

# Obadiah

Sunday 11/7/2010

SEC: The Parable of the Sower and the Heart

How the Word of God relates to the things of God and penetrates into people's hearts is important to see before you look at a book like Obadiah. This story is a parable, but it is a great illustration of how the Word of God gets into man's heart, or in some cases, how it cannot get into man's heart.

We know the Bible says that Jesus Christ is the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. I am not too much of a proponent with these guys that walk around talking about, "What about the people that never heard?" The Bible teaches very clearly that God's job, through the Holy Spirit of God, is to make sure that every man and every woman on planet Earth hears and understands very clearly the Gospel message. He may not do it the way that you and I think it would be done. He may not do it the way we do it in America. He may not do it through a preacher, but He does it. That is a great concept and that is a great verse. Passages like this are very valuable because it shows you exactly how God's process works. I think it is an amazing thing.

First of all, if you do not already have them, you want to get these down.

- The Sower: The Lord Jesus Christ.  
The Bible says that the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. The Bible says that He comes and He brings the Word of God and He sows that Word of God among us.
- The Seed: The Word of God.  
Where the sower is a picture of Christ, the seed is a picture of the Word of God.
- The Fowls: Unclean spirits or demons.  
A little bit later on, we are going to read about some fowls, some birds. Those birds are going to represent unclean spirits, or in the Christian terminology, demons.
- The Ground: Man's heart.  
There are different kinds of ground here, and the ground here is going to represent man's heart.

If you are going to work with people, if you are going to get into the ministry at some point to the level that you are really going to be effective with people, what you have here is a story that illustrates and pictures how the Word of God penetrates in your heart and my heart. If you are here this morning and you are saved or you are lost, I do not know which it is, I do not need to know. But I am saying this: if you are here this morning and at some point you got saved, or in your heart this morning you are not sure you are saved or you are not saved, I am going to tell you right now, you have already gone through this process in some form or the other. Because the Bible says that when Christ comes as the sower, He sows the seed. The seed is the Word of God. Many times you are going to see, and we are going to look at this here in a second, where the unclean spirits come down and they gobble up the seed before anybody can get it. We also see that the Bible says that the ground is a picture of man's heart.

## SEC: The Unfruitful Grounds

It says there, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow." When He sows these seeds, the Bible says some seeds fell by the wayside. What does that represent? That means when God, through the Holy Spirit of God, sows the Word of God in some people's hearts, they take a careless attitude. They are not really interested in it. I have seen people all the time over the years where I have tried to witness to or pass out a tract to or talk to them, and they just basically blow it off. They have a carefree attitude that they are just too busy and they really do not want to be bothered with it. You are going to find people like that that are lost. It is a tragedy, and I wish that I had the power to turn it around, but I cannot make anybody do what is right anymore than you can. Some people, when they are faced with the Word of God and that sower puts that seed on them, it bounces right off and falls on the wayside. When it does that, I want you to notice down through there that that is when the fowls come in, the unclean spirits, and gobble up that seed. They get it all up; nothing remains. This is also a great passage that talks about and shows you demonic activity within the aspect of trying to win people to Christ.

The next one he says down here that some fell by the wayside.

*Matthew 13:5-7*

*And some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:*

*And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*

*And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:*

The stony places in the Bible represent bad doctrine. Doctrine is likened to rocks in the Bible, something that is solid. Here is a case where it is bad doctrine. This answers a lot of questions. Have you ever tried to witness to somebody that maybe was a Jehovah's Witness or a Mormon or somebody that is just in a real cult-type situation and realized how you cannot get anywhere? Everything that you say to them, it just kind of goes nowhere. They do not hear a word you say because they are already pre-programmed to blast anything you have to say and then tie it in right back to what they want to get you to do or believe. The reason why the Word of God in many of those cases does not penetrate is because the stony places, there is nothing there. They have false doctrine built into their lives, and there is nothing for the Word of God to take root in. A while back, we invited some Church of Christ people to come out on a Thursday night, and that was a great example that you got to see how you cannot penetrate those people. You cannot give them the truth. The fundamental understanding of that whole concept is right here in this great story because when the Word of God falls upon stony places, that is bad doctrine. The bad doctrine has no room to penetrate.

Choking off the Word of God, the thorns are going to be a picture of somebody who gets their life so involved in sin, so involved in the things of this world, that anything you try to do gets choked. I have seen people that I have witnessed to, that I tried to win to Christ, that I tried to get them to come to church. They are so overwhelmed with everything that they are dealing with.

They are so overwhelmed with all the problems that they have. They are so overwhelmed with all of the things that they are dealing with in their life right now that they just can never get to the Word of God to let the Word of God do what it is supposed to do.

We see it in our lives. The first time we have a problem, and how many times have I seen this in many, many years, and I know some of you have: you start to talk with somebody who has a problem in their life. Something happened. Something did not go their way, or they got into some scenario or some circumstance. The first thing you ask them, they will call you up on the phone and they are all distressed. They are all distraught. They have all kinds of problems. When you ask them, they want you to pray for them. But when you ask them how much time they are praying and how much time they are spending in the Word of God, their answer will always be like this: "Well, I just cannot focus. I just cannot read the Bible right now. I just cannot get to the point where I can ever do that. I am too worried about this. I am too worried about that. I want you to pray for me, but I cannot pray for myself." You know what the problem is? It is being choked. Things in your life have gotten so bad and so overwhelming that you cannot allow the Word of God to come in to do what the Word of God does best.

Let me tell you something. I have a lot of problems in my life, and I am far from perfect, but I will tell you this: the first time I get in a jam and I have a problem, I learned many, many years ago that my job is to run to God, not run from God. When you run from God, you are compounding your problems tenfold. As hard as it may be, as much as my pride may be involved, as much as I do not want to do what is right or maybe enjoying my sin, the bottom line is simply this: you are a hundred million times better off, no matter what your situation is, to run to Him than to run from Him. Somebody says, "Well, I opened the Bible, I cannot get anything out of it." So what? Stay in it until you do. Somebody said, "Well, I pray and I just lose my thought." Then stay down. Instead of praying for 10 minutes, stay down for 40 minutes if you have to and gain your thoughts. You say, "Well, I just cannot keep it all focused." Then write it down, read it to Him. Whatever you have to do, why is it the easiest thing we do? It is just dump God and go somewhere else. He gets choked off.

I did not mean to spend that much time on those because that is really not what I am focusing on, but I thought you would get the whole thing here. Our real deal here is if you look at verse eight, this is what I am talking about here. I want to bring it back to us, but you needed to have that. So if you complain about it, that is fine.

SEC: The Good Ground: Three Types of Christians  
Look at verse eight.

*Matthew 13:8-9*

*But other fell on good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*

*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Here we are now. Those people we talked about, the wayside, the stony places, and the thorns, those are unsaved people. We find where, remember now, our story is a picture of the Word of

God falling on the ground, a picture of your heart, and then taking root and doing something in your life. We obviously have seen why the Word of God cannot penetrate some people's lives. But if you are here this morning and you are a Christian, you are here this morning and you are a saved man or a woman, I can tell you this: the reason why you are saved is because when the sower went forth to sow and he sowed the Word of God in your life, it found good ground to land on. When you got saved, the Bible basically says that that is what happened. You allowed the Word of God to penetrate into your heart, and it did what God intended for it to do.

What we have here shows us a great truth. I have taught this message before many, many times over the years, and I always teach it from an aspect that there are three types of Christians. That is true. But in reality, it is also true because Christians are supposed to have a relationship with the Bible. So it is also true, and this is the way I am going to phrase it this morning, that God's people, once they get saved, they take three distinct approaches to the Bible and reading it and studying it. When you and I come to the Bible, when you and I get saved and we start to open up that book for the first time and you begin to read it, your whole life changes at that point. Because once you get out of it, it has nothing to do with how smart you are. Once you get out of it, it has nothing to do with your education, it has nothing to do with how much money you have, it has nothing to do with any of those things. The real key to it when you open up this book is your attitude toward it when you crack those books and look at those pages. I say it all the time, the Bible is the only book in the world, and this is what makes it supernatural. It is the only book in the world when you open it and start reading it, it opens you and starts reading you. That is why some people do not like it.

