

## Obadiah Notes

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### Introduction:

Not much is known about this Obadiah. There are a few Obadiah's mentioned in the OT and none seem to fit the context of this prophet.

- Obadiah means "the servant and/or worshipper of God."

The book of Obadiah details a family conflict between the sons of Jacob and the sons of Esau (Gen. 25). Jacob gave rise to Israel (Gen. 32:28); the descendants of Esau to Edom (Gen. 25:30).

- God told Israel how to relate to Edom (Deut. 2:1-6). But in return, Edom regularly treated Israel unfairly (Num. 20:14-21).

### Chapter 1:

1:1 – "The vision" – Obadiah is a seer.

- "Obadiah" – We don't really know who this is.
  - Time-dating this book is also problematic. Traditionally, scholars have placed this in the context of the Babylonian invasion of Judah.
- "concerning Edom" – Edom is the focus of this prophecy ("report"). This prophecy is not spoken to Edom, but about it.
- "a messenger" – This seems to be a spiritual being who is sent to stir the nations against Edom.
- "nations" – Plural. (v. 15-16)

1:2 – "small" – Though at one time they were very powerful.

1:3 – "pride of your heart" – The root issue in this conflict.

- Pride means "to see myself above another."
- "By pride comes nothing but strife." (Prov. 13:10)
- "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?" (James 4:1)
- Satan fell by pride. (Isa. 14)
- "deceived you" – The first thing pride does is it makes it impossible to see the pride in our lives.
- "the clefts of the rock" – They are located in the desert area of Trans-Jordan; modern-day Jordan. The nation is nestled in the midst of a mountain range.
- "the rock" – Or "in Sela." Likely a reference to Petra. (2 Kings 14:7)
  - Petra is the rock-city of Edom carved right into the side of the rock. Petra was very difficult to attack, as the only main passage to Petra is through a narrow crevasse passable by only one horse and rider at a time.

1:5 – "till they had enough?" – A thief steals what they want and then runs away.

- Edom was completely ruthless to exploit a broken people.

1:6-9 – Three things the Edomites trusted in.

1:6 – "hidden treasures" – The accumulation of wealth.

- The allies of the Edomites would store their treasures in Edom. (The Swiss Bank of the ancient world.)
- "sought after" – God's judgment will not leave anything of them.

- 1:7 – “your confederacy” – Trusting in human allies.
- 1:8 – “wise men from Edom” – Relying on human wisdom.
- God is going to remove the wisdom from this nation.
- 1:9 – “Teman” – Eliphaaz, from the book of Job, was from Teman.
- “cut off by slaughter” – Today, only Bedouins live in that area. Otherwise, it is a dry, barren area.
- 1:10 – “Jacob” – God uses Jacob’s given name to take particular note of the brother relationship between Jacob and Esau.
- That pride played out in their relationship with Israel/Judah at a time of judgment in Israel.
  - “cut off forever” – The last of the Edomite dynasty was the Idumean kings, Herod the Great and his sons.
- 1:11 – “In the day” – God takes note of the particular day Esau turned against Israel.
- “you were one of them” – They sided with Israel’s enemies.
  - Esau “piled on” when God dealt with Israel.
- 1:12 – “rejoiced over the children of Judah” – Justice is necessary, but it is not a subject of rejoicing when it requires death and destruction. (Ps. 137:7)
- God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. (Ezek. 18)
  - “Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the Lord see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him.” (Prov. 24:17-18)
- 1:13 – “gazed on their affliction” – Repeated from v. 12.
- “laid hand on their substance” – They used this judgment as an opportunity to prosper themselves.
- 1:14 – “stood at the crossroads” – Those of Edom caught the Jews as they were fleeing from Nebuchadnezzar as he was taking Judah and Jerusalem.
- The lack of mercy is the evidence of pride.
  - Adding trouble to someone going through a hard time (especially when the hard time is brought on by Satan, like Job) and ripping someone off who is in desperate straights (he was in such a bad spot, that I got his \$600 guitar for \$25) are both pride and need not be a part of a believer’s life.
  - “delivered up” – As traitors.
- 1:15-16 – “the day of the Lord” – A specific time period still to come. (Joel)
- “all the nations” – Edom serves as a type of the judgment to come on all the unbelieving nations that oppose the people of God.
  - “reprisal shall return upon your own head” – They will reap what they sow. (Gal. 5)
  - “you drank on My holy mountain” – Nations that conquered Jerusalem celebrated their victory at the Temple Mount by getting drunk and practicing sexually immoral idol worship.
    - The Antichrist will most completely desecrate the Temple.
  - “they shall drink” – Lit. “continually drink.” The cup of God’s wrath.
    - Jesus took this cup for the believer.

- 1:17 – “on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance” – The future restoration of Israel.
- God’s judgment...for His people, it is restorative discipline; for unbelievers it is eternal destruction.
  - “there shall be holiness” – Holiness will mark those days.
- 1:18 – “Jacob shall be a fire” – God will use Israel (and all of God’s people) to judge the unbelieving world.
- The enemies of Israel and her Messiah will submit to Israel and her Messiah.
- 1:19 – “mountains of Esau” – On the Sinai.
- Jimmy Carter worked give this land away from Israel.
  - “Philistia” – The Gaza Strip.
  - “fields of Ephraim” – The West Bank.
  - “Gilead” – The Golan Heights.
  - In the Kingdom Age, all this land will belong to Israel.
  - Over 50% of the drinking water of Israel comes out of the West Bank and Golan Heights regions.
- 1:20 – “Zarephath” – To the north, by Tyre and Sidon.
- 1:21 – “saviors” – Lit. “judges.”
- The Christian Church will return to Israel to rule and reign with Christ. (Ps. 149:5-9)
  - “the kingdom shall be the Lord’s” – The reign of Christ on the earth.
  - The nation of Israel back in the land is a sociological miracle. “The budding of the fig tree.”