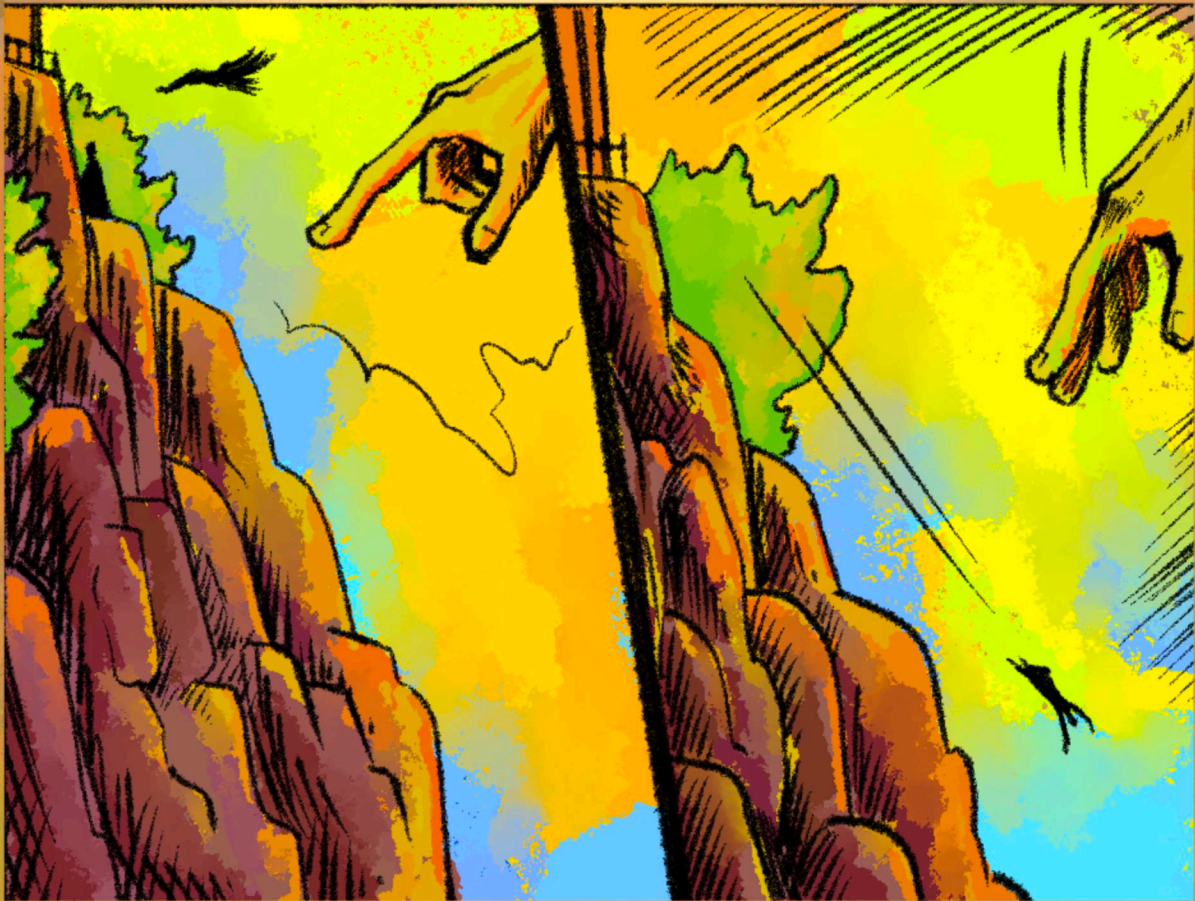


Through the Bible

OBADIAH

Zac Poonen



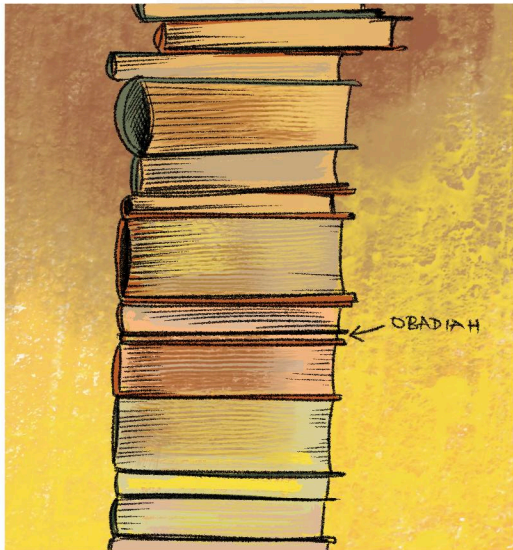
Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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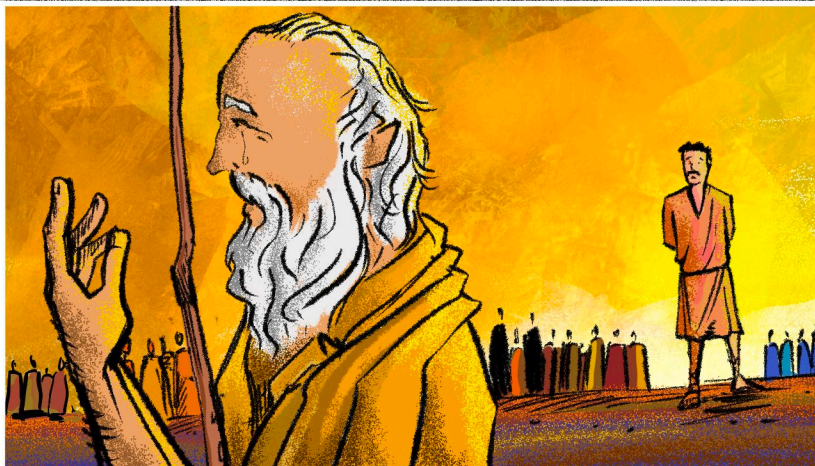
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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INDIA**