The Bible says that some fell on good ground and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold. Over the years, and thousands of people in my life, I mean, I cannot even remember them all. Forty-some years with all the people and all the people that I have talked to, the people that have been in ministry, wherever I have been around the world, it is just overwhelming sometimes. But over the years, thousands of people, I have seen this thing absolutely to be true. It is something that it is not an indictment. This is not a criticism toward anybody. I am getting ready to show you one of the greatest books in all of the Bible. Last Thursday night, we opened up probably the single greatest avenue of understanding of material to put the whole concept of the world together.

A lot of pastors, their preaching is affected by how many people are there. You give him a thousand people and boy, he will just tear the paint off the walls. You give him 300 people, he will do a halfway job. If you give him 20 people or 30 people, then he just gets up and gives them in them. Let me tell you something. I would not care if there were three people here today, I would preach to you like there were 300,000 because it does not matter. Somebody in here, if it is only one. I am a guy who is a realist. That does not mean I sell houses. It means I deal with the reality of life. I understand that in a world that we live in today, in a Christianity we live in today, I cannot expect, I cannot expect a bunch of, and we have more than most obviously, but I cannot expect. It is unrealistic for me to have the expectations that somebody is going to go after the Bible in the way that they really need to. I am not telling you, this is not a criticism, it is just a

fact. I heard a message one time, and it is a true statement, and it basically follows that line. All through the Old Testament, all through the Bible, it is the same way.

You had in the Old Testament with Israel, you had the normal common people. There is your first group. You have the army who did all the fighting. There is your 60 group. Then you had the mighty men of valor. There is your hundred group. Remember, I taught you back in Ezra and Nehemiah a long time ago in Nehemiah chapter 3, when they were rebuilding the temple back there in the tabernacle, how God shows you back then that there were three kinds of people who did the work on that thing. Right then I showed you, there is a picture of the New Testament ministry. You take those three people out and you can put them right in any church around the world today. You have down there in Nehemiah chapter 3, and they are working down there building that temple and building all those things and getting the wall back up and getting all that stuff. There are people down there that the Bible says in verse 1 that they sanctify the work. In other words, they put God in everything that they did. They took the work that they were doing and building that temple and the wall, and that was the most important thing in their life. They sanctified themselves. They prepared themselves to do that work. You come down around verse 20 and you find some that the Bible says that just eagerly did the work. Then you come down around verse 5 and you find the third group of people, and the Bible clearly tells you that they were not willing to put their necks to the work.

You are always going to have three kinds of approach in any church. Not true at this church, it is true of any church you go in today. You are going to find people who approach the Bible, learning the Bible, getting the Bible in that 30-fold, 60-fold, and a hundred-fold. I heard a preacher preach a message years ago, and I have used it many, many, many times. He was getting up and he says, "I guarantee you in this church is no different than any other church." He says, "There are three kinds of people in this church." He was not even preaching on this text. I do not even know if he understood what he was saying or the depth of what he was saying, but he certainly was making a good point. He said, "There are three kinds of people in any church: there are people who make things happen, there are people who watch what is happening, and then there are people who complain about what is happening." I thought to myself, "Wow, that is pretty profound," because that is exactly the way it works today. It works exactly that way.

Some people, and again, this is not an indictment. This is not a criticism. This is just the reality of the truth. There are some people that only have a 30-fold relationship with the Bible. Then they wonder why they have the issues that they have in their life. Once you get saved, the greatest friend you have is the Bible. Once you get saved, the thing that is going to pull your fat out of the fire, if I can use that worldly terminology, is knowing that book, and that book is going to lead and guide you. How many times do you understand and you read in the Bible of what that book will do for you? But you have always got people in any situation when it comes to learning the Bible. I tell people all the time, somebody says, "Well, I do not really understand the Bible." "Well, you have been saved for 25 years." "Well, I do not really understand the Bible." I will tell you what your problem is right now, and I do not have to go any farther. You only get out of something what you put into it because that book is not designed that anybody can understand. When a person tells me that, they are making an indictment against themselves. They say, "I

come on Sunday morning and come on Sunday night or come on church on Wednesday and I hear what you say, but I really do not do anything with it." You are going to have people like that. People like that are just going to be that way. You are always going to have people that they are going to put other things in life more important than the Bible. When something comes down to be done on Sunday morning or Wednesday night, and most churches have church services on Wednesday night, if their kids got a ball game or their kids got this or they got free tickets to this or that, they are out of here. You have all kinds of people that take all kinds of attitude toward the Word of God. I told you the Bible is the one book that your IQ, your reading ability, your comprehension, or your ability never come into play. They never do.

#### SEC: The Hundredfold Christian: Going the Extra Mile

There is an old story that I love to hear and talk about. It is a story of old Peter Appelman. Peter Appelman was in the Confederate army in the Civil War, and they were dug down in the trenches. Peter Appelman was just your average soldier, but he was a huge guy. He had fists that looked like hams. He was just huge. I have heard this story many, many years ago, and I have used it so many times because it is so true, especially what we are talking about. They were down there in these trenches, and the Yankees were over there about 200 yards away, and it was a stalemate. The Confederate captain or general came out and he said, "We need to get some prisoners." Nobody moved. It was a certain death. So after he went back in, old Peter Appelman was over there. He was eating an apple or a pear or something, and when he was done, they noticed he snuck out over the top of that deal. He slithered down between the rocks and down through the thing there. He snuck down through there, and he got about 50 yards from that place, and he waited a little bit. All his buddies came out and were looking at that thing and thinking he was nuts, going to get killed and get a bolt through the head any second. He snuck down through there, and he got right over the edge of that thing, and he could hear a sentry mumbling to himself over there. He kind of peeked over the top, and there was an American federal troop down there standing guard, but he had his back to him. Old Peter Appelman jumped down into that hole. The guy turned around, looked startled. He took that big ham hock of a fist and laid him right out. He threw him over his shoulder, crawled back over that parapet, and started his way back up there. About that time, they found out what was happening, and all the Yankees got out there, and they are yelling and screaming, and they are firing at him, and bullets are zinging by his head. His buddies come up and they see that. They start giving him covering fire. They start firing back. He had about two or three yards. He crawled that thing, ran halfway, and finally got to his own trenches, just dumped the guy, and he fell over too. He just dumped the guy. The Yankee guy was still in a daze. He did not know what hit him. He thought the rapture came. He did not know what was going on, and he falls down that hole. Old Peter Appelman gets up out of breath, covered with mud, covered with dirt, pulls that guy up. About that time, the general comes out and he says, "Where did you get him?" Peter Appelman said, "Over there in that hole. There was a whole bunch of them over there. You all could have had one if you wanted one." You know what? You all can have whichever one of that Bible. Some people are willing to go the extra mile to do what they have to do. Some people, they are just not. It is just that simple. It is just not. This is not an indictment. This is just the way that it is.

I love Exodus chapter 16. I think it is one of my favorite stories in the Bible. Exodus chapter 16 is a story about when the children of Israel are out there in the wilderness, and it is called the wilderness of sin, which I think is very appropriate. They just came out of Egypt, which is a picture of you and me getting saved, and now they come out into a land that cannot sustain them with any water, with any food, with anything whatsoever. You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of you and me once we get saved, having to live and travel in the wilderness of sin where nothing really sustains us anymore. The water is bitter. There is no food. What does God do? What God does is one of those great miracles that only He can do. He brings down what the Bible says, manna from heaven. Manna is a little white thing like bread. I guess the greatest thing close to it is like angel food cake. I do not know. It is called angel food over there in Psalms. But anyway, it comes down like rain, and at night while they slept, it all came down like rain, snow. When they woke up in the morning, it was all around the camp where they were. When I look at that, somebody says, "Well, that is a cute story." Yeah, but there is more to it than just a cute story because the Bible says in Exodus chapter 16, verse 4, that there is a reason why God did that because He wanted to prove His people. You know what that manna is a picture of? That manna is a picture of the Word of God you are holding in your hand today. You know that they, you know where they got that manna? It was a supernatural gift that God gave them to strengthen them in their wilderness journey. You know where you got that Bible at? It was a supernatural gift from God to strengthen you in this wilderness called sin that you have to go through. The timing of it is incredible. The fact that God did what He did is absolutely to me miraculous because He brings it right to where they are at. He brings it right to where they are at. While they slept the night, when they woke up in the morning and they looked out there, it looked like snow had covered it, except it was not snow. It was a supernatural bread that God gave them, and it brought upon a decision. This is where God proved them. God will prove you. This 30, 60, 100, God will prove your attitude toward the Word of God with what you do. Not me. It was very obvious because when they woke up in the morning and they looked outside that tent and everything was out there and it was right where they could reach out and gather it in, it brought upon a decision that they had to decide to do. They had to either eat it the way God told them to eat it, or some of them did not care and they threw out that tent flap, trampled it under their feet, and went on about their business. You know, you have the same decision every morning with the Bible. I have the same decision every day of my life with the Bible. My decision is the same as yours. The decision we make as God's people puts you into what category you are in: the 30-fold, the 60-fold, or the 100-fold.

