupid person, you see. They came up to me and they started, and I tell you what, I will make a long story short, by the time I was done with them, I mean, they were, the smoke coming out of their car was not from their tailpipe. But that is how they operate. That is how they work. I mean, I do not know what else to tell you.

III. Identifying False Teaching

Your Bible says in 2 Peter 1:20, and this is why a heretic really does not have any way to survive in a Bible-believing church. Because the Bible says in 2 Peter 1:20:

2 Peter 1:20

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

You do not go into the Bible and privately interpret the Bible. When you do, you get heresy. The Bible tells you there is an absolute format by which you come to a conclusion in the Bible, and that is comparing scripture with scripture because the Bible interprets itself. When I teach you the Bible, I teach you the self-interpretation mode, not yourself, the Bible itself, laying out for you what you need to see and what you need to understand in the scriptures. As long as you stay with that, stay with the Bible, it will never, it will never. It does two things: it separates the men from the boys, and it really, as what the Bible says, it approves who has really got it and who does not.

I will give you an example. Let me show you just a couple things here. You do not have to turn to these. I will just read them to you. In 1 John 4:1-2, it says this:

1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Now that is a good key. In time, as you grow spiritually, some of you already know how to do this, but in time, as you grow spiritually, you will learn how to try the spirit. You will be able to tell if somebody on the other side of that eyeball looking at you is teaching you right or wrong, just simply based on understanding how to try the spirit. Now that is not a spooky, charismatic, witchcraft thing. The Bible says that God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God in the book of Romans. There is a lot to that, and I will give that to you when you are ready. I could give it to you all night long. It still would not do any good, but we will get to that when we get to a point.

He said, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone into the world." Now, look at this. Here is one verse. With this one verse, God knocks out 90% of heresies that teach you something that will send you to hell. Watch this. Verse 2 says:

1 John 4:2

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

How do we know it? How do we know it? Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. That one verse wipes out 95% of the false teachings, because that verse says that if a church, a pastor, whatever, teaches that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God and He is not equal with God and He is not God, then that spirit is not of God. That wipes out 90% of the cults out there right now. Did you ever stop and think that wipes out Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Seventh-day Adventists, Unity, Christian Science, the Muslims, the Confucius, the Buddhists, and 40 others right off the bat?

Now, the problem becomes this. Once the Bible tells you that, you are faced with a decision. You are either going to accept that and believe it and operate with that standard or you are not. The more you play back and forth with it, I heard somebody say one time, "Well, can you give me two more verses that substantiate that?" I said, "Why do you need two more verses?" "Because the Bible says in the Bible, 'in the mouth of three witnesses, things shall be established.'" I said, "Well, you already got it." "No, you gave me one verse." I said, "But that verse came from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There is your three witnesses. What more do you want?"

Why do you need two verses when the Bible tells you in one what to do? You know what your problem is? You are not honest. I do not need two. I just need one. I am not like Gideon, you know, when God told him to do something and he said, "Well, okay, Lord, I am going to do it and I believe You, but you know what? Do something impossible to show me that is real." I do not need that. I have come far enough in my life to know when the book says that I believe it. When it is that clear, it does not have to be any clearer. That one verse right there, but you see, it brings you back to the Bible. Now you are faced with believing what it says or believing what you want to believe. One verse.

Now I will tell you another one. We have within the body of Christ, the charismatic movement, all this stuff going around, and how many times I have heard somebody say, how many times I have heard somebody say about tongues in my Bible study over the years or in my own personal talk with them, they will say, "Well, you know what? Speaking in tongues is initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost." Well, that sounds so nice, and thank you for your private interpretation. But my Bible says that tongues are for a sign, and the Jew requires a sign in 1 Corinthians 14 and 1 Corinthians 1. You can make this beautiful statement how it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. But if it is not in the Bible, it means nothing. When the Bible redefines it differently, you are out, the Bible is in.