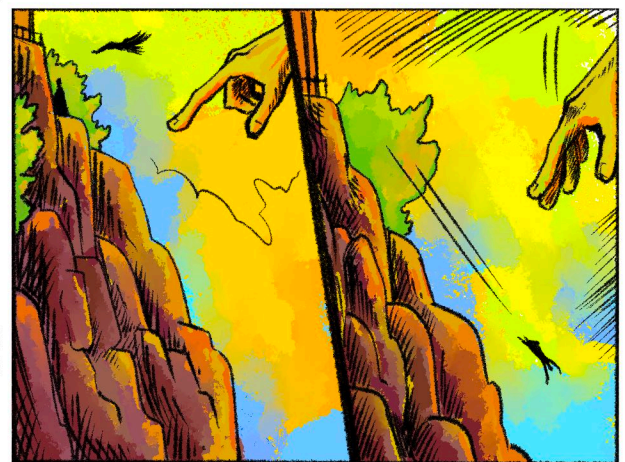
OBADIAH



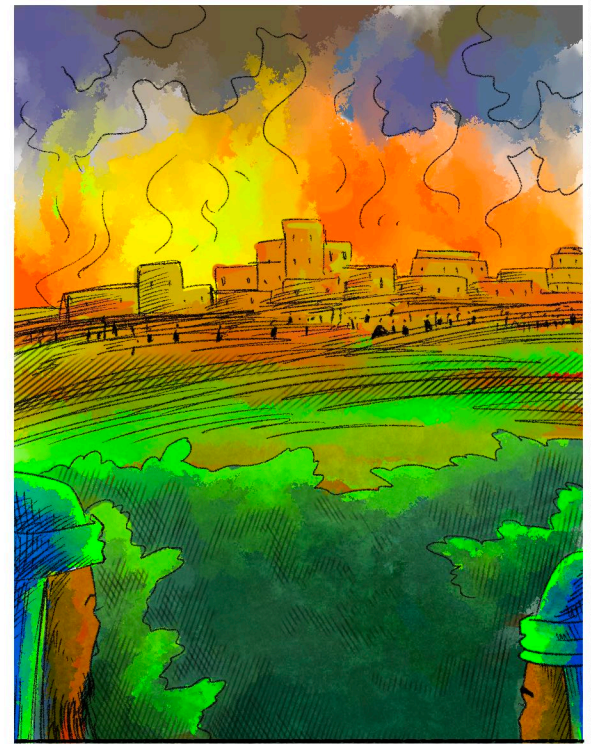
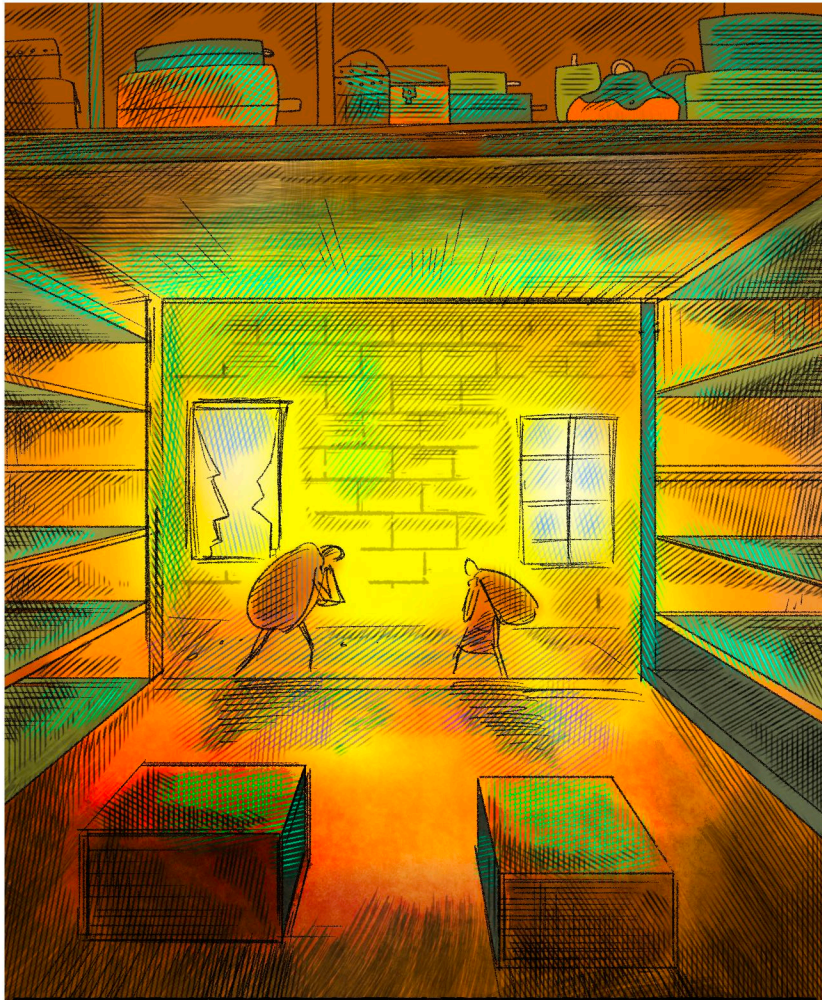
THE BOOK OF OBADIAH IS A VERY **SMALL** BOOK, WITH JUST **ONE** CHAPTER. **WHY** DID OBADIAH WRITE SUCH A SMALL BOOK? THE **PRIMARY** REASON OF COURSE, IS THAT **GOD** GAVE HIM VERY LITTLE TO WRITE. BUT THE INTERESTING FACT IS THAT OBADIAH WAS **SENSITIVE** ENOUGH TO **STOP** WRITING WHEN THE **SPIRIT** HAD **STOPPED SPEAKING** -- UNLIKE SOME PREACHERS WHO PREACH **LONG, BORING** SERMONS **IMAGINING** THAT THEY ARE "**LED BY THE SPIRIT**"!!



HUMANLY SPEAKING, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER REASON TOO. OBADIAH WAS PROPHECYING AT THE SAME TIME AS **JEREMIAH**. AND HE MAY HAVE FELT THAT HE SHOULD PROPHECY VERY **LITTLE** IN THE **PRESENCE** OF THE **GODLY** JEREMIAH WHO HAD BEEN PROPHECYING FOR **30 YEARS** **ALREADY**. I SEE A **SPIRIT** OF **HUMILITY** THERE IN THAT ATTITUDE OF OBADIAH'S. OBADIAH SPOKE ABOUT **GOD'S JUDGEMENT** ON **EDOM**. **EDOM** IS A TYPE OF OUR **FLESH**.

