

# JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

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Obadiah: *“The Kingdom will be the Lord’s”*

# Outline

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1. The Sovereign Lord speaks his word
2. The Sovereign Lord judges the nations
3. The Sovereign Lord establishes his kingdom

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

# 1. The Sovereign Lord Speaks His Word

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Verses 1, 4, 8, 18

JUDGMENT,  
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# 1. The Sovereign Lord Speaks His Word

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## The Lord's word in Obadiah:

- v. 1: The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Sovereign Lord says about Edom— We have heard a message from the Lord...
- v. 4: "I will bring you down," declares the Lord.
- v. 8: "In that day," declares the Lord . . .
- v. 18: The Lord has spoken.

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

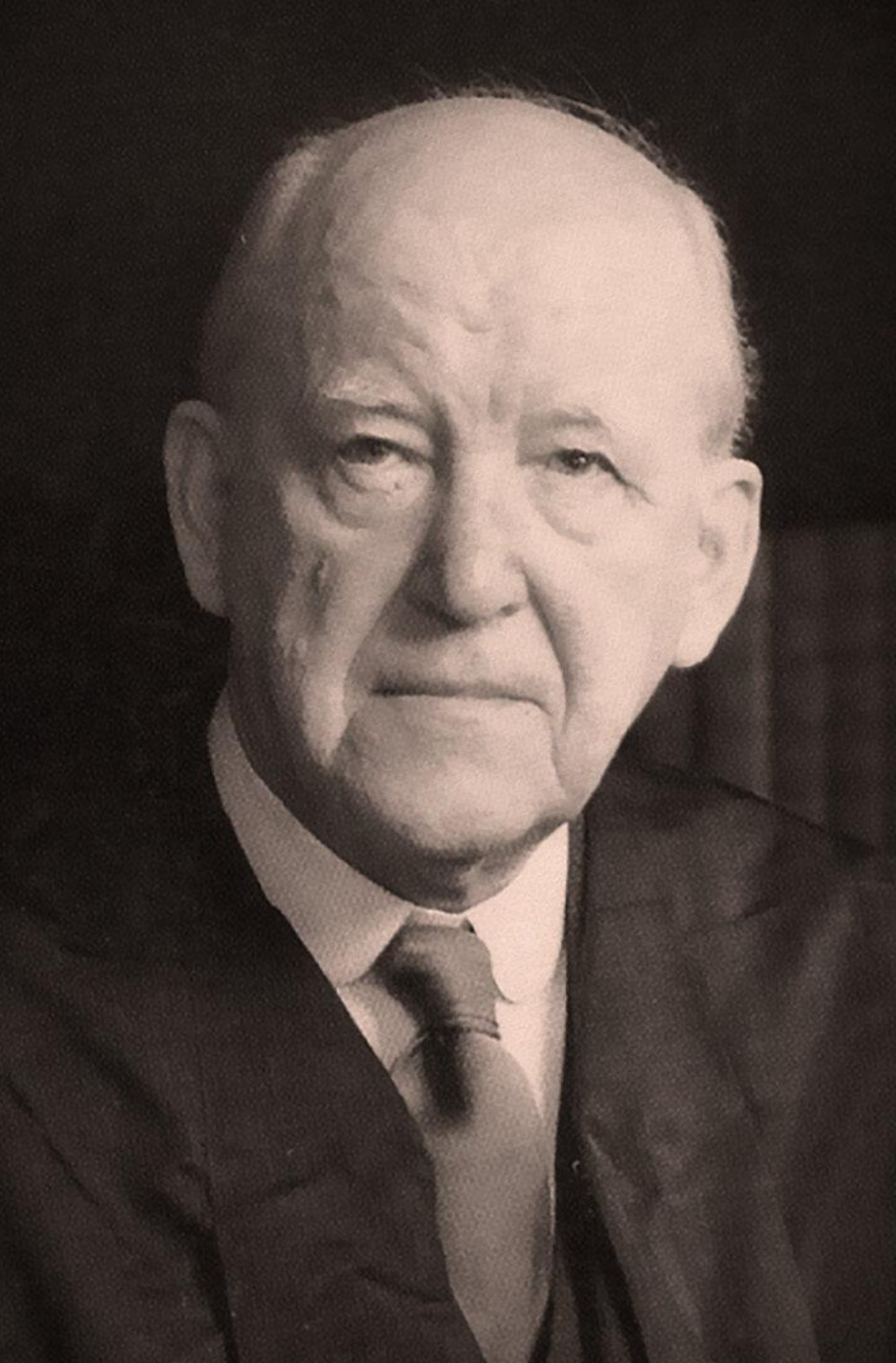
# 1. The Sovereign Lord Speaks His Word

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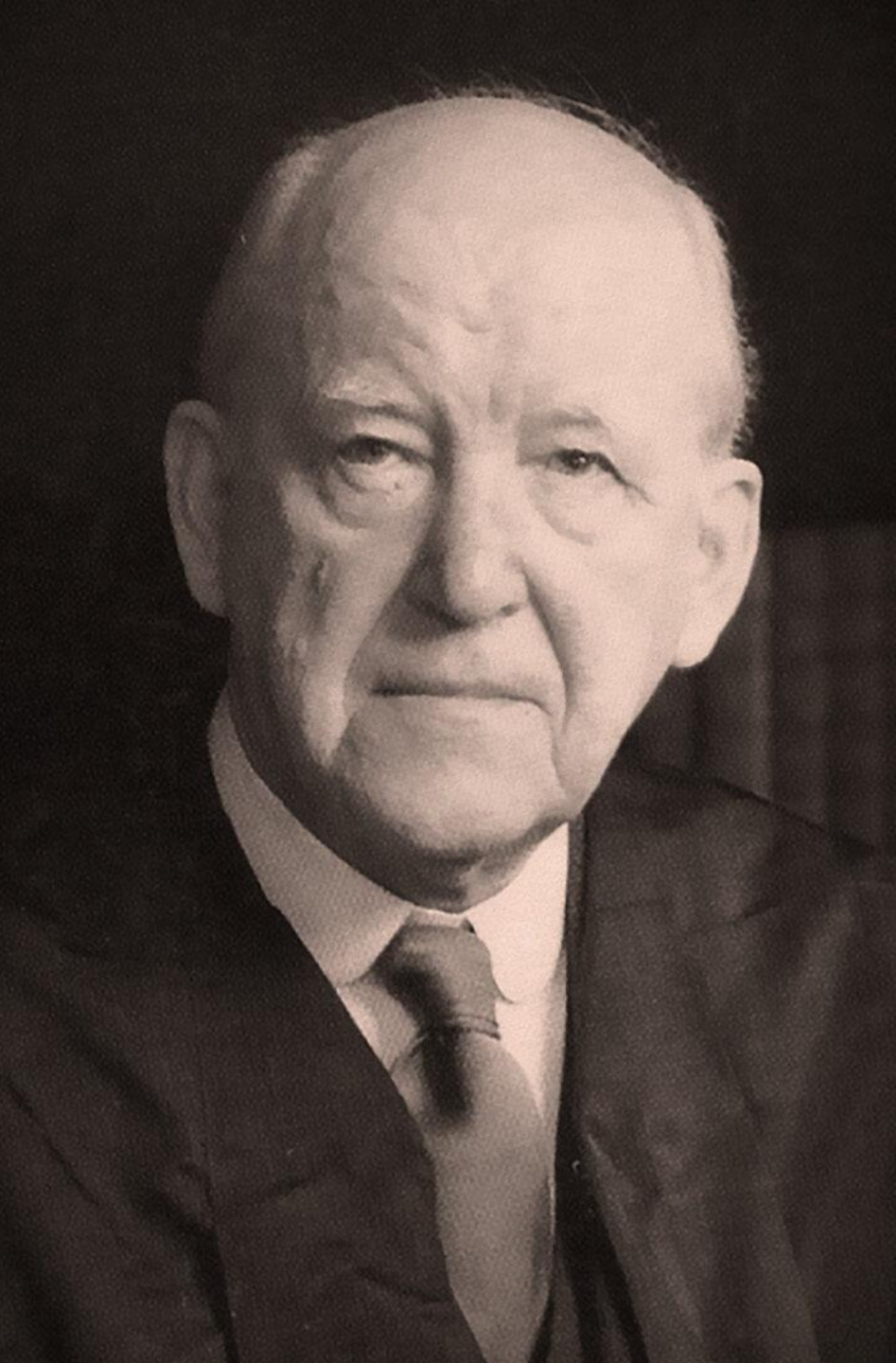
## Application

- Recognize that while God's word is *for* you, it is not *about* you.

JUDGMENT,  
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The main reason [that Christians are troubled about the problem of history] . . . is that there are those who use the Bible in a narrow sense, as being exclusively a text-book of personal salvation. Many people seem to think that the sole theme of the Bible is that of man's personal relationship to God. Of course that is one of the central themes . . . But that is not the only theme of the Bible. Indeed . . . the Bible puts the question of personal salvation into a larger context.