I do not have to have a sign for, I got a book, a more sure word of prophecy, and that one right there wipes it out. Bible says, "Well, I believe you have got to be baptized to go to heaven. I believe it is works. I believe of being baptized in water." Here again, the Bible said in John 1:12-13:

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Simple as that. Somebody said, "Well, the Bible says it very clearly. You either get on board or get off." That is why God is not the author of confusion. The devil is the author of confusion. When God gives you a clear, concise verse, man makes it confusing. That is why there has always been a true biblical line. You need to find it with a true biblical Bible. You need to find it as their final authority. You need to get it. We are willing to die for it. Also why the devil wants to take away your authority, because the bottom line is heresy will rule where there is no final authority. If you do not hear anything else I said this morning, you hear that: heresy will rule where there is no absolute final fixed authority that defines, lays out, and it is the bottom line for what you believe, because then it becomes situation ethics and it becomes the book of Judges. Every man did what was right in his own eyes, and there was no law, no authority, no absolute standard, no king in Israel.

IV. Refuting Calvinism and Predestination

I said all that because when you come to the book of Obadiah, the book of Obadiah exposes an incredible heresy. The book of Obadiah does a number of incredible things. But the one thing that it does, it exposes a heresy that is within the body of Christ today that many of you do not know anything about, but you need to learn, and today is the day, so here we go. That is the heresy of the teaching, and you will run into these guys sooner or later, of what is commonly called Calvinism. In times coming up in the early church age, it was called covenant theology. It primarily starts with the Presbyterian church through John Calvin, who founded the Presbyterian church around the time of the Reformation. Today we find, and I find this all the time, a rebirth

of Calvinism in the form of Reformation theology, and many, many of the radio Baptist preachers that you hear today on the radio have bought into Reformation theology and now are Calvinists or always have been Calvinistic in their concept.

Let me explain Calvinism. First of all, let me explain Calvin. John Calvin led a Reformation or revolt against the Roman Catholic Church in the 1500s. John Calvin is held up as one of the great Christians of the faith. If you bought any book on church history, you would find him hung up there with Martin Luther and all the other great guys. Men hold Calvin up in high esteem because of Calvin as a great theologian, and let me just say this. I have read Calvin's books, I have read his works. If John Calvin believed what he wrote in his books, he died and went to hell because he believed in baptismal regeneration for salvation, and I am just telling you straight up, that is the way it is.

So John Calvin comes up with the teaching of election, and there are two more words you need to understand: election and predestination. Let me explain what John Calvin taught. John Calvin came up with five points in his teaching. There are five points in Reformation theology, five points in Covenant theology, five points in Calvinism or predestination or wherever hyper-Calvinism or wherever you find it. There are five points, and those five points are not found in the Bible anywhere, shape or form, but that did not bother Calvin, and it seemingly does not bother most people because what is the Bible anymore? But let me tell you what predestination and Calvinism and election really teaches.

Here is what Calvin taught. Let me tell you the five things he taught:

3. Limited Atonement
4. Irresistible Grace
5. Unconditional Election
6. Total Depravity
7. Perseverance of the Saints

Within those five things, here is what Calvin taught, and here is what Reformation theology teaches, and here is what many, many, many churches teach today, many, many Baptist churches teach today. It is simply this: way far in the distant past, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit went into a huddle, and in that huddle they said, "Okay, we are going to make the plan, we are going to make man, we are going to make the earth, and we are going to make this thing and we are going to have it going." "Here is what we are going to do. Let us sit down right now because we are infinite in our wisdom. Let us decide who is going to heaven and who is going to hell."

Election simply means that God chose you and did not choose the guy sitting next to you. Election is God says, "You are going to heaven and you are not." What do you think of that? God said, "Ah, you get saved and you will not." Now that is where these five points come in. Unconditional grace means if you got grace, you get it unconditionally, and you cannot not get saved. But if you do not have that and you are part of the limited atonement crowd, Joe, you could pray to God save you all night long and God will not save you because you are not the elect. I have never understood those churches. I went to one of their services one time, I just

wanted to hear what they sang. They sing songs like, "Jesus loved me, sorry about you, you are not one of the chosen few, little ones to Him belong. You did not make it."

Their basic teaching is that God chose some people to go to heaven and some people to go to hell, and if you are the one going to heaven, there is nothing you can do about it. You will get saved. If you are not one to go to heaven, there is nothing anybody can do, you are going to hell. Now behind the scenes, let me show you how that heresy destroys the work, because if that is true, why do I have to win anybody to Christ? Why do I have to put missionaries on the field? Why do I have to witness to anybody or give invitations if he gets saved? The bottom line is if you are going to get saved, you are going to get saved whether I do it or not, and if you are not one of the elect, you could not get saved, so why should I bother? That mindset destroys the soul-winning ability of people of what they ought to be doing where the Spirit of God moves through them to win people to Christ, and it is a heresy.

