

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

July 22, 2018

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is our Sustainer

Hebrews 1:1-4: "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in *His Son*, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Ps. 117

+We Adore Him

Hymn #76, "Praise, My Soul"

From Psalm 103

We Confess Our Sin

Have mercy upon us, O God, as befits your faithfulness; in keeping with Your abundant compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly of our iniquity, and purify us of our sin. Fashion a pure heart for us, O God; create in us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us out of Your presence, or take Your Holy Spirit away from us. Let us again rejoice in Your help; let a vigorous spirit sustain us. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #521, "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Dt. 16:17

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #251, "Beneath The Cross Of Jesus"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Ps. 12:1, 6-7

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #498, "Jesus! What A Friend For Sinners!"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

Caveats and Consolations in the Face of Persecution, Pt. 5

Obadiah

Study Notes for July 22, 2018

I. Introduction: Another Hebrew Literary Tool: Emphasis on the First and Last Verse (cf. 1 Sam. 2:1-2 & 2 Sam. 22:2-3a)

II. Caveats and Consolations in the Face of Persecution, Obd. 1-21.

- A. An Exposé of Pride, vv. 2-4.
- B. An Exposé of Sin, vv. 5-9, 18b.
- C. God is Protective of His People, vv. 10, 11-14.
- D. The Consummation of World History, vv. 15-20.

E. The Grand Theme of Redemptive History, vv. 1a, 21b.

V. 1A

-the Lord: אֲדֹנָי (*ādōnāy*): this stresses the fact that God is the Sovereign Lord who rules over the earth- knowing the number of hairs on our head (Mt. 10:30) as well as when a bird falls to the ground (Mt. 10:29)!

Accordingly, at this very uncertain time, Obadiah began his ministry by reminding the people of God in the midst of their suffering and despair that their God was not weak, but in control of all things!

-God: יְהוָה (*yhwh*): this word comes from the Hebrew “to be” verb denoting essence, “*I am.*” Accordingly when used as a name for God, it emphasizes His self-existent nature- the fact that He always was, is, and ever more shall be. He was not made; He is not becoming; He is the first cause and so THE Glorious Being who transcends the universe!

It was this that God wanted Obadiah to parade before His humbled people as they made their way to Babylon! God is THE Sovereign Lord before whom everything in heaven and on earth bow in humble reverence!! God’s people were not the victim of chance or a strong nation; where they were is right where God wanted them to be!

Illustration: You will recall that God punctuated this message to His people at this time through His providential dealing with Nebuchadnezzar, Dan. 4...

1. The Background, Dan. 4:1-27.

2. The Folly, Dan. 4:28-32.

3. The Humiliation, Dan. 4:33.

4. His Restoration, Dan. 4:34a.

5. His Proclamation, Dan. 4:34b-37.

...a little after this occurred in Nebuchadnezzar’s life and so in his kingdom (Babylon), God sent Obadiah to His enchained people with the same message!

***Where We Live**

1. What impact would this providence have on God's people?
2. Consider Prov. 21:1 and Is. 40:15a... how would God's people have taken these passages at this time?

V. 21b

This is a massive statement and one that had been and would continue to be a major theme in Scripture. Recall...

1. When God created the world He established it as His Kingdom...
 - a. Royal language is found throughout Gen. 1-3...
 - b. Yet at this point in creation we know that NOT all things were as they should have been. For among God's creation walked a deceiver (cf. Is. 14:12-15)...
2. Angered over God's refusal to share His glory with Lucifer, this fallen angel deigned to hurt God, such that he endeavored to allure God's most treasured possession, man, to rebel against God (cf. Gen. 3:1-7; Lk. 4:5-7; 1 Jn. 5:19)...
3. But herein is the glorious message of the Gospel- THE Good News! The coming of Christ marked a massive and violent in-breaking of God's Kingdom back into this world (cf. Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14-15a; Mt. 4:23; 24:14)...
4. Today we live in the already/not yet Kingdom of God. At Christ's first advent, it re-entered the world (Lk. 17:21). At His second advent, it will conquer the world (cf. Rev. 11:15b)!...

Tremper Longman wrote of Dan. 4 (but it just as easily could have been said about the message of Obadiah), "This account of his dream and madness rips away the facade and shows the reality of who is in control- not Nebuchadnezzar, but God, who calls the shots... the overarching concern of the chapter [is] that God protects his faithful people in spite of the odds." (*Daniel*, emphasis added, pp. 123, 122)

That is what ultimately is behind the final words of Obadiah, "...and the kingdom will be the Lord's" (v. 21b)! Truly, at the time of the writing of Obadiah, it looked pretty bleak for God's Kingdom. Yet that was only in appearance. In reality God's Kingdom was not negatively impacted when the kingdom of Judah fell!!! In fact, it was advanced for the Lord our God reigns!!!

***Where We Live**

1. It was this message with which Obadiah began and ended. It is this message God intended His exiled people to hold on to! And so in review...
2. Base on this, what is the Theme of Christianity?
3. This may sound shocking to the 21st century ear which has become accustomed to the notion that great living occurs when much is made about us! Yet if our telos is the glory of God, then our best could only be when God is exalted, not man (cf. Jn. 3:29b-30; Ps. 115:1; Jn. 4:34b)...
4. In this regard, we ask, "What is 'the will of Him who sent Christ'?" Cf. Jn. 6:40...