I have got to tell you the truth. I do not think God's grading scales, when I was in high school and in grade school, 30% looked good to me. But it did not look good to my parents. I think sometimes God's people think the 30% that we give God looks good, but in reality, it will be a different thing when God looks out there. I think that is just true. I think my favorite verse down there is verse 16, 17. Just one little phrase. When he brought the supernatural gift, a picture of the Word of God, right to where the people were, he made it available that they could have it right there every morning. They did not have to do a thing. The Bible says in verse 17 that some gathered more, some less. You see, when it comes to the Bible and books like Obadiah and things like we did last Sunday night, it really shows you, not me, it shows you how much you

really want of this book. He says some fell on good ground, bore fruit 30-fold. Then he says 60-fold.

Now, 60-fold people, as far as I am concerned, are the backbone of any church. I cannot, it is not realistic for me as a pastor to think that everybody here could be 100%. I just do not think that, in my lifetime, I have met very few people that I thought were in that category. In my own life, I am just thrilled, happy to death, roll over four or five times to be 60. Because I understand that in a church scenario, any church scenario, it is the 60 crowd who does the work. It is the 60 crowd who bears the burden. They are the backbone of any church. They really are. They will get involved in ministry. They will work with people. They will learn the Bible. They will make the Bible a priority in their life. You will find people that you could not give them Chiefs tickets to, they will be in church. I am not saying there is anything wrong with that. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not saying that. I am just saying that in every church, you have someone saying, "You know, heartbeat." "Yeah, I will take them when you are gone." You have others that say, "You know what, I know where I need to be."

May I say something to you young parents? I think it is my job to tell you young parents things like this because I think you young parents many times make some mistakes. I do not mean to meddle into your business. That is not my business. I am your pastor. I think I have a right to tell you, but I watch things and I am telling you right now, I am all for kids playing sports. I really am. I think it is really neat that they have little league teams and all that, but that stuff can get really out of hand. You realize what you are doing. You realize what you are doing, and I know you want your kid to play ball. Show me you want your kid to grow up to be a great athlete, or you want those kids involved in that. You like the discipline of it. I have no problem with that, but just let me say this to you: your kid is watching everything you do, and you set the standards of things in their life. If you think, now I know and I am just as stupid. I know I am telling you it is stupid already, but just hear me out. You already know I got Alzheimer's this morning. You already know I am having a tough time. Just put this up with the ravings of a madman, and you will be better with it if you dealt with it that way. But I watch, I am going to tell you something. I watch parents that let their kids play ball on Sunday morning or Thursday night. To them, it is no big deal. I had somebody tell me one time, "Well, you know what, we do not do it very often." It is not really about how many times you do it. The real question is what message do you send your child that it is okay to miss it here for this? I mean, I do not understand. You think the devil will mess up on, forget that you think that with the battle that is for your child, that he wants your child to inhale. He wants your child in the world. Do you think that he will miss any opportunity that you give him? There will be enough opportunities that he will have to deal with that you did not orchestrate. But I am telling you, that is something you have to watch out for. I am not saying you, you know me, I am a fun guy. I love having a good time. I love, I think it is all great. I am just saying there has to be a balance in anything, and every decision you make for your child, you have to look at it from what you are telegraphing him is okay to do.

I do not know how many kids, I told you the story before about an alcoholic I dealt with who never could get past his booze. You know where he learned to drink? His dad, when he was five years old, used to have his beer every night watching a football game. Just one beer. I guarantee

you, if you would have talked to his dad about that, he just said, "It is only one beer. I am only having one beer." But after his dad went to bed, that kid snuck down and for all through his adolescent years, drained the last ounces out of that dad's beer. Then his dad wonders how they came in alcohol. Kids are like sponges. You have to cross every T and dot every I, especially in the world that we live in today.

Are we ever going to get to Obadiah? Maybe we should not. That is always an easy excuse. Maybe we should pretend like God is saying something. No, I did not mean it that way. I hope He is saying something. But it is 60%. I have a sermon that I love to preach, and I have not ever preached it to you guys. But it is a great sermon, and it is found, you do not have to turn to it. It is found in Matthew chapter 26. I look at this, obviously I have a job to do, and I am going to give an account of that job of how I pastor a church. I think that I am going to have to give an account of how I, as a leader, as a teacher, of how I work with people, dealt with people, how I gave them the truth or did not give them the truth. I think all that is going to come into account. But at the same time, I realize that I am going to have to do that. You are going to have to do that from another angle. God put you in this church where I am going to give an account for what I preach. You are going to give an account of how you obeyed it. It is a two-way street.

My sermon in Matthew chapter 26 is a great little story. It is what I, it is one of the things that I hold myself accountable to. It is one of the things that I really look for. You have people, every church, again, not an indictment, not a criticism. We are going to look at Obadiah here in a moment, maybe probably tomorrow morning, but we are going to look at it here in a little bit. You saw what we did Thursday night. My point is this: you have to want the Bible, and you have to go after it to get what God has for you today. There is too much opposition, too much opposition. I always use the phrase, "Some people never miss an opportunity to learn the Bible." Then I add to that, "And some people never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity to learn the Bible." I have known people over the years of my life, they get ready to go to Bible study Thursday night. Somebody calls up and says, "Hey, we are short on our softball team or a basketball team or whatever team this is." Bang, bang, the Bible study is gone, and you are on your way. That will come back and haunt you someplace down the line. It has to, because that is something that just does not pay off in time. It does not pay off in time.

Here is what he said. This is Christ's agony in the garden. I always looked at this as what a real Christian, a real Christian, a non-fire Christian should do, because I think a real Christian, this is exactly what he is, because I cannot think of a better example of a real Christian, 100%, than the Lord Jesus Christ. There are some good ones in the Bible, but He is about the max that you are going to find. He is in verse 38. He is in the agony of the garden. He is contemplating going to the cross. All of the weight of the world and your sin and my sin is coming down on His shoulders. The reality has set in that He is going to die the most agonizing death on the cross by the hands of the cruelest people you ever saw in your life. It proves positive that there are Baptist churches in the New Testament. The Bible says that His soul is exceedingly heavy. He says Himself in 38, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." I do not know how you can get in much more despair. And yet the Bible says in verse 39 with all of that, "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face."

You know what God is looking for? God is looking for young men and young ladies, moms and dads, senior citizens, who I am myself now a part of. God is looking for young men and young ladies, and no matter how tough it gets, no matter how hard it gets, no matter what falls down around your shoulders, no matter who says what, whether it is your family, your friends, or the whole world, or who you work with, or whatever the case. No matter how tough it gets for you, no matter how overwhelming it gets for you, that you can come to the point where your soul is exceedingly unto death. You know what you do? You still go a little farther. That is the difference. Going a little farther. Going a little farther when everybody else quits. That is the hundred-fold.

I think the greatest model of that in the Bible is found in 1 Samuel chapter 3, verse 19. I think the greatest model in the New Testament would be the Apostle John himself. But I think Samuel is a great example because to me it shows me, obviously I am in the people business. I am in the people business. I do not sell vacuum cleaners. I am in the people business. My whole life from morning to night is people. It has been for over 40 some years. My job is to help people, but I am in the people business. You cannot be in the people business and not see this as true. I want to be honest with you. I think our church is a cut above the rest, and I think that, but the bottom line is this. We are just, we are just all where we are at today. This is not, I said, again, this is not a criticism. This is what you have to see to better understand what we are doing. I am telling you right now, Samuel back there in 1 Samuel chapter 3, verse 19, it says this, and boy, for me, this is the difference.

