**Obadiah 1:10-16 “For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. 11In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, when foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem— Even you were as one of them. 12“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. 13You should not have entered the gate of My people in the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction in the day of their calamity, Nor laid *hands* on their substance in the day of their calamity. 14You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained in the day of distress. 15“For the day of the Lord upon all the nations *is* near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. 16For as you drank on My holy mountain, *so* shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, and they shall be as though they had never been.**

He got what he deserved, he had it coming, Karma caught up with her, I’m glad it happened to her, chickens came home to roost, what goes around comes around, I’ll just laugh when it all catches up. I hear these things all the time. People gleeful about the misfortune of another, particularly someone that perhaps did them wrong. Yet, Jesus is clear in Matthew 5:43-48“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others?* Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” No stuttering there… we are to love those who treat us wrong, pray for them. Republicans pray for democrats, citizens for non-citizens, conservatives for liberals, Christians for non-Christians.

A while back, I had a man pass me coming from Yanceyville. I was going the speed limit and he tailgated until he could zip past and cut in quick so I knew I had held him up. I knew that State Policemen sat just around that curve. I hoped in my heart that none was there, but just around the curve, blue lights let me know the man would soon be pulled over. As I passed him, I was sorry for his situation. I prayed that he’d be given just a warning or get a break… why? Because, as a follower of Jesus, I glory in no one’s suffering. This came up to a friend and he was quick to tell me the man got what he deserved, had it coming, that I was wrong to feel sorry for him – he hoped the man lost his license! Such hate… such anger… I know, if it had been this man’s son, he’d want mercy, but to a stranger, justice is what’s in order. We allow our hearts to wander far from Jesus words.

In our scripture, God is speaking through the prophet Obadiah about Edom. Remember that the Edomites descended from Esau, who sold his birthright to Jacob for food (a red lentil stew). Because of this, the Edomites hated Israel. In Psalm 83, we see Edom as the leading name of the enemies of Israel. Amos 1:11 God says - “For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away its *punishment,* Because he pursued his brother with the sword, And cast off all pity; His anger tore perpetually, And he kept his wrath forever.” Edom has let hatred cloud out the love for his brother. Grudges end a family as sure as death.

Verse 10 - **For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.** When God says He will cut off a nation forever, He means it. If God can cut off an entire nation, do we doubt He can deal with individual hearts when we allow hate to creep into our souls?

Verses 11 & 12 **11In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, when foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem— Even you were as one of them. 12“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.** Edom rejoiced over the destruction of Judah. They took part. There was probably talk of them “getting what they deserved”. God said – You shouldn’t have done that. I will take My vengeance for that.

We’re not called to rejoice over the misfortune of our brothers and sisters. We’re not called to dance while our enemy’s house burns. We’re called to love our enemy, pray for those who hate us, feed those who have hurt us, when someone takes our cloak, we’re to offer our coat as well. But in these times, I see Christian’s feeling justified in hatred, disguising it as opinion. We must guard against Satan’s deception! Satan will tell us that hating a Muslim is really defending our faith, speaking hateful words against our neighbor is defending Christianity. Romans 12:19 - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

Verses 13 & 14 **13You should not have entered the gate of My people in the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction in the day of their calamity, Nor laid *hands* on their substance in the day of their calamity. 14You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained in the day of distress.** Edom not only hated Judah, not only stole from Judah, not only rejoiced in Judah’s misfortune, but they took part in Judah’s calamity. How often do Christian’s take part in another’s calamity through gossip, critical spirits, judging misfortune, and even praying for calamity upon another? Oh, we disguise it… Lord, please bring my brother to repentance by destroying his job, burning his home, and shooting his dog…. Is our point really gaining our brother or seeing him suffer?

Let’s finish verses 15 & 16 **15“For the day of the Lord upon all the nations *is* near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. 16For as you drank on My holy mountain, *so* shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, and they shall be as though they had never been.”** Do unto others as you would have done to you? Obadiah’s prophecy is consistent with what Jesus teaches throughout His earthly time. Now Obadiah says that Edom will be destroyed and never be a nation again. And in 667 BC, Edom was destroyed by the Babylonians. History shows that they never were again a nation.

When we feel the urge to rejoice in another’s misfortune, gossip about how they brought it upon themselves, build ourselves up by tearing another down, we must stop and recall the words of our Savior Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38**This is *the* first and great commandment. **39**And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Next time we’re tempted to hope Karma will get our enemy, pray instead… If God so judged a nation, He will also hold our hearts accountable. We must pray always that Satan be not allowed to deceive our very souls into hating a soul Jesus is seeking. John 3:16 & 17 “ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**17**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” We are to love the whosoever.