It is a heresy, and of course one of the places that they go to, one of the many places, is Romans 9. Let us turn there. We want to turn there so we can look at this. Romans 9, because here we have found two places. Oh boy, oh boy, I got five points that I cannot find in the Bible, but do not worry about that. Let us go someplace that supports those five points even if those five points which my all faith is built on does not exist anywhere in the Word of God, and that is exactly what they do.

In Romans 9, they find two guys. The first one is in verse 17, and in Romans 9:17, he is talking about Pharaoh when he says:

Romans 9:17

For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Romans 9:18

Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

"Oh, there is the verse, there is the verse, there is the verse, there is the verse that says that God raised Moses up for God's glory, and then God hardened Pharaoh's heart because God chose not to show mercy on Pharaoh, and there it is, there it is, see we found the place, there proves it, there proves it, that proves it." Hey, let me tell you something. Heresy flourishes where there is no Bible. You go back to Pharaoh and you find where Pharaoh's story is told back there in the book of Exodus. You will find five times where the Bible clearly tells you Pharaoh hardened his heart, Pharaoh hardened his heart, Pharaoh hardened his heart, Pharaoh hardened his heart, Pharaoh hardened his heart, then God hardened Pharaoh's heart. He just took the hardened heart Pharaoh gave him, and the Bible says in the book of Timothy that in a great house God has vessels of honor and God has vessels of dishonor, and what He is saying, you know what, God is going to get honor and glory out of everything He placed on this earth whether you are a vessel of honor or dishonor, you choose. That is what you got.

Then the other one is over here in Romans 9, and look down here at verse 13:

Romans 9:13

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

"Whoa, there we go. That will prove it. Who cares the fact that I do not have the five points, could not be found in the Bible. I want to believe it. I am going to find me a verse, and here is a place where, Bob, how can you deny it? This Bible says God loved one guy and He hated the other guy." Well, that is why you have got to have a Bible, boys. I hate to keep going back to the Bible, but I do not know what else to do. I left my Reader's Digest at home.

Romans 9:13 said, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Now we come to the book of Obadiah. Obadiah figures this one out. You ever notice that Obadiah is the only book in your Bible that is written to a nation of people? It is the only book in your Bible that is so, now I know there are other places like Jeremiah where it talks about other nations, but there is no other book in the Word of God where it is aimed, focused, cross-haired, zeroed in, dropped on one nation of people, and that nation of people is the Edomites. The Edomites come from one man, his name is Esau, and the Hebrew word for Esau is Edom. Oh, the plot thickens.

Now in the book of Genesis, which is called the book of the beginnings, which if you are a Bible believer, you know that by the time you get to the end of the book of Genesis, really Genesis 14, but we will take it the whole book, by the time you get to the end of the book of Genesis, everything in the rest of the Bible has been defined for you. That is why it is called the book of the beginnings. Everything in the rest of your Bible is now easier to understand because it has been defined in the book that is the book of the beginnings, and you find that in those 50 chapters, everything, every doctrine, every person, every concept, every doctrine that you are going to find through the rest of the Bible is now defined for you.

You were told in Genesis 32 that Jacob means Israel. You were told in Genesis 36:8 that Esau is Edom. If that was not enough, God help us to not get all tangled up in the Bible today, but in Genesis 25:23, when the two boys are being born, Jacob and Esau, the Holy Spirit of God gave you a great prophecy, and He said that those two boys in her womb struggling were two nations, and then He tells you that Jacob is Israel and Esau is Edom.

Now here is what you have got. Esau is the firstborn. He should have as the firstborn the blessing. He should have the firstborn the inheritance, but he forsakes it because of sin. The Bible talks about him not directly but indirectly in Philippians 3:19 where it says a man's God is his belly. Esau cared more for the things of this world. He is a hairy man, a picture of the world. That is where it all comes from. He is a hairy man. He runs around in a field, a field type of the world. He is a picture of a worldly lost man who hates the things of God, who despises the people of God. He hates the real things of God, and when he looked at the birthright and the blessing, two of the greatest things in the Old Testament that guaranteed the line of Christ was going to come through you and you would have the inheritance and the blessings of everything down the line, he sold them out for a pot of chili. He said, "I am so hungry, I just do not care what good is this birthright to me? Give me something to eat," and he sells his birthright. He loses the blessing. Hebrews 12:16 says that he is a fornicator and he is a profane person, and Esau is a man who hates the things of God. He hates Jacob. Jacob and him never got along, and

the Bible is telling you that there is more here than two boys. There are two nations. Jacob becomes the nation of Israel. Esau becomes the Edomites.

