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### Prophetic Element Spotlight | Justice and Mercy

- Biblical Justice and Mercy—a larger umbrella
- Justice—correcting and avoiding sinful oppression and mistreatment
- Mercy—meeting genuine neediness with compassion and generosity
  - Impartial treatment
  - Special concern for the needy and powerless and use of generosity and influence to help and correct
  - Truth-telling
    - In thinking about justice, we must not mistake the mission of the church for the *ethic of the church-on-mission*.
    - In thinking about justice, we must not fail to obey clear biblical mandates because we are afraid of slippery slope-ism or being labeled liberal by others in the church.

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### Obadiah—Critical and Historical Info

- At 21 verses, Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament.
- Though it lacks a superscription, Obadiah appears to be written shortly after the judgment on Judah in 586/587 BC, executed by the Babylonians. Edom, however—the object Obadiah’s prophecy—viewed Judah’s demise opportunistically and used the occasion to expand their territory.
- Recall that the Edomites—Israel’s southeast neighbors—were the descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob (Israel). This account for the “against your brother” language that we see used of Edom as they oppose God’s people, a recurring theme in the Old Testament.

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## Obadiah—Critical and Historical Info

- o Given the Edomites' elevated position in the mountains (i.e. Mt. Esau), they were very well fortified and extremely confident in their strongholds.
- Because Obadiah's prophecy is primarily directed to a foreign nation, it does not follow the standard, tri-partite message of the prophets.
  - o At least 50% of Obadiah appears to be adaptations of other oracles of judgment against Edom.

### WALKTHROUGH

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## Obadiah

### • Major Themes

- The devastating effects of pride
- God's vengeance upon those who oppose his people

### • Prophetic Element Spotlight | Mt. Zion

- First mentioned in 2 Sam. 5:6-9, Zion was a former Jebusite stronghold conquered by David, right outside the walls of Jerusalem, but David built out around it.
- Zion usually refers to the city itself, and not technically the hill (mount) outside the city—thus Zion *generally* refers to Jerusalem when used as a concrete reference.
- Zion is mentioned over 150 times in the OT, with half of those references occurring in two books (46 Isaiah, 39 Psalms).
- Theologically, Zion/Mt. Zion is where the God of Israel dwells—it is the seat of Yahweh's presence and action in history and where his king is installed.
- Heavenly Mt. Zion, New Jerusalem | New Testament (Heb. 12:22; Rev. 21:2-4)

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## Obadiah

### • Role in the Twelve

- Obadiah pauses the movement for a case-study of the cosmic problem of sin introduced by Joel and Amos.

### • Application in Light of Christ

- The cancer of personal and corporate pride
- The promise of *vindication*, not just *salvation*, for God's people

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