

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXII

July 15, 2012

No. 29

You Are As One Of Them

(Jerry Fite)

Edom, the descendants of Esau, was a long time enemy of Israel. As animosity divided Esau from Jacob (*Gen. 25:27-34*), even though they were brothers; the same hostility existed between the nations of Edom and Israel (*cf. Numbers 20:14-21*).

In the days of Jehoram, king of Judah, the Philistines, Arabians and the Ethiopians rose up and plundered Jerusalem, taking away all the substance of the king (*2 Chron. 21:16-17*). While Edom did not directly do the plundering, Obadiah says, “*In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that strangers entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou was as one of them*” (*Obadiah 1:11*). Because of long time enmity, Edom probably did not mind seeing Jerusalem ransacked. But strangers are plundering your brethren, and you are standing on the other side! Shame! They may have even rejoiced in the plundering. God warns them not to rejoice in Judah’s distressful calamity, for the same will return

upon their own head (*Obadiah 1:12-15*).

Obadiah reminds us of who we really are when we stand on the other side. We may not be directly involved in the evil deeds, but “*standing on the other side*”; we are still “*as one of them*”.

When error is being taught, do we remain silent? In the last three decades, many have taken this route in the face of the false teaching regarding fellowship. When men taught that fellowship can continue with those who do not bring the doctrine of Christ as it pertains to divorce and remarriage, many remained silent. They did not take the stand of *2 John 9-11*, but rather contradicted the distinctive teaching by giving “*God’s speed*” to those who taught error regarding fellowship.

Obadiah and John remind us that when we do not come to the aid of truth, we are really standing “*on the other side*”, are “*as one of them*”, “*partaking of their evil works*”. While Edom did not enter to plunder, they were as one of them who did. While we may not teach the error, by

welcoming those who do, we are having fellowship with their evil works. We are as one of them!

Contend for the faith; fight the good fight of the faith; reprove, rebuke, exhort do not sound like calls to neutrality (*Jude 3, 1 Timothy 6:12, 2 Timothy 4:2*). If you are not “*with*” Christ, you are “*against*” Him (*Luke 11:23*). Many have mistakenly thought that by remaining silent, no one can place them on the side of error. By not engaging in the battle for truth, they are as one of them who teach error.

Oh for many to have the heart of Paul! In the face of error, he “*gave place in the way of subjection, no not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you*” (*Galatians 2:5*). In the face of Peter’s evil influence, Paul did not remain silent. Paul “*resisted him to the face because he stood condemned*” (*Galatians 2:11*).

Let us join hands and stand against error. Let us identify ourselves with truth, instead of being identified by God as one of them who plunder and destroy.