**Old Testament Survey – Obadiah/Habakkuk**

**Obadiah** (Shortest book in the OT)

Author/Prophet: Obadiah, the name occurred 20 times in OT, but none of them match with this author. Unlike most of other prophetic books, this book didn’t provide basic autobiographical data of the prophet.

Content: A doom oracle against Edom for her sins against God’s people.

Historical background: 2 major possibilities.

1. Around 840 B.C. (2 Chro 21:8-10,16-17)
2. Around 586 B.C. (2 Kings 25:1-12; Psalm 137)

Relationship between Israel/Judah and Edom

1. Brothers (Gen 25-36)
2. Invite to worship (Deut 23:7-8)
3. Subject to king Saul, David, Solomon.
4. Most foreign-nation oracles compare to other people (Isa 21:11-12; 34:5-15; Jer 49:7-22; Ezek 25:12-14; 35:1-15; Amos 1:11-12; Joel 3:19; Mal 1:2-5)

Structure of book

1. Announcement of doom (v 1-9); Three reasons of false pride
2. Reasons for doom (v 10-14); Eight ‘should not’s
3. Promised future (v 15-21); of Jacob and Esau

What was the historical ending of Edom?

Theological Reflections

1. God’s judgment on sins are sure; the principle of retribution (v 15)
2. God’s sovereign nature over all nations (v 16)
3. The outcome of animosity/envy toward one’s brother

**Habakkuk**

Author/Prophet: Habakkuk, the name never appeared in the rest of the scripture. Again there’s no background info on the author.

Content: A dialogue between God and the prophet over the question of injustice. (How do people get away with evil and God seems to do nothing?)

Historical background: toward the end of the reign of Judah, when Babylon had begun to dominate the international scene but before the final attack of Jerusalem.

Structure of the book

1. Habakkuk’s first complaint (1:1-4) Where is God’s justice?
2. God’s answer (1:5-11) Babylon
3. Habakkuk’s second complaint (1:12-2:1) How can God us Babylon for justice?
4. God’s answer (2:2-20) Judgment against Babylon
5. Habakkuk’s prayer (3:1-19) Mercy; Power; Sovereignty

Habakkuk’s complaint was based on his true understanding of God’s character

Central question of the book revolves around the justice of God, so there are some similarities with the book of Job

1. Job: concerned about the justice of God when a righteous individual was suffering.

Trust in God’s wisdom while realizing the finiteness of human.

1. Habakkuk: concerned about the justice of God when a wicked nation was prospering.

Trust in God’s sovereignty while God assures his own justice.

Theological Reflection:

1. Timing of God (v 2:3)
2. “But the righteous will live by his faith” (v 2:4b) Apostle Paul quoted this verse in the context of his emphasis on faith over works, here it serves the function of suggesting that the upright person will maintain a lifestyle of integrity and faithfulness even when he or she doesn’t not understand God’s ways.
3. What brought about Habakkuk’s rejoicing in the Lord? (3:17-18)