*1 Samuel 3:19*

*And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.*

You see that thing? You see the difference? Samuel took every word that God gave him, and none of them fell to the ground. That is how important it was. That is the difference between a 30 and a 60 and a hundred. I am just telling you, that is just the way it works. There are not many hundred-folds around today. There cannot be. I can recognize one in a New York minute. They are so obvious.

SEC: Addiction to Ministry

I had one of the ladies in our church this week who called me up, and she had heard this from somebody, and she wanted to know it, and that is good. A lot of people call me like that. I do not know where she heard it. I did not ask her, but I figured she would not mind if I used it today. I am not telling who it was, but she called me up and she said, "Bob," she says, "I heard somebody told me that everybody has an addiction." She said, "What do you think about that?" I said, "Well, yeah, I think that is probably true." I said, "I think that is probably true." She said, "Really?" I said, "Yeah." She said, "Wow." She says, "Do you have an addiction?" I said, "Absolutely." She was taken back that I might have an addiction. People have a tough time today with things that the world takes, but are really what the Bible basis is. The big buzzword today with people with emotional problems is bipolar. Bipolar means that you once lived at the North Pole and now you live at the South Pole, and you are confused about the two. Bipolarism is the big buzzword today. I do not know how many times, and I recognize that there are, I am not

going to say that there are not people who are not weird. I do not mean that in a bad way. I am weird. Where I am going, you do not want to be on that list because I have got the 60-fold and the 70 and a hundred-fold and a 30-fold. I have not got to the sub-basement level yet. I am just kidding. I do not mean this in a bad way, but you have people whose emotional problems are so bad. Bipolar in a general sense is, you are okay today and then you are depressed this afternoon. You go into your psychiatrist and you say, "I have anxiety attacks. I have panic attacks." The first thing to do, "You are bipolar."

May I say something to you? If you are saved here this morning, if you are a saved man or woman this morning, everybody in this room is bipolar because you have got an old nature and you have got a new nature. When the doctor diagnoses it bipolar, when somebody comes in to see me, I know, I never, I never used the big technical terms. I do not want to impress them. I always put it where they are at. The doctor will tell you, "I think you are bipolar." My favorite commercial is Lee Erme when he is that drill sergeant guy, and that is me. The guy is over there, "Well, my favorite color..." "I do not know why the color is there." "Well, maybe we ought to go to Mamsay Pamsay land," and then hands him a Kleenex, and the guy goes up and throws the box at him. I love that. I am telling you, I love that. You go in there, sit down with a guy, and I went with people before that wanted me to go as their pastor, and I said, "Sure, I always like the experience." They will talk about all this and that, and it is just that way. "Well, you know what, do colors upset you? Does this, you know?" "Well, how do you feel when somebody said, 'Well, I do not feel like myself.'" "Well, how do you feel?" "I do not feel like myself." "How do you feel when you are yourself?" "I do not know." "Well, if you do not know how you feel when you are yourself, how do you know how you feel when you are not yourself? How do you even know when you are not?" So they come up, "Well, you are bipolar." Somebody sits down in my office and tells me, I said, "You know what you need? Are you saved?" "Yes, I am." "You know what you need? You need God to take your discretion and kick your rear end up one side and down the other till you get your head straight because your problem is God saved you for a purpose and a reason, and you are digging a land out here in La La Land wondering why not fulfilling God's plan has grieved His spirit inside you, and then you will wonder why you have ups and downs and good days and bad days." If you are not saved and you are bipolar, well, we need to talk about that.

I watched the other night a couple of months ago, Oprah Winfrey. Do not get into your brain that I watch her every day. Bubba called me and said, "Do you want to see this?" Did any of you ladies watch this? Bob Greg would not watch it. You are still learning how to work the remote, but he will get to it. Did any of you ladies see this when you had the woman on there that had 22 personalities? You saw that? 22 personalities. The tragedy was, now let me tell you something. If you have 22 personalities, let me get my wooden stake, my Holy Cross thing, and come over to see you. You have some issues. The tragedy was they asked her daughter, and this is where kids are always the tragedy. In any divorce situation, in any problem, when everything gets out of it, it is always the kids that suffer. The adults had to be big enough to deal with it. They are not. So who pays the price? The kids pay the price. It is just the way it is. They asked the daughter, and it just enrages me. They asked the daughter, "Do you see all these personalities in your mommy?" "Yes, I do." And she had names for every one of them. "Well, which one do you consider your

mommy?" That is a damnable state to put some little kid in, but that is what the world does today. If you are unsaved, you only have one nature. You start adding personalities, you have some issues. If you are saved, you are bipolar already. You are bipolar. You are bipolar. You have an old nature and a new nature. If you do what is right with the new nature, the sun is always out. If you do not do what is right, then the glass is always half empty.

I do not go for that. Somebody says, "Well, I had a psychiatrist one time." He says, "Do you see this half a glass of water to you? Is this glass half full or is this glass half empty?" When you do not know what you are talking about, you have to come up with stuff like that. Because if you say it is half full, then he is going to come from one angle. If he says it is half empty, then he is going to come out from another angle, and he beats you. He does not know what to tell you. He does not really know what your problem is. So he is giving you a stupid little illustration, and then he will hitchhike off of that. Guys sending me afterward, "What did you think about the half glass half full deal?" I said, "You know what? What would I have told him? If he had asked me if the glass is half full or half empty, I would say I broke the glass. I started drinking at the fountain a long time ago. I do not need a glass. My cup is full every day of my life, unless, unless I forget to fill it up in the morning."

Right now, the prayer groups are putting on their prayer groups list. Is Obadiah in our future this morning? She said, "Everybody has an addiction." I agree. Everybody has an addiction. I agree. Some of you, not you, obviously not you guys, excuse me, but some people, I mean, I deal with them all the time. We go down to the City Union Mission this third Sunday of the month. People down there, you know what got those guys down there? Addictions. Some of them are addicted to booze, some to drugs. We look at that and we think that, but we never think of the fact that we can be addicted to sports. We never consider the fact that we can be addicted to possessions. We never consider the fact that we can be addicted to food. We never consider the fact we can be addicted to work or cars or a house.

I love to study words. You know what the word "alcoholic" means? "Holick" is a Latin word that means "holy," not holy in the sense of "Holy Mary, Mother of God," holy in the sense of "completely whole." "Alca" is the Latin word for "given to" or "given over to." So when you have an alcoholic, in our language, we always put the, you see, you see "Saint Memorial Hospital" in our country, "Memorial" is here and "Hospital" is second. In all other countries, it is reversed. Have you ever noticed that? There is a reason for that because that was language. But anyway, bottom line is "alcoholic." An alcoholic is someone who is given wholly, "holick," to alcohol. So he is an alcoholic. My addiction is I am a Bible-holic. I am wholly given to the Bible. The lady said, "Well, what is your addiction?" My addiction is the same one. You ought to be addicted this morning. You do know that. Maybe this is your first time here, and you came out here with an addiction.

I remember one time, when I was growing up, I went to AA, and I have never been drunk in my life. I had a beer once or twice in the army. I went to AA and I went to Narcotics Anonymous. I never smoked anything in my life. Never took any in my veins. Never smoked anything. The highest I ever got was my neighbors across the street that have a party, and I just go out and pray on the porch. You are stumbling down the street. You are laughing. That is the ninth time you

have walked the dog tonight. I know, but it is such a nice night. Fine. I never have. She has never had, but I am telling you, I went to those things. You know why? Because I knew that if I was going to deal with people, I did not understand what they were going through, and I would sit there. I am not saying they are bad. I think they serve a purpose. I do not think they can really solve anybody's problem in the long term, but I have used them before. I have had people who are alcoholics, and I have got them in there so I could work with them, and it kind of gets them whatever you have got. I am not against it, but they all do the same thing. They all stand up and they say, "I am a recovering alcoholic," and they all, they want to take pride in the fact, and they should, that they are recovering from alcoholism. I never did this, but I always thought I would let go of one of those things. I just kept my mouth shut, and I just said, "Hi, I am Bob. I am just an observer here. I have never had a drink. I hope maybe I could learn here. I have never been an alcoholic. I would like to be one because I have had a lot of people in my church that are that way, and it must be good for them. So I thought I would try it too." No, I did not do that. I always wanted to stand up and say, "My name is Bob Alexander, and I am an addict," and I am not recovering from it. You know why? Because in the Bible, Paul is talking about it. In 1 Corinthians chapter 16, verse 15, he talks about the house of Stephanas. You know what he says about the house of Stephanas? He says they are addicted to the ministry. There is nothing wrong with an addiction as long as it is the right addiction. There is nothing wrong with bipolar as long as you understand in the Bible context. In other words, I keep telling you that the Bible brings it down and lays it all out totally and completely. So you just do not misunderstand about it.

