

(To Edom)

Old Testament Survey : **O B A D I A H**

Author: Obadiah - His name means "Servant of Jehovah" (The name occurs 19 times in the O.T. referring to 13 different people. This Obadiah may have been one of the officials sent out by Jehoshaphat to teach the law in the cities of Judah - 2 Chronicles 17:7).

Date: 850-841 B.C.

There is invasion referenced in verses 10-14. The two possibilities are the revolt of Edom in 850-841 B.C. (2 Chron. 21:8-20) or the invasion by Babylon in 586 B.C. The earlier date is favored because there is no mention of the Chaldeans, the destruction of the city or temple, or the deportation of the all the people. Those who are taken captive are taken to the Negev instead of east to Babylon (vs. 2). Obadiah seems more parallel Amos, and Jeremiah quotes him in the same manner as he does Isaiah. Finally, there are no Aramaic expressions.

Biblical Context: 2 Kings 8:16-24, 2 Chronicles 21:1-20.

Contemporary: Elisha (reign of Jehoram)

Theme: Doom upon Edom - The judgment of Edom and the restoration of Israel.

Setting: Edom means "Red" and it refers to the nation that descended from Esau. The nation was located to the southeast of Israel. It was bordered by the Brook Zered in the North and the Gulf of Aquabba in the south - about 100 miles by 40 miles. In Num. 25:20 Edom denied Israel passage, yet Israel was told to be kind to them (Deut. 23). It was subjugated to Israel until the time of Jehoram. They were forced out of their capital, Sela (Petra) by the Arabs in 312 B.C. and then settled in Idumea. The Maccabeans subjected them in the 2nd Century B.C. and after the Roman conquest, Edom ceased to exist.

Outline:

I. The Coming Judgment of Edom 1:1-14

A. The Downfall (1-9)

B. The Cause (10-14)

II. The Coming Day of the Lord 1:15-21

A. Judgement on Edom and the Heathen (15,16)

B. Future deliverance of Israel, 17-20

C. Ultimate Messianic kingdom, 21

Obadiah - Text & Outline

I. The Coming Judgment of Edom 1:1-14

A. The Downfall (1-9)

Introduction. A case study of the Abrahamic covenant - Gen. 12:1-3 that God would bless those that bless Israel and bring to extinction those who slander them.

1:1 *The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom-- We have heard a report from the Lord, And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, "Arise and let us go against her for battle"--* 2 *"Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised.*

The nations are called to destroy Edom

3 *"The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?'*

The character of Edom is arrogant and proud

4 *"Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the Lord. 5 "If thieves came to you, If robbers by night-- O how you will be ruined!-- Would they not steal [only] until they had enough? If grape gatherers came to you, Would they not leave [some] gleanings? 6 "O how Esau will be ransacked, And his hidden treasures searched out! 7 "All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border, And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you. [They who eat] your bread Will set an ambush for you. (There is no understanding in him.)*

Vs. 5 Robbers by night - they were too secure to attack in the day

vs. 6 - They will not stop as normals thieves would, they take everything,

vs. 7 - her allies, those at peace with her and those eating her bread will turn against her

8 *"Will I not on that day," declares the Lord, "Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau? 9 "Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman, In order that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.*

Edom was on the King's Highway and so benefitted from the international trade of goods & wisdom

. Job 4:1 - three of Job's friends came from Edom.

Jer. 49:7 - Edom was noted for their wise men - Teman a city of wise men

B. The Cause (10-14)

10 *"Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered [with] shame, And you will be cut off forever. 11 "On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem-- You too were as one of them. 12 "Do not gloat over your brother's day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast In the day of [their] distress. 13 "Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster. Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity In the day of their disaster. And do not loot their wealth In the day of their disaster. 14 "And do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives; And do not imprison their survivors In the day of their distress.*

Reasons: Their violence - vs. 10

For standing aloof (לִּנְיָה) - vs. 11. Daniel 10:13 uses same word for the Prince of the Kingdom of

Persia standing against the angel going to Daniel.

They were involved in the destruction of Judah / Jerusalem

"Strangers carried off his wealth" - possibly removal of people as well as things for the next line indicates that there is no one to protect the city from foreigners

This is further demonstrated in commands not to gloat at or join in Israel's destruction.

They stood by (11), rejoiced/gloated (12), participated (13), persecuted (14)

Results: "cut off forever" - vs. 10 This was brought to full completion in 70 A.D., but for all practical purposes it occurred under the Macabbeans.

II. The Coming Day of the Lord 1:15-21

A. Judgement on Edom and the Heathen (15,16)

15 *"For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. 16 "Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow, And become as if they had never existed.*

It will be done to them as they have done

B. Future deliverance of Israel, 17-20

17 *"But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions. 18 "Then the house of Jacob will be a fire And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau [will be] as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau," For the Lord has spoken. 19 Then [those of] the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And [those of] the Shephelah the Philistine [plain]; Also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin [will possess] Gilead. 20 And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel, Who are [among] the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Will possess the cities of the Negev.*

Some will escape. There will be a remnant and they will occupy their previous borders

Zarephath is north near Tyre. Sepharad is Spain

C. Ultimate Messianic kingdom, 21

21 *The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the Lord's.*

The Theocratic rule will be restored

The Day of the Lord is used four ways:

1. The specific time of God's judgement upon Israel and Judah.
2. God's decisive judgment of Israel's enemies
3. God's universal judgement against all ungodly nations
4. The long time period from the Daniel's 70th week to the eternal state.