Ultimately the main message of the Bible concerns the condition of the entire world and its destiny; and you and I, as individuals, are part of that larger whole . . . The trouble is that we are inclined to be exclusively concerned with our own personal problem, whereas the Bible starts further back: it puts every problem in the context of this worldview.

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

# 1. The Sovereign Lord Speaks

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## Application

- Recognize that while God's word is *for* you, it is not *about* you.
- Give attention to *all* of God's word – not just your favorite parts.

JUDGMENT,  
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# Romans 15:4

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For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

JUDGMENT,  
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## 2. The Sovereign Lord Judges the Nations

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Verses 2-16

JUDGMENT,  
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AND HOPE

## 2. The Sovereign Lord Judges the Nations

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### a. The basis of God's judgment of Edom

- National pride (vv. 2-4)
- Violence (vv. 8-10)
- Opportunism (vv. 11-14)

JUDGMENT,  
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# Obadiah 2-4

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<sup>2</sup> "See, I will make you small among the nations; you will be utterly despised. <sup>3</sup> The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?' <sup>4</sup> Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the Lord.

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# Obadiah 8-10

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<sup>8</sup> "In that day," declares the Lord, "will I not destroy the wise men of Edom, those of understanding in the mountains of Esau? <sup>9</sup> Your warriors, Teman, will be terrified, and everyone in Esau's mountains will be cut down in the slaughter. <sup>10</sup> Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.

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# Obadiah 11-14

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<sup>11</sup> On the day you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them. <sup>12</sup> You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble.

JUDGMENT,  
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AND HOPE

# Obadiah 11-14

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<sup>13</sup> You should not march through the gates of my people in the day of their disaster, nor gloat over them in their calamity in the day of their disaster, nor seize their wealth in the day of their disaster. <sup>14</sup> You should not wait at the crossroads to cut down their fugitives, nor hand over their survivors in the day of their trouble.

JUDGMENT,  
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## 2. The Sovereign Lord Judges the Nations

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### a. The basis of God's judgment of Edom

- National pride (vv. 2-4)
- Violence (vv. 8-10)
- Opportunism (vv. 11-14)

JUDGMENT,  
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## 2. The Sovereign Lord Judges the Nations

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b. How God will judge Edom :

- v. 2: "I will make you small among the nations"
- v. 4: "I will bring you down"
- v. 10: "you will be destroyed forever"

JUDGMENT,  
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AND HOPE

# Obadiah 15-16

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<sup>15</sup> "The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head. <sup>16</sup> Just as you drank on my holy hill, so all the nations will drink continually; they will drink and drink and be as if they had never been.

JUDGMENT,  
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## 2. The Sovereign Lord Judges the Nations

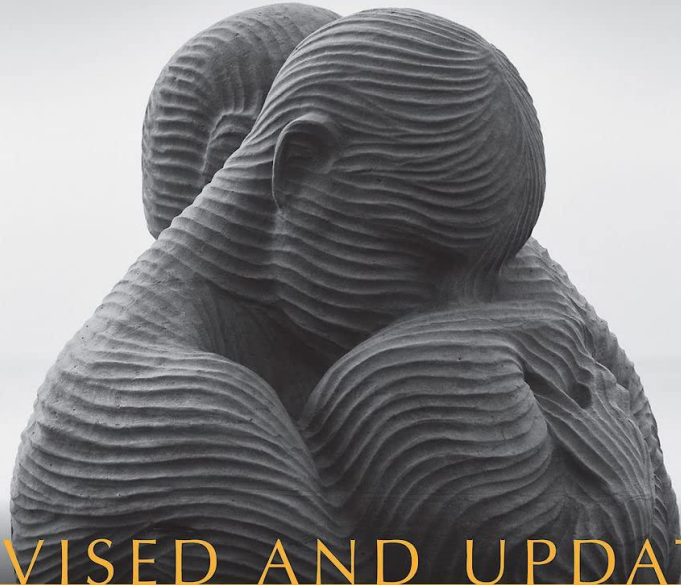
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Application: Why the doctrine of divine judgment is good news

- It means that justice will prevail (Miroslav Volf)

