



BOOK OF OBADIAH

Author: Obadiah
Theme: Judgment on Edom
Date of Writing: About 840 B.C.

Outline

1. **The Judgment of Edom (1-14)**
 - A. Destruction to come on Edom (1-4)
 - B. Devastation will be complete (5-9)
 - C. Reason: Their Joy at Judah's trouble (10-14)

2. **"The Day of the Lord" (15-21)**
 - A. Judgment on Edom and other nations (15-16)
 - B. Israel's Place in "*The Day of the Lord*" (17-21)
 1. Salvation for Israel (17-18a)
 2. Destruction for Israel (18b)
 3. Israel's Borders Enlarged as part of God's Kingdom

A Summary of Obadiah

(1) God's message to Edom through Obadiah (which is already being enacted) is: (2-4) "I will bring you proud Edomites down. (5-9) Your devastation will be total and your allies, wisdom, and military might will not be able to prevent it. (10-14) I will do so because of your malicious and treacherous behaviour towards Judah and (15-16) this judgment will happen as and when I step in to judge all the nations. (17-21) But my people will be delivered and, as agents of judgment, will defeat you Edomites – and they will take possession of their inheritance, exercising righteous rule over Edom."

Background

The Book of Obadiah is found in both the [Hebrew Bible](#) and the [Old Testament](#) of the [Christian Bible](#), where it is the shortest book, only one chapter long. Its authorship is generally attributed to a person named [Obadiah](#), which means "servant (or worshipper) of the Lord". Obadiah is classified as a "[minor prophet](#)" in the Christian Bible due to the brevity of the writing (only 21 verses) and the content (prophetic material). An [Old Testament](#) prophet was not only a person who was given divine insight into future events, but a person whom the Lord used to declare his word.

The first nine verses in the book foretells of total destruction in the land of [Edom](#) at the hand of the Lord. Obadiah writes that this destruction will be so complete that it will be even worse than a thief who comes at night, for not even a thief would destroy everything. The Lord will allow all allies of Edom to turn away and help chase Edom out of its land. **What is the reason for such a harsh punishment?** Verses ten through fourteen explain that when Israel (the Lord's chosen people) was attacked, Edom refused to help them, thus acting like an enemy. What is even worse is that Edom and Israel share a common blood line through their founders who were brothers, Jacob and Esau. Because of this gross neglect of a relative, Edom will be covered with shame and destroyed forever. The final verses, fifteen through twenty-one, depict the restoration of Israel and the wiping out of the Edomites. Verse eighteen says that there will be no survivors from the house of Esau once the destruction is complete. Israel will become a holy place and its people will return from exile and inhabit the land once inhabited by the Edomites. The final verse of the prophecy places the Lord as King who will rule over all the mountains of Edom.

In today's lesson on the book of Obadiah we see the writer prophesying the demise of the nation of Edom; this nation was full of pride as it boasted that no one could conquer her because the nation was set in a mountainous region and that they had a natural place of defense; the thing they failed to realize was that Jehovah God had an aught against them because they would not help the nation of Israel when other nations attacked her, not only would they not help but they also helped other nations fight against God's people. As we look at scripture we see that the Edomites were not only neighbors of the Israelites they were blood relatives; the descendants of Esau the twin brother of Jacob. They had a strong hostility against their cousins causing them to attack and pillage the tribes of Israel as though they were total strangers. In the message God gave Obadiah it was a message of doom for the Edomites that they would not only be defeated but they would be completely destroyed for their aggressions against their blood relatives. let's take this lesson to heart. God has not changed, we must treat not allow evil to come into our heart against the people of God, in my conclusion of this lesson the Lord said in Galatians 6:7 *Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Scripture Lesson

Obadiah (King James Version)

Obadiah 1

1: The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

2: Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

3: The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

4: Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

5: If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grape gatherers came to thee, would they not leave some grapes?

6: How are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!

7: All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.

8: Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

9: And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

10: For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

11: In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.

12: But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

13: Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity;

14: Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

15: For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

16: For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

17: But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

18: And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.

19: And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

20: And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

21: And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

Obadiah Pre-Test

To be completed after first class on study of Obadiah

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Check the best answer.

1. What caused those from Edom to be proud? (3-4)

- They had great walls around their cities
 - They had a strong army
 - They had much wealth
 - They lived high in the clefts of the rocks
 - None of the above
-

2. Whom will the LORD destroy out of Edom? (8)

- The dukes
 - The proud
 - The wicked
 - The wise men
 - None of the above
-

3. Over what did the men of Edom rejoice? (12)

- The children of Judah in the day of their destruction
 - The great walls around their cities
 - Their mighty men
 - Their past victories
 - None of the above
-

4. What will be done to them? (15)

- As they did, it shall be done to them
 - Their heads would be shaved
 - Their great toes would be cut off
 - Their reward shall return on their own head
 - Answer 1 & 4
-

5. What will remain of the house of Esau? (18)

- The educated
- The poor
- The rich
- The wise
- None of the above