Now let us go on with our story because Esau despised his birthright, dumped the blessing, and hated Jacob all of his life and hated the things of God and despised the things of God. You will find in 1 Chronicles 8:13 where they become Israel's servants. God makes them the servants of Jacob. They become Israel's servants, and all the time during that time of the kings of Israel, they harbor grudges against God and the Jews, and they submit but they hate them. Then when Israel begins to go into problems, when Israel begins to fracture as a nation, when Israel begins to get into trouble and she begins to lose her grip so to speak, and Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon and Assyrian Sennacherib are looming at the door.

The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 21:8-10 that the Edomites turn on the Jews, revolt against the Jews, and make an alliance with Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to destroy the nation of Israel. We are going to get into it New Year's Eve, but those boys are the Iranians, the Jordanians, and Assyrians today. We will get into that. They are in the land of Palestine. I will show you where that is at. They still hate the Jew today, and just like they lined up with Nebuchadnezzar, a type of the Antichrist, they will line up as those nations with the Antichrist when the tribulation period comes. In fact, in Revelation 12 and 13, the Bible talks about the Antichrist as 10 nations with 10 kings. When you go back in Psalm 83:6, you find those kingdoms listed, and Edom is right at the top of the list.

The book of Obadiah and the book of Genesis, comparing Scripture with Scripture, shows that Romans 9:13 is not talking about two men, but about two nations. God curses Esau. God hates Esau, Edom, Rome, not because of predestination, not because God loved one and hated the other. He hates him because of Genesis 12:3 where God clearly stated:

Genesis 12:3

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Oh, how foolish of me. I forgot. Calvin could never get that truth. Calvin did not believe in the restoration of the nation of Israel. How foolish of me. Remember we talked about that last week? Men that do not believe that God is going to deal with the Jew and bring the Jew back are men that get messed up and in all kinds of heresy. That was Calvin. Calvin no more thought the nation of Israel. Hey, you know what Calvin was doing? Calvin wanted to separate the Roman Catholic Church not because they had a great love. Yeah, he had the right Bible. So what? Even a broken clock is right twice a day. Blind squirrels find nuts every once in a while. I mean, come on. Oh, he had the right Bible. I got a broken clock at home and it is right twice a day, six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock at night because that is when it stopped. So what? Want to buy one too?

So he had the right Bible. He did not believe what he had. He baptized babies all of his life. Oh, he wanted to break with the Roman Catholic Church. He wanted to set up his own church-state religion in Scotland, the Presbyterian Church, and he wanted to be the head of that one just like the Pope was the head of the other one. He no more believed that God was going to restore the

nation of Israel than Ted Garner Armstrong does. He no more believes it than the man on the moon. You see how it works?

There is not a Calvinist in this world that would understand what I just gave you in the book of Obadiah because he does not believe that God is going to do anything with Israel. He does not believe the Bible is the final authority. He has got five things he builds his religion on that you could not find anywhere in the Bible, just like the Catholics got five. They could not build anywhere in the Bible, and they build this whole religion on toothpicks that does not go anywhere. That is why a heretic will never survive in a group of Bible-believing, Bible-toting, Bible-shooting, Bible-maniacs who believe a final authority in one book will keep them from doctrine and purity.

V. Dealing with Difficult People

That is how the book of Obadiah works. You have got it. You are going to, as we grow, as we work together, as I give you people to work with, as you get into this thing, and every one of you here that have submitted yourself to this church, that have done whatever I have asked you to do, that have worked in ministry, whatever it is at, and just said, "Bob, I do not care what it is. I know this church is young. I know we have got to do it. Let us get it done." That is what God takes. You are going to face these people and a lot of other ones, and you are going to have to have your double-barreled 66 caliber strapped on. I do not want you to be afraid of anybody when it comes to that Bible. I do not want you to have to run with your tail between your legs from anybody when it comes to that Bible. That does not mean you will be a fool, but it means that you do not have to back down because you know what you have got.

