

OBADIAH – A SERVANT OF THE LORD 1 KINGS 18:1-16

Ephesians 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, **as unto Christ**;

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; **but as the servants of Christ**, doing the will of God from the heart;

Ephesians 6:7 With good will doing service, **as to the Lord, and not to men**:

Ephesians 6:8 **Knowing** that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive **of the Lord**, whether he be bond or free.

Obadiah (עֲבַדְיָהוּ) = servant of the Lord

He lived up to his name!

1. Obadiah served **at** a compromised **and** compromising time!

1 Kings 18:1 And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto **Ahab**; and I will send rain upon the earth. **1 Kings 18:2** And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. **1 Kings 18:3** And Ahab called **Obadiah**, which was the governor of his house...

At that time:

➤ In Israel

➤ During the Omride dynasty / dynasty of Omri

1 Kings 16:8 In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began **Elah** the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, **two years**.

1 Kings 16:9 And his servant **Zimri**, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah.

1 Kings 16:10 And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead. **1 Kings 16:11** And it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he slew all the house of Baasha: he left him not one that pisseth against a wall, neither of his kinsfolks, nor of his friends.

1 Kings 16:12 Thus did Zimri destroy all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, **1 Kings 16:13** For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities. **1 Kings 16:14** Now the rest of the acts of Elah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

1 Kings 16:15 In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did **Zimri reign seven days** in Tirzah. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

1 Kings 16:16 And the people that were encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king: **wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp.** **1 Kings 16:17** And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.

1 Kings 16:18 And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died, **1 Kings 16:19** For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin. **1 Kings 16:20** Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and his treason that he wrought, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

1 Kings 16:21 Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed **Tibni** the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed **Omri**.

1 Kings 16:22 But the people that followed Omri prevailed against the people that followed Tibni the son of Ginath: **so Tibni died, and Omri reigned.**

1 Kings 16:23 In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began **Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah.**

1 Kings 16:24 And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.

1 Kings 16:25 But **Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him.** **1 Kings 16:26** For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

1 Kings 16:27 Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he shewed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? **1 Kings 16:28** So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

1 Kings 16:29 And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. **1 Kings 16:30** And Ahab the son of Omri did **evil** in the sight of the LORD **above all that were before him.** **1 Kings 16:31** And it came to pass, **as if it had been a light thing** for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, **and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.**

1 Kings 16:32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. **1 Kings 16:33** And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab **did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.**

- **During the famine**
- **Under Ahab & Jezebel**
- **As a governor / supervisor of Ahab's household**

2. Obadiah served in a dangerous place

1 Kings 18:9 And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?

1 Kings 18:12 And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, **he shall slay me:** but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

1 Kings 18:14 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: **and he shall slay me.**

He had good reasons for fear:

- **Murderous Jezebel**
- **Unpredictable Ahab**
- **Being found out – as a God-fearing man was not healthy**
- **Starvation**
- **Not finding...OR finding Elijah!**
- **Being found out - as a traitor**

3. Obadiah served out of a living relationship with God!

1 Kings 18:12 And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: **but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.** **1 Kings 18:13** Was it not told my lord **what I did** when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

1 Kings 18:3 And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (**Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:** **1 Kings 18:4** For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

Facts:

- **Obadiah was one who feared God**
- **From his youth**
- **Greatly**
- **One who lived it out (took, hid, fed)**
- **From his own self-report**
- **From the author's / narrator's comments**

1 Samuel 30:6 And David was **greatly** distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**