

Messages from God in Obadiah and Joel

The prophetic books of Obadiah and Joel are quite short and easily overlooked. However, their messages are hard-hitting and remind us that our God is a holy God. Obadiah and Joel were written hundreds of years apart, but they both call out the injustices that God's people were committing in and around Israel during the lifetimes of the two prophets. Their words underscore the seriousness of sin and the necessity of God's judgment. But their messages also include promises of hope and restoration and reminders of God's great love for his people. As we study these books in light of our knowledge of God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ, we are reminded of what a truly repentant heart looks like. Join us and be encouraged that ultimately God's grace and mercy will have the last word.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you explain the role of an Old Testament prophet?
- What is judgment? When you hear the word "judgment" what is the first thought that comes to your mind? What feelings bubble to the surface?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Messages from God in Obadiah and Joel](#)

READ [Obadiah 1](#), [Joel 1-3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Through his prophets, God always offers hope for restoration. What does this tell you about God's character? How does this truth benefit or encourage your faith today?
- Read Obadiah 1. Where in the passage do you find rays of hope? Why do you think these words offered hope to the original audience? How do they encourage your faith now?
- When Joel prophesied, Israel was experiencing restoration and even fulfilling the prophecies of earlier prophets as they returned from exile. Why do you think God is telling this returning generation to repent and rend their hearts? What can this message also teach us about our relationship with God?
- Throughout the episode, Darrell and Scott identify the following themes in Obadiah and Joel: injustice, God's judgment, hope, and restoration. If Obadiah and Joel addressed the Church on God's behalf today, do you think their message would be the same or different? Why?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Deuteronomy 28](#), [Isaiah 49:6](#), [Galatians 6:16](#), [Genesis 12:1-3](#), [Romans 3:21-24](#), [Psalm 145:8-9](#), [Jeremiah 31:1-26](#), [Acts 2:14-41](#), [John 1:5](#)

CONCLUSION

At the end of the episode, Scott and Darrell summarize two main takeaways from Obadiah and Joel:

1. Sin is serious, God is holy and cannot ignore sin, he must render judgment.
2. Judgment is not the last word, God's grace and mercy have and will have the last word.

As you reflect on these two truths, consider the following questions:

1. If Jesus Christ conquered sin and death, why do we still need to be reminded about the seriousness of sin?
2. In what areas of your life does it encourage you and give you hope to remember that even if judgment is necessary, God's grace and mercy will ultimately have the last word?

Close your time of reflection in prayer. Use your own words or the words of Psalm 139 and conclude with praise and thanks to God for his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

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