I mean, you go someplace at work or you go someplace, boy, and somebody makes fun of you. There are times when you take it, you have got to have the discernment of the Spirit of God, but there is also a time, boy, when it comes around 12 noon and boy, you strap it on and walk down there, boy, and say, "Hey, calling you out." Not all the time. "I am your little huckleberry." "Well, you know what? I was abused when I was young and that is why I am the way I am." Now, heresy is going to have to be something, and I will teach you. We will get there. We have already covered a lot of things on Thursday nights as we come through, and we will come through them, and I will work with you. I will help you. There is not a time in this world you cannot call me and say, "Hey, I am up against this. What do I do?" I will help you. As long as you are committed to this work here to do what needs to be done, you can have whatever I have got, man. I will help you.

There is another thing the book of Obadiah teaches, and this is from an inspirational side, and I want you to see this because the book of Obadiah teaches another great truth. Last week we saw a great verse. Hosea 8:12 says:

Hosea 8:12

I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.

We talked about that, but Jacob and Esau are a picture of that truth. You know what? They are not like Abraham and Hagar and Ishmael. Abraham produced Ishmael through getting out of fellowship with God and taking Hagar, and that caused problems. This is not like Lot who was such a vile person that he got into a cave and had incest with his own daughters and produced the Moabites and the Ammonites who became Israel's problems. This is not like that, and those are great lessons, and we will talk about those New Year's Eve because I want to show you how that thing develops, but this is something else. This is something else you have got to see.

Jacob and Esau had the same mother. They had the same father. They were of the same family. They had the same God. In essence, they had the same church. They had the same religion. You know what? When you read that story, you come away with a great truth: there are some of God's people that you need to have nothing to do with because they will hurt you. That is a terrible thing to say, but there are some people in this world that you just need to stay away from. Jacob and Esau is a picture of that truth. One is worldly and one is godly, and as hard as Jacob tried to get along, Esau always had a hidden agenda, and it had nothing to do. That is the thing you have got to see.

People will abuse you because deep down inside they have a problem with authority. They have a problem with God. They have a problem with the church. They have a problem with the Bible. So you will try to get along with them, and you will try to help them, and all you do is become the fool. I learned this a long time ago, and I lived, and I would, nobody got burned more with people than me. Look up here. Everybody look up here. Look at this face right here. This face was stupid for a long time. Look at this face. I know it is a lovely face. My mother loves this face. But this face was stupid.

When I first got into ministry, I thought I could help everybody. I thought because I had the Bible and believed the Bible, and I had this wonderful gift of God to be able to, I thought I could just, and you know what? That is not true. I found out something. I found out there are a lot of people out there that say they love God, say they want to change, that say they want to do what is right, and they have got their own hidden agendas. I learned something. I learned you cannot make anybody do right more than they want to. The moment you try to go over that line, you are going to become vulnerable. You cannot help one person past the point they are willing to help themselves.

You better learn that truth, especially you younger ones, because I am going to put you in positions down the line the next couple of years where you are going to be working with people, and I will be right there with you, and I will help you. You are my money in the bank. You are more valuable than any gold in Fort Knox. You are young. You love God. You love the book. You are all learning. You all want to learn. You will do whatever God asks you to do. What more could you ask for? That is my money in the bank in this church. I will be there with you every step of the way. I will help you through the downtime, the uptime, the good time, the in-between time. But the bottom line is you have to learn. There are some people you just have to let go. You just have to let them go. They will hurt you. They will hurt you.

I am telling you, Jacob wound up trying to help him. Jacob was not perfect, but then neither are any of us, but it shows you that Jacob tried to do what was right. He tried to make amends. He tried to do what he needed to do. But even beyond that, the nation just hated. It went beyond Jacob, and that is a great thing. It went beyond the man. It was a concept that Esau hated. It was God's plan that he hated. I do not care how much they talked about God. I do not care how much he had a problem with authority, and he would not submit himself to the program of God. Therefore he wound up being Jacob's enemy, and they will you. You better learn it. This is somebody within his own family. This is somebody within his own church. This is somebody within his own concept of God. I am telling you, if you think there are not saved people like this, there are. If you think there are not unsaved people like this, there are. There are vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor. You choose. It is your choice, not mine. I will go with you up to a place where you will be. I will go with you up to a point when in that point you go your way and I go mine. It is as simple as that. Why? Because I know there are people out there that will hurt you. They will hurt you. Right now, I will protect you. But there comes a time when you have to protect yourself, and you have to be smarter than the people that you deal with. That is what comes back to the book. The book.

