

PROPHETS: LESSON # 3
MT. ZION: GOD'S PLACE OF REFUGE
Obadiah 17-18

INTRODUCTION:

- The reading shows that the faith of the prophet is FIRM in Divine Providence, even though the fulfillment might never be in his lifetime. This is only one of many examples both in the New and Old Testaments where in time of judgment, God ALWAYS provides a place of refuge or deliverance for those who will turn to Him.
- Here in Obadiah, the Lord shows that the remnant of Judah will be exalted in deliverance on Mt. Zion, while the corresponding Mt. Seir of Edom would be utterly destroyed.

THROUGHOUT THE AGES, MOUNT ZION HAS BEEN
GOD'S PLACE OF DELIVERANCE FOR HIS PEOPLE

I. MT ZION: A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

- A. Jerusalem was built on several hills, the highest of which was Mt. Zion. Initially a Jebusite stronghold, it was captured by David and renamed the "city of David," **2 Samuel 5:6-9**.
- B. Its original meaning is unknown, but later scholars thought "citadel" could well apply as its meaning.
- C. The name "Zion" was later extended to include the site of the Temple (Mt. Moriah) and became equivalent with God's dwelling-place. See **Isaiah 4:5; 8:18; Jeremiah 31:6; Micah 4:7**, and most notably **Isaiah 2:2-3**.
- D. Zion eventually came to encompass the concept of God's presence in deliverance.

II. MT. ZION: A SYMBOLIC DESCRIPTION

- A. Presence of God - **Psalms 9:11** - "*Sing praises to the LORD who dwells in Zion...*"
- B. The Remnant - **Micah 4:7** - "*I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcasts a strong nation, and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever.*"
- C. Salvation, Deliverance - **Joel 2:32; Isaiah 46:13** - "*And I will grant salvation in Zion...*"
- D. Comfort, Security, Refuge - **Psalms 48:1-14** - Read inspired description

III. MT. ZION: A SPIRITUAL DESCRIPTION -- Hebrews 12:22-29

- A. City of the living God
- B. The heavenly Jerusalem
- C. Church of the first-born (Christ and Christians)
- D. God's place of deliverance for people today is STILL Mt. Zion, that is, the Body of Christ (the Lord's church).
- E. In spite of the trials and afflictions we confront each day, because we run not with the world in the same excess of riot, we will be exalted in DUE time, **1 Peter 5:6**.

CONCLUSION:

- Obadiah speaks very highly and confidently of the Lord's providence in delivering His Faithful. Edom's fall and Israel's exaltation (return to Canaan from exile) DID take place.
- Hopefully, this will encourage us to be more steadfast in service & more reverent of God. Remember, God WILL deliver us IF we remain faithful and "do not throw away our confidence," **Hebrews 10:35-39**.