

Sunday, July 3, 2022
“Minor Prophets: Eternal Questions”
Summary of Message of Obadiah: Does God Have Enemies?
Obadiah
Wayne Shelton

In this little book, God teaches us about who he is, who his friends are, and who his enemies are. In this brief prophecy of Obadiah, he prophesies God’s judgment on the people of Edom, the people who lived just southeast of Judah. Historically, Obadiah appears to have been written sometime after the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 587 BC. Amid this terrible plight among God’s people, their next-door neighbors, the Edomites, did nothing to help (to put it mildly!). In fact, the Edomites cooperated with the Babylonians in the demise of Israel. Of all people, they should have known better; for the Edomites were the descendants of Jacob’s brother Esau (see Genesis 36). Perhaps uniquely among the prophets of the Old Testament, Obadiah speaks more directly to a time like our own. Most of the other prophets speak to Old Testament believers – and to Christians in churches. But Obadiah proclaimed a vision from the sovereign God to a people who knew no theology and who had no place for the knowledge of God in their lives. Unlike the audience of the other prophets, Obadiah’s audience made no pretense of acknowledging God. In other words, he spoke to a society much like our own.