

Daily Devotional, August 6, 2020

“You Should Not Have Gazed, Rejoiced, Nor Spoken Proudly”, (Obadiah 12, NKJV)

“But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly In the day of distress.” (Obadiah 12)

Obadiah wrote his short prophetic book against Edom. Edom was the nation of descendants of Esau the brother of Jacob, who was later called Israel, and who founded the Jewish nation. The nation that mistreats God’s chosen nation of Israel **“touches the apple of His eye”** (Zechariah 2:8). By extension, the same can be said for those who mistreat God’s people chosen for salvation, for they too shall awaken the ire of those children who have been spiritually adopted by God the Father through their belief in His Son Jesus Christ.

This verse is loaded with applicational truths. Let us first learn that we are not to revel in the misfortunes of others. Let the Christian be wary of such phrases as “They had it coming” and “That misfortune could not have happened to a better (or worse) person” lest the Lord turn against us for discipline and say, **“You should not have gazed, rejoiced, nor spoken proudly.”** Even if you are quite certain that they deserved it. Let the good Lord be the judge of that. It is enough that your brother or sister was taken captive, destroyed, and distressed. Would you add to the judgment of the Lord? What then if the shoe were on the other foot? Would you not cry out to God as one excessively afflicted by men, after having the merciful hand of God bring your calamity only so far, that you may repent and prosper once again? When we see someone, even an enemy, in a plight, let us have compassion, and engage in prayer and godly acts of mercy, even on behalf of those far from our friends, knowing that we too are great sinners, lest we be humbled by the Almighty hand of God. If you do this, it may be that God will use you as a part of His redemptive purpose for that individual, and for the betterment of your own spiritual case.