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

# Miroslav Volf



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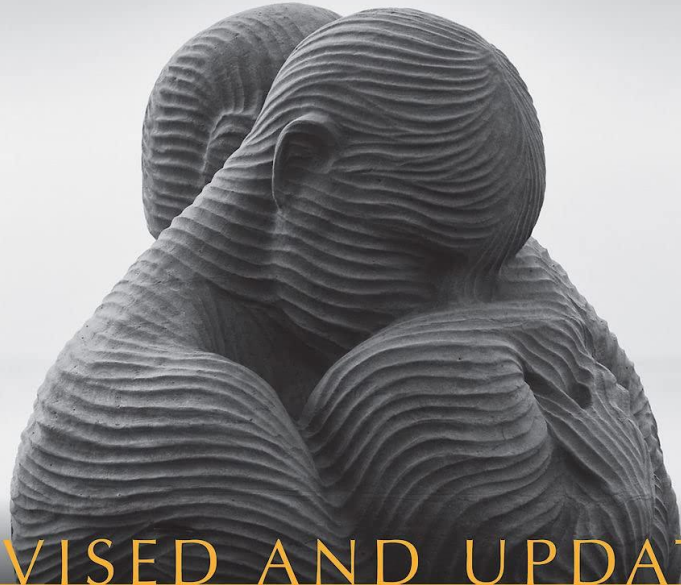
## Exclusion & Embrace

A Theological Exploration of Identity,  
Otherness, and Reconciliation

My thesis that the practice of nonviolence requires a belief in divine vengeance will be unpopular with many Christians, especially theologians in the West. To the person who is inclined to dismiss it, I suggest imagining that you are delivering a lecture in a war zone.... Among your listeners are people whose cities and villages have been first plundered, then burned and leveled to the ground, whose daughters and sisters have been raped, whose fathers and brothers have had their throats slit.

# Miroslav Volf

The topic of the lecture: a Christian attitude toward violence. The thesis: we should not retaliate since God is perfect noncoercive love. Soon you would discover that it takes the quiet of a suburban home for the birth of the thesis that human nonviolence corresponds to God's refusal to judge. In a scorched land, soaked in the blood of the innocent, it will invariably die.



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## Exclusion & Embrace

A Theological Exploration of Identity,  
Otherness, and Reconciliation

## 2. The Sovereign Lord Holds the Nations Accountable

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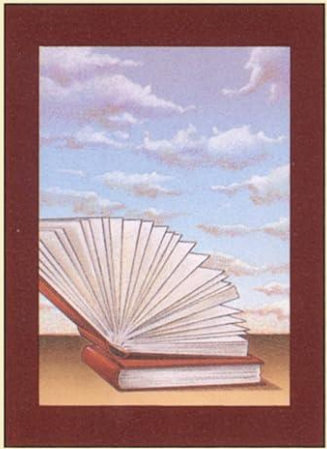
Application: Why the doctrine of divine judgment is good news

- It means that justice will prevail (Miroslav Volf)
- It means that the villains in the story of the world will be punished (Gene Edward Veith)

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

# READING BETWEEN THE LINES

A Christian Guide  
to Literature



*GENE EDWARD VEITH, JR.*

“Adults often think that the cruel punishment of an evil person in fairy tales upsets and scares children unnecessarily. Quite the opposite is true: such retribution reassures the child that the punishment fits the crime.... the more severely those bad ones are dealt with, the more secure the child feels.”

—Veith (quoting Bruno Bettelheim)

## 2. The Sovereign Lord Judges the Nations

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Verses 2-16

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

# 3. The Sovereign Lord Establishes His Kingdom

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Verses 17-21

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

# Obadiah 17-21

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<sup>17</sup> But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and Jacob will possess his inheritance. <sup>18</sup> Jacob will be a fire and Joseph a flame; Esau will be stubble, and they will set him on fire and destroy him. There will be no survivors from Esau." The Lord has spoken. <sup>19</sup> People from the Negev will occupy the mountains of Esau, and people from the foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead.

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
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# Obadiah 17-21

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<sup>20</sup> This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan will possess the land as far as Zarephath; the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev. <sup>21</sup> Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE



Return from  
exile in the  
biblical  
history of  
Israel

The arrival of the  
kingdom in the  
life, death, and  
resurrection of  
Christ

The ultimate fulfillment  
in Christ's second  
advent, the  
consummated kingdom,  
and the new creation

**JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE**

# Revelation 11:15-18

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The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

# Revelation 11:15-18

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<sup>17</sup> saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. <sup>18</sup> The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small— and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

JUDGMENT,  
SALVATION,  
AND HOPE

# 3. The Sovereign Establishes His Kingdom

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## Application

- The great prayer of the church when it comes to the social, political, and international issues of the world is first and foremost, "Thy kingdom come."

JUDGMENT,  
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# 3. The Sovereign Lord Establishes His Kingdom

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Verses 17-21

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Obadiah: *“The Kingdom will be the Lord’s”*