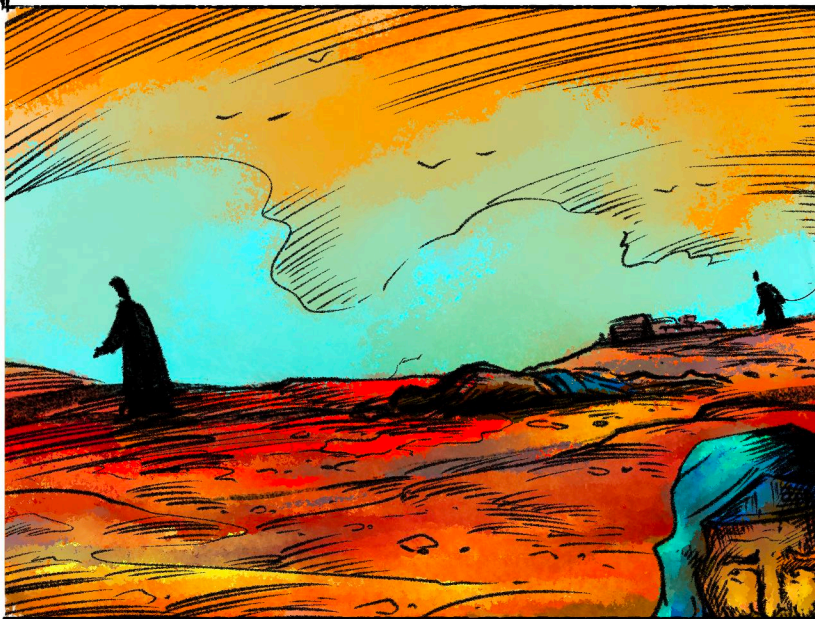


IT SPEAKS HERE ABOUT THE **PRIDE** OF **EDOM**. "YOU ARE PROUD BECAUSE YOU LIVE IN THOSE **HIGH, INACCESSIBLE** CLIFFS. 'WHO CAN EVER REACH US WAY UP HERE!' YOU BOAST. DON'T FOOL YOURSELVES! THOUGH YOU **SOAR** AS HIGH AS EAGLES, AND BUILD YOUR **NEST** AMONG THE **STARS**, I WILL BRING YOU **PLUMMETING** DOWN, SAYS THE **LORD**." (VERSES 3, 4).



EDOM WAS BEING **PUNISHED** BECAUSE IN THE TIME OF ISRAEL'S GREATEST **NEED**, WHEN THEY WERE BEING TAKEN CAPTIVE, THEY "DESERTED ISRAEL IN THEIR TIME OF NEED AND STOOD **ALOOF**, REFUSING TO LIFT A FINGER TO **HELP** HIM WHEN **INVADERS** CARRIED OFF THEIR WEALTH" (VERSES 10, 11).

THE FLESH ALWAYS SEEKS TO **EXALT** ITSELF. BUT GOD IS DETERMINED TO DESTROY THAT PRIDE COMPLETELY. IF THIEVES CAME AT **NIGHT** AND **ROBBED** YOU THEY WOULD NOT TAKE EVERYTHING. BUT HERE, "**EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY** WILL BE SEARCHED AND **ROBBED**, AND EVERY **TREASURE** FOUND AND TAKEN" (VERSE 6 - TLB). THE APPLICATION OF THIS FOR US IS THAT EVERY LITTLE CORNER THAT IS CALLED "**FLESH**" IN US, EVERY **LUST** OF THE FLESH, WILL BE **TOTALLY DESTROYED** AND **OVERCOME** BY THE POWER OF THE **SPIRIT**.