You can always tell an addict, always tell a drunk. I had a guy in our church, he is not one of them, not one of them, he called me up two Saturdays ago drunk. He not only took me to society with drunk. Hello? That is all I needed. I asked him, I asked him, after we went on and on and on, "Do you know what? You can always tell when somebody is drunk." Case in point, do not call me when you are drunk. You give yourself away. Just be, if I walk by you, be in the corner praying on your knees someplace. I do not know. But you can tell, you cannot hide when you have an addiction. Have you ever seen people that are addicted to drugs? "Oh, look, they got a cold." Their eyes are always red. Pupils look like hubcaps on a '57 Chevy. They, you know, they just, you cannot hide from it. They are all, I mean, it is just where it is. Have you ever told somebody who smokes all the time? "I know. I gave up those cheap Cuban cigars." That is why I have been coughing so many times. You cannot hide it. By the same token, you cannot hide when you are addicted to the ministry. So yes, everybody has an addiction. The bottom of the question is, what addiction do you have? People who are the 100%, they are addicted to the ministry. You realize that Christianity is a lifestyle. Let everything you do, every place you go, everything runs through the book. Brother, that is when you begin to learn. You learn everything about history runs back to the Bible. Everything about science runs back to the Bible. Everything about philosophy runs back to the Bible. Everything about mathematics. Everything about English literature. Everything about world history. This is when nothing more impacts you than to learn a book and everything about that book. This is where your addiction comes in. This is where everything you see, everything you read goes back to the Bible. You may hear something and be out with your wife some place or out doing something, and you cannot wait to get home to run that through the Bible to see how it fits. It is an insatiable desire to understand God's plan, past, present, and future. These pastors that get up when you go to their deep questions and those

pastors, those pastors put their arm around you and look at that silly little grin and say, "Well, you know what? I do not think we really need to be worrying about questions like that right now when there is so much good to be done on Earth." You drop kick that guy through the goalposts of life. God wrote you that book to give you that book so you could have the answers about every day. You know what is wrong? He is addicted to the wrong things. When you get an addiction, truth gets to you, boy, and you want everything you can, everything you can. You have an insatiable desire to understand God's plan. That is the reality of Bible Christianity. I have never seen it fail. Of course, that is just the way it works.

We had a guy and his wife came to our church a couple of years, and everybody knows Mike and Liz Hammond. Mike and Liz Hammond are great kids. About two months ago, Mike called me on the phone and he told me the most incredible story. He told me how that when he left here, God, bottom line is the pastor where he wound up was praying for somebody to come in to help him. Mike and Liz went up there, and Mike told me, he says, "I said, 'Well, how did you find this church, Mike?'" And he said, "Well," he says, "I learned it from you." We said, "I emailed every Baptist church in this city a 27-question questionnaire about what they believed." He said, "This is the only guy that hit all 27 of them." So he gets up to this guy, and this guy is a good guy, loves the book, struggling. He gave Mike the college class. Mike called me up about a month and a half ago and he says, "Man," he says, "I need your help." He says, "God has put me in a situation where I am teaching this class. I am working up here with a pastor. He is asking me things. I am working with the college kids." He says, "I know." He said, "You are my spiritual father." He told Liz, he says, "I am going to go to him and sit down." He says, "Can I meet with you every week? Will you give me a time every week? Every hour." I said, "Mike, you can come over every week. We go for two hours," and this kid is absolutely tearing it up. This guy, I told him, I said, "Mike, sometimes God puts circumstances in your life to get you to a place where you never go on your own." Most people cannot see that. They have their head so far up wherever they are at that they cannot see the long-term or whatever God does. Here is a kid that God took him from here, hand-made it for him to be where he was. Now he is going to, and he is the kind of guy that can get on the job train. I have never seen a kid go after a truth like this kid. He is going to be a hundred. He tells me, "I cannot sleep at night." He says, "Somebody will come up," and he says, "I cannot sleep. I cannot eat." He says, "I do not want to work anymore." He says, "All I want to do is get in that Bible, and I want to learn and I want to learn." He says, "Because God has put me into a place where now I understand where you are at. I am accountable. They are expecting something from me. And I realize now that there is so much out there that I do not know." God took him, put him right in the situation. Not everybody can learn like that, but Mike can. I said, "Buddy," I said, "I will give you whatever you need, whatever time you need, it does not matter." I said, "I will help you there." I said, "The only thing I want out of it is this: when this guy in time puts you there and hires you and puts you on air, because this is where this thing is going in time, I said, 'I want you to come back and we are going to ordain you out of our church, and we are going to send you out as missionaries.'" God has got His hand in some things, and I am telling you, that is the kind of desire. He said some fell on good ground, 30-fold, 60-fold, and a hundred-fold. Not many people ever get to the hundred. A lot of people get to the 60, but you are always going to have the 30.

## SEC: Obadiah: The Prophecy Against Edom

I said all of that because in coming to Obadiah and understanding Obadiah is a major key. I know it is just a little book, but this book and understanding it is going to take you going the extra mile. It is things like this that when you go after it and you go the extra mile with it and you go a little bit farther with it, this is what makes a hundred-fold Christian. This is what makes the 60-fold. A couple of nights ago when we were coming through Daniel, I laid out for you in Daniel and Revelation, the Babylon mystery religion unveiled. There is no more mystery now. We understand how that is a picture of the nations coming all the way up through and how God in Daniel and Revelation tied it together. That is the same way with this book. I brought you through a grand introduction on the three types of Christians that tell you that if you are ever going to learn the stuff out of this book, you are going to have to do more than what just I give you on Sunday morning or Thursday night. The ones that are going to be the hundred percenters are the ones that are going to take it home, dig it out, be like Mike. You just cannot sleep till you get it. Brother, that is what makes the difference. Those that are at the end of their rope and yet they are willing to go a little farther.

Now let me say this, the book of Obadiah, and you want to get this down, and this is really the beginning of understanding it. The book of Obadiah is the only book in the Bible that is written against a group of people. That is absolutely vital in taking this book and getting past the 30 to 60 and getting into the hundred realm where you really, really can get it. It is the only book in the Bible, the only book in the Bible that is written against a group of people. I would put that right at the beginning of your book. If you have a table back there at it, absolutely.

Now here is what he says.

### *Obadiah 1:1*

*The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.*

The second thing we want to look at and define is this concept called Edom. Edom is a country. It is south of the Dead Sea down in the southern end, and it is the home of the Edomites. Let us go back and look at them, and I want you to see how this thing works because Obadiah does not just give you the history of what was. It just does not give you the practical things that you want to learn from your own life. No, no, no. The book of Obadiah shows you exactly what you and I in America are facing on a worldwide global scale today, and why you always want to find out when you see something today in your life that you have to deal with on a worldly scale, the first thing you want to have the ability to do, and this is what the hundred percenters do, you would go back and find out its source because that source will always give you the key to what you are up against.

Now watch this. You do not have to turn back to it. In fact, I would not waste time doing it this morning. Just write these down and get them up a little bit later. You are going to find first of all that the Edomites come from Genesis chapter 36. They come from Genesis chapter 36 in the story of Jacob and Esau. You will remember that Jacob and Esau are brothers. They are twins.