VI. The Glorified Body and Our Future Hope

Then the last great thing. For me, this is the greatest thing in all of the, for me, there is nothing greater in all the Book of Obadiah. This and the other stuff was incredible stuff. But boy, this is for me as a Christian. Wow. The last great truth is concerning the day God gives you your glorified body. I gave you a couple of weeks ago. We studied the book of Hosea. I gave you Hosea 8:12 that says, "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as strange things." I told you, that is a verse you want to take home, put in your pocket someplace. If you had a locket around your neck, take out your grandma's picture and put that verse in, or get two lockets with two sides. So you can leave your grandmother's picture, throw grandpa out and put it in one of the two. I do not care. But you do not want to forget it because it is showing you what is wrong today. It is showing you what is wrong today. That the great things that God put in this book, Christians think are strange.

I will even tell you one. Let me tell you something. 200 years ago, if you did not believe that King James Bible was the Word of God, you were the heretic. 2004, if you believe it is the Word of God, now you are the heretic. See how that thing changed? See how that thing changed? There are actually God's people today that cannot even think that far back to figure it out. Oh, man. This is the greatest concept, and it is a strange concept today. It is the concept that someday you are going to get a glorified body. Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 15. The book of Obadiah is one of the greatest books in all of the Bible that lays out that great concept.

Now, I do not understand why this is. I know young Christians have to learn, and I am putting that aside. I mean, young Christians have to learn the Bible when they do, and they ask questions. We talk about it Thursday night Bible study, whatever. We learn things that are in the Bible that maybe we did not know before. That is fine. I am talking about Christians who have

been saved 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35 years. Pastors, deacons, Sunday school teachers, people who just cannot grasp, they for some reason, they just have a hard time grasping the truth.

Now that says in 1 Corinthians 15:40-49, it says this:

1 Corinthians 15:40

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

1 Corinthians 15:41

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

1 Corinthians 15:42

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

1 Corinthians 15:43

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

1 Corinthians 15:44

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:45

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:46

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

1 Corinthians 15:47

The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:48

As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

1 Corinthians 15:49

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now if you take that "bear the image of the heavenly" and you go over to 2 Corinthians 4:4, Hebrews 1:3, you would find that the image, the image of God is Jesus Christ. So the Bible says

you bear the earthly now, that is the image of Adam, a fallen image. In that day when Christ comes back, you are going to bear the image of the heavenly. That is Jesus Christ.

Now Romans 8 talks about two adoptions. It talks about the day you get saved, your soul gets adopted, and then it talks about this coming a day when your body is going to get redeemed and your body is going to get adopted, and that is when you are going to get your glorified body. Now let me ask, and I do not understand this, find the next pastor and just ask him about these things. When he, and then when he begins to hem and haw around about it, press him on it. Just say, "When I get to heaven in eternity, what kind of body am I going to have?" Do not let him say a glorified body, press him on it. "Well, what do you mean a glorified body? What kind of body?" And you press him and push him and press him and push him, you will find out a great truth, and that is, most Baptist preachers do dance. They do dance. They will dance around this like they are dancing, man.

Well, let me ask you a question. When you got saved, did you get the Holy Spirit of God? Did you get a lesser Holy Spirit of God than God had? Or did you get the same Spirit that He had? Are you sure it was not a, I mean, are you sure it is the Spirit that God had? I mean, you know, God's Spirit. Bible says that He created the heavens and all those things, and God's Spirit, are you sure it is the same? Are you sure He just did not say, "Well, when I save Bob Alexander, I am going to, obviously not going to give him My Spirit because I am God. I am going to give him a Spirit of God, but it is going to be a less than a Spirit that I have got." Are you sure it was not that way? No, you got the same Spirit that God has is living inside you today. That is what the Bible says when 1 John 3:2 says:

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Well, let me ask you a question. When you got saved, you did not get a lesser Holy Spirit than God or Christ. You got the same Spirit. Well, when you get a glorified body, what suddenly makes you think you are going to get a lesser glorified body than Christ got? The Bible says you are a joint heir, equal. Philippians 3:21 says:

Philippians 3:21

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

I mean, it is so easy. There was no different Spirit that you got, the same one, and that is why the church, you and me, is called the body of Christ. Because someday you are going to get the body. Right now, if you are saved, your soul was redeemed and adopted the day you got saved. But you still got the flesh. But there is coming a day when you are going to get a glorified new body to go along with the glorious soul inside you. That is what the Bible is talking about in Romans 8:18 where it says:

Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

In that day, the glory is in you right now, but it is not revealed yet. But boy, it will when you get the glorified body of Jesus Christ.