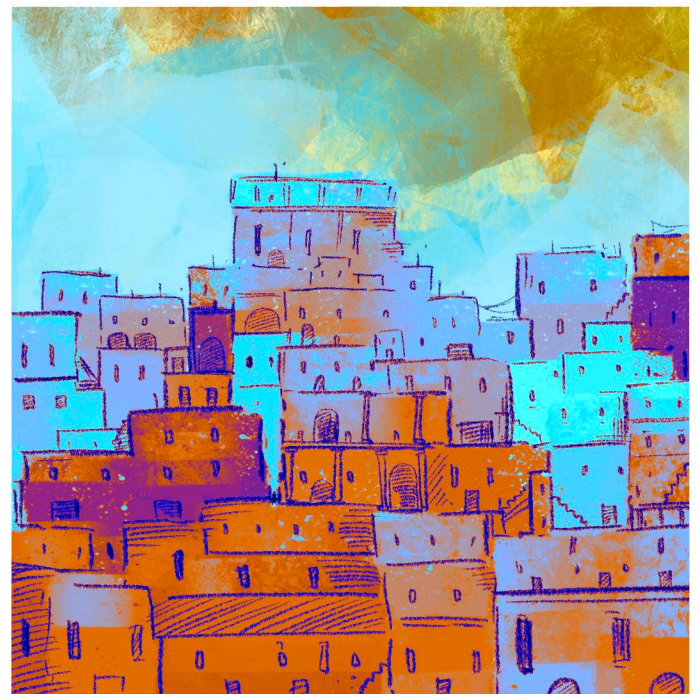


EDOM'S **SECOND SIN** WAS THAT THEY **GLOATED** OVER ISRAEL'S CAPTURE (VERSE 12). WHEN SOMETHING **BAD** HAPPENS TO **SOMEBODY** YOU **DON'T LIKE**, DO YOU FEEL **HAPPY**? THAT IS SIN. WE ARE **NOT** TO **REJOICE** OVER **SOMEONE ELSE'S MISFORTUNE**.

THERE ARE SINS OF **COMMISSION** AS WELL AS SINS OF **OMISSION**. OFTEN WHEN WE THINK OF SIN, WE THINK ONLY OF THE SINS THAT HAVE BEEN **COMMITTED**. NOTICE IN THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN THAT THE PRIEST AND LEVITE DID **NOT COMMIT** ANY SIN. THEY DID **NOT BEAT UP** THE **WOUNDED MAN**. THEIR SIN WAS THAT THEY DID **NOT LIFT A FINGER** TO HELP HIM (LUKE 10:29--37). DO WE REALISE THAT NOT HELPING A NEEDY PERSON IS A **SIN**? THAT IS A SIN OF **OMISSION**. EDOM DID NOT DO WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE -- AND THE LORD TOOK IT **SERIOUSLY**.



BUT THAT WAS NOT ALL. EDOM ATTACKED THOSE **HELPLESS** ISRAELITES AND **CUT** THEM DOWN AT THE **CROSSROADS** (VERSE 14). THEY **COOPERATED** WITH ISRAEL'S ENEMIES.



FINALLY THE LORD SPOKE ABOUT THE **RESTORATION** OF **ISRAEL**. ALMOST ALL THE **PROPHETS** SPOKE ABOUT **RESTORATION**. "**JERUSALEM** WILL BECOME A REFUGE FOR THOSE WHO **ESCAPE**" ONE DAY (VERSE 17). IT WILL BE A **HOLY** PLACE. AND THE PEOPLE OF **ISRAEL** WILL COME BACK TO **RECLAIM** THEIR **INHERITANCE**.



AT THAT TIME ISRAEL WILL BECOME A **FLAMING FIRE** FOR THE **LORD**, AND EDOM A FIELD OF **DRY STUBBLE** (VERSE 18).



"**DELIVERERS** WILL COME TO **JERUSALEM** AND **RULE** ALL **EDOM** (THE **FLESH**). AND THE **LORD** SHALL BE **KING!**" (VERSE 21). TODAY, GOD HAS CALLED **US** TO BE THOSE **DELIVERERS**, **PROCLAIMING** TO GOD'S **BACKSLIDDEN** PEOPLE, "BEHOLD YOUR **KING!**" AND INVITING THEM TO COME **BACK** TO HIM.



WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF EDOM'S FALL? "THE **PRIDE** OF YOUR HEART HAS **DECEIVED** YOU" (VERSE 3). WHEN WE ARE **PROUD**, WE **OPEN** OURSELVES TO **SPIRITUAL DECEPTION** -- BECAUSE **PRIDE** IS THE VERY **NATURE** OF **SATAN**, THE **DECEIVER**. SINS THAT ARE **OUTWARD** AND **OBTAIN** ARE NOT AS **SERIOUS** AS SINS THAT ARE **HIDDEN**. LET US LEARN FROM HIS BRIEF EXHORTATION TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE IN **CAPTIVITY** TO THEIR **FLESH**, AROUND US, AND TO **PROCLAIM** TO THEM THAT **JESUS** CAN **DELIVER** THEM **COMPLETELY**.