You want to start, go back to there in Genesis chapter 36. You are going to find that in Genesis chapter 25, verse 22, this is where they are born, the birth of Esau and Jacob. As I said, they are twins. The fact that Esau is born first and the fact that Jacob is born second, that is kind of an interesting thing in itself. I want to give you most of this today. So let me switch my hat from the future events to the inspirational aspect and show you, and you want to get this note in here. The reason why Esau is born first, and if you go to Hebrews chapter 12, you will find that Esau is a very wicked person. They call him profane Esau back there. He sells his birthright, then loses the father's blessing. Of course, the blessing once he gets rid of it goes to Jacob. By rights, he is the firstborn. He should get it, but he did not get it, and it went to the second born, Jacob.

You know what that is? Because in the Bible, one of the greatest concepts that teaches all the way through it, and I know it is a spiritual thing for you and me, but it is a thing that God keeps Himself so honest in the Word of God, is the fact that the reason why the firstborn did not get the blessing and it passed through the second born because of sin in the firstborn's life is because it is not your first birth that gets you to heaven. It is your second birth, and you must be born again. See how that thing works? When Esau sold his birthright, Esau is a picture of an unsaved man. He is a picture of those guys that we talked about before, that when the sower went forth to sow, that went by the wayside, stony ground, and all of the things that go along with it. He cared nothing about the things of God. All he cared about was what was going to be in front of him at that point, like most people do today, and unfortunately like a lot of God's people do today.

Here is the point you want to get. The great key to this, and boy, you want to mark this in your Bibles in Genesis chapter 25, verse 23, because the great key here is God telling you that there are two nations that are in that woman's womb. So our story about Jacob and Esau just got on a broader scale. It is now not dealing with just the two boys anymore. There is a prophetic thing here. Now you are told that these are not just two boys, though they are, that these two boys represent two nations. There is where our prophecy begins to unfold itself that brings you right up to where everything is at today.

He says of Esau and Jacob, they are both twins. He comes down through there, they grow. Esau sells his birthright, that was kid in Norbert today. Norbert Chilly must have been around back then because he sells it for a bowl of chili. That is Genesis chapter 27. They grow. He sells his birthright. When he sells the birthright, he loses the blessing. For the next 3,500 years, it is a problem. He winds up hating Jacob for this act. He winds up hating Jacob for the next 3,500 years. These two boys never get along because these two boys, even though he goes back to Jacob, stealing the birthright and scheming to get it, even though he sold it himself because he cared nothing about it, that is the way it always worked for human nature. You do something wrong, you lose what you got, and then you get mad at the person because they took advantage of you when you wanted to sell it to them for a bowl of chili. That is how it worked today. But those two boys are two nations. Those two nations grow. By the time we come down to the Bible, we find that Jacob, we know he becomes the nation of Israel, does he not? We watch through Jacob's life and we find in Genesis chapter 32 that after God has His meeting with Jacob and God gets Jacob alone, what does God do? He changes his name. You see, Jacob means schemer. Jacob is a picture of you and me. Jacob has an old nature, schemer, Jacob, and then God

changes his name to the nation of Israel. That will be the blessings of God. Jacob was bipolar. He has got two names. He has got the Jacob name that makes him a schemer, and then he has got the good name from God that makes him the good guy. God changes his name. The reason He does that, because God is showing us now, you have to get this, God is showing us now that there is more going on here than just these two boys. What we are dealing with here now is the prophecy side of things that is going to take us down through history. Jacob becomes the nation of Israel. We know all about that. Esau becomes the Edomites, and he becomes a great nation. You will find this in Genesis chapter 36, verse 1. Here is a verse you want to mark because it is very, very, very, very important.

*Genesis 36:1*

*Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom.*

He is telling you that Esau and Edom are the same one. Verse 2, it shows you that the problem where Jacob is told to take a wife from only his kinfolk and never to get involved with all the other nations out there because he wants to keep the pure line because it is the nation of Israel. Look in verse 2. Once the generations of Esau, who was Edom, is declared, it tells you in verse 2, they took wives of the Canaanites, and brother, they head out from God and they never return.

Here is what happened, putting it into a time frame. The book of Obadiah is written around 587 BC. It is right around the time before the nation of Israel goes into their final captivity. In the book of Obadiah, it has only got one chapter, but look at verse 10. See where it uses Jacob for Israel or vice versa? Look at verse 6, verse 8, verse 9, verse 18. See how it uses Esau and Edom interchangeably? He is telling you in this book that if you want to figure out what is happening, if you are going to go that extra mile, if you are going to go a little bit farther, if you really want to glean out of this what everything is here, and you just do not want to stand a little Baptist Bible fellowship message that you get by most preachers who really do not understand the book anyhow. If you want more than that, if you want to go a little bit farther, if you want to get everything out of it, if you want to dig and dig till you cannot stand it because you have a desire to know everything in the Bible, you are going to find and he is telling you, he is giving you a great key, put it together. Esau and Edom are one and the same. Esau and Edomites, they take wives of Canaanites, which is against the law, and then they go away from God.

Here is what happened, putting it into a time frame. As I said, Obadiah written at 587 BC or thereabouts. When David comes to the throne in 2 Samuel, he takes the Edomites, who are still the enemies of Israel, but by now they are a nation of people. When David comes to the throne, he takes the Edomites, he wipes out all of the other enemies, but he does not wipe out the Edomites. You know why? Because they are connected, they are connected back through Jacob and the line. So he does not wipe them out, but he makes them servants of Jacob, servants of Israel. For the next 200, 300 years, they are the woodcutters, they are the servants, they are the people who wait hand and foot on the people of God. Why? Do not go there, do not get Martin Luther King out here and go down there and "Let my people go." Why did they do that? Because they sold the birthright. They had the chance to have everything, and they sold it. Let me just tell you something. In your life and my life, when you waste your life, most of it, and you give it to

the world and the devil and you do your own thing and you wind up down the line losing your kids or losing your health or something, do not go crying and saying, "What happened to me?" When you sell your birthright and you lose the blessings of God, things always go south. Just the way it goes. David makes them the servants, and they become the servants of Israel. You will find out in 1 Chronicles chapter 18, verse 13.

This was a prophecy. You want this in here. This was a prophecy of Genesis chapter 25, verse 23 when he said that the elder, the younger shall serve the elder. It is a prophecy that now becomes to be fulfilled. But as Israel departs from God through the King, what we are studying right now, and you know how this works. Once David is gone, once Solomon is gone, the kingdom splits, and it begins to lose its power of God. The devil cuts it right down the middle, and he splits them, and then he attacks both ends, and he gets both ends fighting against each other. Again, proof that there are Baptist churches in that period of time. The Edomites revolt, and that revolution takes place in 2 Kings chapter 8, verses 20 and 22, and 2 Chronicles chapter 21, verses 8, 9, and 10. When they revolt, they take the side of Nebuchadnezzar against God's people. This is why the book of Obadiah is written right now for the captivity. This is why the book of Obadiah is the only book in the Bible that is written against a group of people, the Edomites, because God said, "I will bless those that bless thee and I will curse those that curse thee." Right now at this time, they have taken and sold God's people, revolted against them, and now have sold them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, and God writes a book against them. Oh, but it stopped there. Oh, we are going to go a little farther. So this book is about them.

SEC: Edom's Doctrinal Significance: The Ten Nations

Are you still awake? Ready for the second part? This is where the hundred crowd live. Last week or maybe a couple of weeks ago, I have said it many, many times, I have told you how all scripture has three applications:

- A historical application
- An inspirational application (something for you and me)
- A doctrinal application (something for the future)

Obadiah, we have already seen. I have given you the history. Now you know that the book of Obadiah is written against a group of people because they took the side of Nebuchadnezzar against God's people and revolted when they were their servants. We went all the way back farther. We found out that Esau and Jacob, or the two from those two boys come two nations. You were told that in a verse, "Two nations are in our womb." Now the whole thing historically is in place for you. This is why God writes a book. This is why in your average pastor in this city, just test it sometime. Go back to your old church or talk to somebody that is your pastor and just say, "What is different about the book of Obadiah other than all the other books in the Bible?" If he says it is short, look for another church. The difference is it is the only book in the Bible written to a group of people, and then you have to know why. Jesus went a little further. God's people, when it comes to the Bible, learning the Bible, if you want to get there, have to go a little farther.

