

**Divine Justice**  
**Obadiah**

**When is it Sunny?**

Sometimes we feel like God doesn't care.  
Our day is going bad, or even our life.  
Sad things happen, we don't feel well.  
It's always raining.  
We wonder if it will ever be sunny again.  
But the truth is often hidden from us.  
When is it Sunny?

It's actually sunny every day.  
We just can't see it from below the clouds.  
Our perspective can be blocked by sadness or pain or people.  
The sun is still there when it rains.  
God is still with us when things are hard or sad.  
So always remember...

There will always be cloudy days from time to time.  
But the sun never stops shining  
And God never stops loving you.  
Never forget this.  
Amen.

**Obadiah**  
**Divine Justice**  
**Obadiah**

42 years ago, a young officer led a bloodless coup.  
Overnight, he led his country from being a Western friendly monarchy  
to an Islamic republic.  
But as the days passed his power grew.  
He expelled or imprisoned foreigners.  
And he began to publicly execute anyone who dared question him.  
All this happened within a year of his rule.  
He terrorized and took advantage of his citizens.  
He waged war with his neighbours.  
He invested in chemical and nuclear weapons research.

He tried to destroy the Berber minority group in his own country.  
He funded terrorist groups like the IRA and others who conducted bombings,  
Including bringing down an aircraft in Lockerbie Scotland.  
The Nations of the world protested.  
But Ghadaffi, the despot, the madman, the dictator had a trump card.  
Libya is one of the primary oil producing countries in the world.  
And although the vast majority of people of Libya are poor, Ghadaffi was not.  
The world cut a deal with Ghadaffi.  
He would stop his weapons programs,  
he would pay the victims of some of his international crimes  
he would provide intelligence on the region  
And the world would buy his oil and lots of it.  
He was given a seat at the UN.  
Visited by world leaders.  
All seemed well.  
The victims were buried under oil and sand, the oppressed remained voiceless.  
Where is God? Does he care? Is he just?

Four Thousand Years ago, two twin brothers were born.  
One was named Jacob and his name was changed to Israel  
- he became father to a nation that bears his name.  
The other older one was named Esau and he carried the nick-name, Edom.  
- he too became the father of a nation named Edom.

The nations of Edom and Israel lasted for over a thousand years as neighbours.  
But when Israel fell upon bad times, when other nations were pillaging them,  
Edom would not lift a finger to help them.  
In fact, the text of Obadiah tell us that they took advantage  
and joined in the oppression and even the slaughter.  
They laughed at Israel's misfortunes, secure in their own position.  
Where is God? Doesn't he care? Is he just?

Today, in our lives and in the lives of those we might know.  
Today in our world as we are aware of oppression, abuse and injustice.  
We too may ask, Where is God? Does God really care about me, about us?  
We are tempted to live in confusion seeing only the rainy cloudy days.  
God feels absent and we feel empty.  
But just because we can't see the sun doesn't mean it has stopped shining.

Obadiah the prophet provides a promise to all who are oppressed.  
All who mourn injustice.  
God will repay those who do evil.  
Not just individuals but entire cultures.  
For some reason, archaeologists can find absolutely no evidence  
of the nation of Edom after 667 B.C.  
It's entire culture simply vanishes.  
And is lost in time.

October 20th, 2011.

Muammar Mohamed Abu Minyar Al- Gaddafi is killed by his own people.  
42 years after he took power.

The fall of Assyria, the fall of Babylon, the fall of Persia, the fall of the  
Macedonians under Alexander, the fall of the Greeks, the fall of Rome, the fall  
of the Carolingians, the fall of the Holy Roman Empire, the fall of colonialism,  
the fall of facism, the fall of communism.

My Old Testament Professor once told us,  
"The wheels of justice grind mighty slowly but they grind mighty fine."  
But these large-scale acts of God are not the only victories to be had.

The reconciliation between brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, children  
and parents, husbands and wives, old friends, old enemies, who find grace,  
understanding, peace, joy, truth, hope, faith and love.  
These are smaller miracles but not lesser ones.  
This is what we are invited to believe - That all will fall at the feet of God.

### **Falling At Your Feet**

Daniel Lanois

Share with two or three other people how you are being invited to trust God.