Now, the book of Obadiah. Look down here in verse 20. I told you how that in the first couple of verses there, in the breakdown, it deals with the judgment of Edom. Then in 17-21, at the paragraph mark, it deals with the deliverance of Israel. When you go down in verse 20, really all down through this last part of this chapter here, but we will pick it up in verse 20. The picture here is what takes place at the second coming of Christ. I do not know if you know it or not, and I am sure most of you do. Revelation 19 parallels this. Revelation 19 is a great chapter in the book of Revelation that deals with the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It talks about the fact that Christ is coming and the armies which followed Him in heaven. He is on a white horse, and the Bible says that the armies which followed Him in heaven on white horses, that is you and me. We are the armies. We are coming back with the Lord Jesus Christ. That is you and me in glorified bodies, just like Jesus Christ.

Now watch this. Obadiah 1:20-21 is a picture of that.

Obadiah 1:20

And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

Obadiah 1:21

And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.

Look at verse 21, second coming of Christ. "And the Saviours shall come." Now what does it say? It says, "Saviours," plural. Why? Because it is not just Christ coming back in a glorified body, it is us coming back just like Christ, and we are Saviours with Him, joint heirs of Jesus Christ. Start the day you get your glorified body. It could not be "Saviour" singular because now we are joining Him. It has to be "Saviours" plural because you are just like Him now in your spirit and in your soul, and in that day you will be just like Him in your soul and in your spirit and in your body, your new glorified body.

Now let me tell you the standard answer when you dance with most Baptist preachers, and you will go through the two-step tap dance, little walk-toosie, little let us twist again like we did last summer. You will do the shimmy to shake, the bebop, you will do a slammer. Oh, that is a little hamburger from Krystal, I am sorry. I like anything you can eat 25 of and not call yourself a pig. After you dance, here is what he will tell you. He will say, "You know what, you should not really worry about those kind of eternal things right now. You need to be, those things will not help you in your daily life. You need to focus on the qualities of Christ, the love of God. You

know, you will become with these things so heavenly minded, you will really become no earthly good."

Translation: "I do not know the answer. I do not want you to think I do not know the answer, but I know you are stupid. I am going to misguide, misdirect, and which pea is the shell under, swing this thing around, and I am going to do a little tap dance, and I am going to bring it back to a guilt trip on your own spirituality so you will not ask questions that I do not have the answers to."

Let me show you what the Bible says. I will tell you what the Bible says about these deep things. I know you can get so deep. I know you can. It is all balanced. I know, I know, I know, I know. Do not talk to me. I know I understand, but let me show you what the Bible says. He says in 1 John 3:1-3, you do not have to turn to it. Just listen to it. He says in 1 John 3:1-3:

1 John 3:1

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:3

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

You know what he says? Those things do not make you worthless in this earth. When you understand that someday you are going to get what God has got for you, it will help you get through the tough times in this old earth right now. It will help purify your thoughts. It will help purify your motives. It will help purify your works. It will help keep you on track when the old world wants to knock you off track because you will understand there is a better day coming. You will understand that "for I reckon the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us in that day."

You are going to be a joint heir with Jesus Christ. You are going to be the aristocracy of heaven. You are going to be everything that God wants you to be. It is going to be one great. It will make every disappointment in this life. It will make every bad day. It will make every depressing moment. It will make every heartache circumstance. It will make every trip to the graveyard. Every trip to the hospital. Every bad thing in life just seem like it was nothing compared to the glory of that day when you finally realize, "I am home. It is over and we won." I am in a place now where whatever I think, whatever I say, whatever I do, and wherever I go will for eternity please my Saviour. That is what heaven is. That is the day a true born again, child of God, is looking for.

Now you may find some young Christians that are working their way there. I want to say if you are saved and you are on your way to heaven and you are trying and you are not there yet, that is

okay. No friend of God ever started out being the friend of God. The goal is to wind up being the friend of God. You know what it says about Abraham? It says he looked for a city whose builder and maker was God. I am looking for a city whose builder and maker is God. My new glorified body. Father, we thank You and praise You for Lord Jesus. We love You so.