Now the doctrinal side, when the Antichrist comes and in time he turns on the nation of Israel. I have showed you in Revelation chapter 17, verse 7 on our Thursday nights, and I think we have been talking about it Sunday morning. The Bible talks about that when the Antichrist comes he has 10 crowns. We talk about those being ten nations in alignment with the Antichrist. When Daniel, in Daniel chapter 2, writes about it in Daniel's image, he talks about the Antichrist kingdom having 10 toes. Again, we know that those 10 toes in Daniel and the 10 heads in Revelation are the 10 crowns. They represent the 10 confederated nations that go with the Antichrist against the nation of Israel when the Antichrist goes to attack them. Do you know that those 10 nations are found in the Bible? I have never found any Bible study ever, ever, ever, ever preached on it. You realize when I was back in Ohio and I was coming through Basic Bible, this was Basic Bible 101. This is not deep stuff. It is just deep stuff today because you do not have any many hundred percent Christians around anymore. Those 10 nations are found in your Bible in Psalm 83:6. Turn over there, let us look at them. I think this is very instructive. I think it is very instructive that you start to see these nations in the Old Testament that were against the nation of Israel. Lo and behold, we have a timeline that brings those same nations up against the nation of Israel today.

I told the people Thursday night in church history, one of the greatest things you are going to learn about the Bible and history is you are going to learn that in reality things never change. They only give the appearance of changing. We had an election last week, and the Democrats got their rear ends kicked for the most part, and the Republicans took over, and everybody was happy about it. I had people that I know that are into that sort of thing, and they were just ecstatic. I did not bust their bubble. I mean, they know they had a rough week. Give them a nice day. But when I hang up the phone and I hear all about the Republicans are in charge now and Nancy Pelosi is going to be kicked off the deal and Harry Reid almost got beat and everybody got the message and this thing. You know what I say to myself and I will say it to you through the ideas? Nothing changed. People get caught up in this. I tell you something. Unless God and the Bible get infused in it, nothing changes. Because the only way to change anything is to add God to the equation. When you do not add God to the equation, you just have another political shenanigans going on. Nothing changes. Nothing ever changes. I think I told you a while back on Thursday night Bible study. I showed you Job chapter 41. I think it was where it talks about the devil and it says, "Who can discover the face of his garment?" I actually showed you how that all history of the world is basically a seven-act play. You can go down and divide the Bible and history up into seven acts of a play, and you know what the devil does? He just changes the scenery, puts on different clothes, and presents himself something different. At the end of the play, you know what you have? Nothing ever changes. Nothing changes. That is a great lesson for you to learn in looking at life and people in life and all the things that go along with it. Nothing ever changes.

All right, look at Psalm 83.

*Psalms 83:1-8*

*Keep not thou silent, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.*

*For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.*

*They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.*

*They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.*

*For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:*

*The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarites;*

*Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre;*

*Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.*

You have 10 of them. Those were the 10 nations in the Old Testament that were against the nation of Israel. Notice who heads the list: Edom. Those 10 nations were the 10 nations that were against the nation of Israel through the whole Old Testament. Lo and behold, we come out on the New Testament 2,500 years later, and those nations right there, those 10 nations right there, have all amalgamated themselves together. The boundaries have changed somewhat, and their languages have changed somewhat, and now they have all amalgamated together, and on the other side of the cross plus 2,500 years, it is now Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Jordan, Palestine, Uzbekistan, and Syria. The same nations that were on this side have now through the 2,500 years worked them right out in the new nations on this side. The truth of the matter is, folks, as I already told you, nothing ever changes. The same nations today that were the nations back here are around the nation of Israel just like they were in the Old Testament, and they have one purpose: that is to wipe out the nation of Israel. Nothing has changed. The Edomites are right smack dab in the middle of it. The reality of it is that they have amalgamated and transformed themselves into these nations when they all have a Confederacy and all consent. You know that the Muslims themselves, the nations, they fight amongst themselves. Saddam Hussein gassed the Kurds, and he did this and that, and they fight among themselves. But you know what they were all kissing and makeup on on one concept? Wiping out the Jew. That is what he just told you. They will consent one to another, and they will make a Confederacy. That is exactly what is going to happen. That is exactly what is going to happen. Obadiah in Psalms 83 and Revelation 17 and 18 and Daniel 2, 7 puts you right in where it is all at and how it is unfolding right before your eyes.

Too bad. We were going to preach this message last week. I had a little ding down here. You want to, you want to tear happy Halloween? Well, we are a week past, but happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas and Thanksgiving is coming up. A couple of weeks ago, when we got into Daniel, I showed you and told you how the Antichrist is going to come out of America. He will be a mixed religion. He will be a half-breed Syrian Jew. It looks like, and I laid out the world powers to you, that the greatest power right now, the United States of America, will concede and crush you into the Antichrist will come out with all those things around.

Gaddafi said something, and people say things if you are not the kind who is going to go the extra mile. I just listen to what people say. My wife and I had to go to my third doctor visit for

my blood sugar or whatever, and we were driving home, and my whole world, like I said, it is people, and I have learned over the years that I never, I never, never, never, never believe what I see because I have learned over the years, and this is a good lesson for you. People will tell you anything, and they will display anything, and they will show you anything, and I just over the years, I found out it was always safer to take it with a grain of salt, but I am always constantly listening to what people say because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks, and I know that you can pretend, I can pretend, we all can pretend, but you cannot always, it is like a liar. Every lie a liar tells, he has to remember the lie, and pretty soon he has to carry a notebook of the lie so he has the same story, tells it the same way. You cannot, in other words, you cannot hide the truth. You do not have to worry about keeping control of, and you know what, when you do not do what is right in your life and you do not have any intention to, it is very obvious. I told my wife, I said, "I even hate to bring this up." I said, "The first time I was there, they told me this, this, this, this and this was bad, this was bad, this was bad, this was bad." Now that was eight weeks ago. I go in this time, same people, and they are saying, "Well, this is not too bad. This is okay. This is not too bad. That is okay. Just watch this." I said, "You know what, my problem is, is I am, I am, I listen to what everybody says, and when somebody, I meet the same person twice, I do not mean to do it. It is just what I have done. I match up what they said last time to what they said this time." I said, "I do not think these guys even know what they are doing. Last time they told me this, and now they are telling me." She says, "Yeah," she says, "I caught that." I said, "That is my own fault." I said, "I am just so used to not believing what anybody tells me. I just listen to what they say and then match it up two or three times down the line." I said, "That is exactly these guys, and these guys, you know, they are not, I do not know if they do not know what they are doing or they do not want to, they forgot what they told me last time." I will never forget what somebody tells me, unless it is your name, but I mean, I never forget what somebody tells me.

You know what Gaddafi said? Gaddafi said about a year ago, "The Muslims will take over the world without ever firing a shot." If you go to Europe right now, most of the countries in Europe, without them even knowing it, are overrun with Muslims everywhere. They may be, they may be in their own country, and they still may be in power, but underneath the surface, there are Muslims wherever they go. They have taken over Europe, and all it takes is one time while we are all asleep, and the Muslim hits the Muslim fire alarm, and then in your own country or maybe in this country, 6 million Muslims stand up all in one time, and you are going to say to yourself, "Where did they come from?" They were there all the time. We are not paying attention. It may be exactly what he said. He may have slipped. He may have said something, and "Oops," afterwards, "I should not have said that." Nah, probably not. He just knew he was talking to really stupid people except one. I listen to what he said, and I take what he says and go back to the Bible, and I know that those 10 nations on this side are now 10 nations on this side, and I know that America is going to come through the world and going to be taken over by the, by the, it has to be. The Muslim is going to have to take it over for it to all work down and work out a deal with everything going on, and I am telling you, you can see the pattern what they did in Europe, what they are doing in America right now.

