

## Postcards from the Bible- Obadiah Tony Ashmore - August 1, 2021

Obadiah 1:11

*"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."*

### "Wish You Were Here"

#### Lessons from Obadiah:

- God is a Covenant Keeping God
- Seeing Beyond the Politics in The Tension in the Middle East

Obadiah 1:19 AMP

*"Then those of the Negev shall possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah [shall possess] the Philistine plain; Also, [they shall] possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria, And Benjamin will possess Gilead [across the Jordan River]."*

- It's not enough to not participate in evil. To stand by and watch is tantamount to being a participant.

### The Danger of Unforgiveness:

2 Peter 1:3-4 NLT

*"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires."*

- Edom has spent years developing, nursing, protecting, a grudge.

Proverbs 24:17-18

*"Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; or the Lord will see it and be displeased, and turn His anger away from him."*

- When we withhold forgiveness, we ignore a Scripture we all know, we go against our Divine Nature—

Matthew 6:14-15

*"And when you pray, make sure you forgive the faults of others so that your*

*Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you withhold forgiveness from others, your Father withholds forgiveness from you."*

### Protecting Unforgiveness Leads to some Pretty Nasty Results:

- We take over God's place.

Obadiah 1:3-4

*"You have been deceived by your own pride because you live in a rock fortress and make your home high in the mountains. 'Who can ever reach us way up here?' you ask boastfully. But even if you soar as high as eagles and build your nest among the stars, I will bring you crashing down," says the Lord."*

- Allowing unforgiveness to set up housekeeping in us can lead to a victim mentality
- Allowing unforgiveness to remain can grow into a 'root of bitterness'

Hebrews 12:14-17 NLT

*"Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord."*

## Postcards from the Bible- Obadiah Tony Ashmore - August 1, 2021

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. **Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau**, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. You know that afterward, when he wanted his father's blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears."

### Forgiving

#### Colossians 3:13 NASB

"...bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also."

### **The Practice of Forgiving**

#### Why We Don't Forgive:

1. We have a wrong understanding of forgiveness.
2. We don't think we can.
3. It's not fair.

#### How Do We Forgive:

#### Matthew 18:21-22

"Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answered: Not just seven times, but seventy times seven!"

**Over and over, again and again, until the offense you made room for has no more room.**

- Pray for them. Matthew 5:43-44
- Bless them. Luke 6:27-28.
- Do good to them. Romans 12:17-21