On December 8th, you know what happened on December 7th, 1941? What happened? Pearl Harbor. I had a friend of mine. He was a kid. He had a black father and a white mother, and he was always been through life confused because every December 7th, he attacked Pearl Bailey. You do not even know who Pearl Bailey is anymore. Anyway, you know what happened on December 7th? Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Could you have seen in 1941 on December 8th us building a Shinto temple in Hawaii? Anybody? Anybody at all? Could anybody have seen after it on the 7th, 8th, or 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th that we would have said, "Hey, in Pearl Harbor, let us build a Shinto temple for the Japanese?" You know what they did? I am not saying this is right. I think it was wrong, but you know what they did at World War II? They locked up all the Japanese people in America. I am not saying that was good. I think it was bad. The 442nd Infantry Division was all Japanese, and they did a great job during the war. I think while their parents were in concentration camps in America, I do not agree with that, but I am just saying my point is this. They can blow us up on 9/11, whenever it was, and then we want to give them permission to build a mosque in New York in the same area. What if that happened in '41? I am telling you, I am just, I am just telling you. I know this is the ravings of an old man, but I am telling you, there is a good chance Gaddafi may have been right. Now that I see Obadiah, the European countries have become totally Muslim, maybe not in the overall, but underneath. There are more Muslims in France than there are Frenchmen. Right after that Rapture, maybe before the Rapture, there is some place that is going to come on. I do not think anything is for chance. I do not think it is any accident that the right-wing-ness is all happening. We got us an ex-Muslim president. Let me ask you that. Do you think that would have happened 40 years ago? I am not against the guy. I am really not. I mean, I do not know him. I do not get personally involved in these things. I am going to heaven. I do not care. You guys can have a whole thing when I am gone. You can take it. You and Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid go have a picnic. Go to Arthur Bryant's. I do not care. I am all for it. I am not against anything. I am just for God and the Word of God, and I know what is coming. I cannot help it if you can hit home runs and you play. You got a great winning in your ball league. You spent your time where you spent yours. I spent my time here. You know the Chiefs players and their record down the line. You know KU. You know MU. You know XYZU over here. You know all those things. I am okay with that. You will be okay with me. I did not spend my time doing that because I realize those things are not going to cover anything when I get there. I am not a prophet nor the son of a prophet. I just know a couple of unfallible truths. God has a plan to restoration His people. That is called the pre-millennial return of Christ, and that plan right now as we speak this morning is 99.999999% done.

The great third thing and things never change. Just the garments in the faces. To me, there are two key verses in the Bible, and please do not take this the wrong way. I do not believe Barack Obama is the Antichrist. I am not a conspiracy theorist. I am really not. I know who killed JFK. I do not have any conspiracy about it. I know who killed Abraham Lincoln. I do not have it. I got that all worked out. I am not a conspiracy theorist. I know who killed Patton. I know how Patton died. I am not a conspiracy theorist. I just do not go there. I do not work around wondering that. I got a book that is the light of this world that if you just go a little farther with it, it will give you everything you need.

Two great verses on the Antichrist. First one is Isaiah chapter 14, verse 14, and this is dealing with the devil, and this is number one desire where he says,

*Isaiah 14:14*

*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

That is the devil laying out his plan that he wanted to fulfill in Genesis 1 but could not, but is going to try to fulfill it in the tribulation period. The next great verse is the mode of operation.

*Luke 10:18*

*And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

That shows you that when the Antichrist does come, it shows you that it is going to come like a rainstorm, and it is going to come like lightning. Lightning is going to, he is going to come down on this planet, and that is in your Bible. That is Revelation chapter 12 and 13 by the way.

I am just not telling you. I am telling you. I am telling you the truth. I do not believe that Obama is the Antichrist. I do not. I do not go out of here and say that. Listen to what I am saying, but I am going to tell you this. If you know history and you know down through the thing, God has given you men in history. In the Old Testament there are 18 types of the Antichrist that foreshadow and afford the idea of exactly who he is. What he looks like, his religion, how much he is overweight, his sexual preference. It is all there in the Old Testament in those 18 types. In the New Testament, I guess Adolf Hitler was the greatest type of Antichrist in the 20th century, killed six million Jews. You know at the same time I know that there were many, many Germans that had nothing to do with Hitler, and they were good saved people, loved the Lord, good Lutheran people who loved God. You know, in time Germany gets a bad rap. There were many, many, many Germans that had nothing to do with Adolf Hitler and despised everything to good. But when you are in a situation where if you do not go along, you get killed, you know it makes things a little rough for you. But you know when they started a National Socialist Party back in '33, when they started up the deal, and I personally believe that Adolf Hitler was the greatest single 20th century example of what the Antichrist was going to be. You know they did not have a lot of members back then, so they kind of forged their numbers to make them look like they had more. Did you ever see a picture of his party card? You know what his ID party number is? 555. 555. You know why? Because the next one coming is going to be 666. Then the one after that is going to be 777. I could take you down through history and show you 444, 333, 222, 111. God on both sides of the cross has always given us everything we need. The problem is we are just not willing to what? Go a little farther.

I do not believe Barack is the Antichrist. He is not smart enough. He has got a lot of charisma, but he ain't got that much. But he is probably the last real warning we will ever get of knowing how close it is. I always say somebody said, "What do you think about Barack Obama?" I always said, "Have you ever been to an Elvis Presley concert before he died?" "Yeah." "But you ever notice before Elvis got on the deal or really anybody else, they always had a warm-up band first." The warm-up band got the crowd ready for when the real show came. That is what a Barack Obama, he is a warm-up band. He is just getting everybody ready for the main event. But

I do know this. The Bible is a book that tells you everything if you are paying attention. I gave you Luke chapter 10 and Isaiah chapter 14. Luke chapter 10, it says, "So hold I saw Satan falling as lightning." That is a key word, lightning in the Bible. You know what the Greek word for lightning is? It is Barack. In Isaiah chapter 14, verse 14, it said, "I stand up unto the heights." You know what the Hebrew word for heights is? It is Obama. You see, that book wants you to go a little farther.

#### SEC: Conclusion: A Call to Go Farther

What you have got is that we have had such an easy life as Christians. We have done our own thing and did our own thing. We are so far from God, in most cases, we could care less about people dying and going to hell, what goes on as long as it all revolves around us. But that book shows you, Obadiah shows you that there is a group of people who were against the Jew back then, and they have transformed themselves in the last 2,500 years. Now, they are against the Jew today and they tie into America somehow, some way, some shape. I am not saying everything I said today is absolutely correct when it comes to the prophecy, but I am telling you it is coming our way. If you do not understand that, you do not see that. You do not realize where you are at right now. You are making a tragic mistake. For you that are in the Bible and saved people, I have one suggestion for you, go a little farther. Do not wait a little time you got left. Do not stay in dead stupid churches where you do not get anything. Do not stay fooling around and not getting in the book. You have people in this church right here that just do not, the Bible is the farthest thing from their mind. You come for family, you come for friends, you come for this, you come for that, whatever the case may be. But as far as going a little farther with the Word of God and getting into it, you have too many other things on your plate this morning.

That is why I took the time to run you through the three types of Christians. You have the 30%, they do not do anything. The 60%, 100%. They will do everything within their means. But then you get a few guys and a few gals that go the extra mile, and they are never satisfied. They are never satisfied with just the truth that they have. They always want to know more, and they will never rest until they get it. It is those kinds of people that God reveals those things out of Obadiah, out of Genesis, and all those places in the Bible. Those are the secret things that God gives us and reveals unto us who love Him and love His Word.

Let us pray. Father, we do thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. Lord, I love you today and I love this book. Lord, I will tell you, there has never been a greater day in my life after I got saved than when you showed me the reality of this book. Lord, I am just like other people in this church. I am no better than them. I am no worse than them. I guess that if you really want to just to sum it up, what is the difference between some of God's people and other God's people to put in a real easy understandable way? Some people got saved and got over it. Other people get saved and they just never get over it. Lord, I have never gotten over it. It is as fresh to me today as it was 40 years ago when I trusted Christ. There has never been a day I rejected it. There has never been a day. I have not always done what is right. I have done some boneheaded things. But even in my goofiness, there has never been a time that I did not know where the answers were in that book. Lord, I pray that you will raise up men and women in these last days, Lord, in this church that will go a little farther, that they will understand the concept of a 30-fold, a 60-fold,

and want to be a 100-fold. Maybe we will never make it. Maybe I will never make it. But the bottom line is Lord, let that be our desire and our goal, and let us be tired of being satisfied in substandard places where we do not get the Word of God and we do not have the opportunity to grow and get everything that we need because those people are going to give an account for you just as I am going to give an account for what I teach. Help us, Father. Help us to be a church in these last days that understand, that sniffs the wind, that know where we are at in relationship to the coming of Christ. We will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for the sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed.