

Obadiah
(Poetic Justice)

Author:

The author is an unknown prophet of Judah by the name of Obadiah (1:1). A number of Old Testament men were named Obadiah. These include an officer in David's army (1 Chr 12:9), Ahab's servant who hid God's prophets (1 Kgs 18:3), a Levite in the days of Josiah (2 Chr 34:12), and a leader who returned from the Exile with Ezra (Ezra 8:9). Nothing is known of Obadiah's home town or family. The fact that his father is not named suggests that he was not out of a kingly or priestly line.

Date:

The shortest book of the Bible, containing only 21 verses, bears the distinction of being the most difficult to date of the minor prophets. Regarding the date Ryrie writes:

The question of date relates to which battle against Jerusalem the Edomites were associated with (1:11-14). There were four significant invasions of Jerusalem in Old Testament times: (1) by Shishak, king of Egypt, during Rehoboam's reign, in 926 B.C. (1 Kgs 14:25-26); (2) by the Philistines and Arabians during the reign of Jehoram, from 848-841 (2 Chr 21:16-17); (3) by King Jehoash of Israel during the reign of Amaziah, in 790 (2 Kgs 14:13-14); (4) by Babylon during the years 605-586 (2 Kgs 24-25). Obadiah prophesied against Edom either in connection with invasion #2 or #4. If the first, this book is the earliest of the writing prophets (see 2 Kgs 8:20 and 2 Chr 21:16-17; then see Joel 3:3-6 compared with Obad 1: 11-12 and the use of Obad 1:1-9 in the extended passage in Jer 49:7-22 as support for the earlier date). (Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible, Expanded Edition*, Moody, p. 1415)

This prophecy is probably not yet fulfilled and is a reference to Jordan or Saudi Arabia.

Title of the Book:

The Hebrew name àObadyah means "servant or worshipper of *Yahweh*."

Theme and Purpose:

The theme of Obadiah is a reiteration of the truth that pride goes before a fall. Obadiah declares that Edom stands judged and under certain doom because of her pride in rejoicing over the misfortunes that befell Jerusalem.

Key Word:

Judgment on Edom. Combined, Edom and Esau occur nine times.

Key Verses: 1:10,15,21

Christ As Seen In Obadiah:

Christ is seen in Obadiah as the judge of the nations (1:15-16), the Savior of Israel (1:17-20), and the Possessor of the kingdom (1:21).

Outline: Judgment For Failure To Bless Israel.

- I. The Prophecies of Judgment on Edom (1:1-9)
 - A. The Certainty of Judgment (1:1-4)
 - B. The Completeness of the Judgment (1:5-9)
- II. The Basis for the Judgment on Edom (1:10-14)
 - A. For an Absence of Brotherly Love (1:10)
 - B. For Aloofness (1:11-12)
 - C. For Aggressiveness (1:13-14)
- III. The Time of the Judgment (1:15)
- IV. The Results of the Judgment (1:16-18)
- V. The Deliverance of Israel (1:19-21)

Obadiah 1

I. The Prophecies of Judgment on Edom (1-9)

A. The Certainty of Judgment (1-4)

1). The Prophetic Vision. 1:1

The vision (**CHAZON**) of Obadiah.

Thus says the Lord GOD (**ADONAI YAHWEH**) concerning Edom—

We (**Jews**) have heard a report (**a hearing we have heard**) from the LORD (**YAHWEH**), And an envoy (**TZIR**) has been sent among the nations saying,

"Arise (**Qal Imp QUM**) and let us (**nations**) go (**Qal IPF + w.c. QUM = cohortative**) against her (**Edom**) for battle"—(**MILCHAMAH**)

Summary:

1. Obadiah is the _____ of a message that has been moving among the people of the nations.
2. As a prophet of Israel he adds _____ to the message, declaring it to be "from YAHWEH."
3. The message has a "sting" to it, meaning it is designed to be _____.
4. The commands are directed at the _____ to arise for battle against Edom.
5. The Edomites are the descendants of _____, Jacob's twin brother who rejected YAHWEH. Gen 25-36
 - a). While Jacob was no model of good character, Esau was worse.
 - b). Esau had a great many children, the vast majority of which did not worship the Lord.

- c). Esau sold his birthright for a “mess of pottage” that was red in color and thus he was called Edom which means “red.” Gen 25:30 cf 36:1
 - d). For this reason, Esau was “hated” by YAHWEH. Mal 1:3; Rom 9:13
6. The Edomites, who located at the south end of the Dead Sea, have been _____ to Israel all their days.
- a). They were unhappy when the Lord delivered Israel from Egypt. Exo 15:15
 - b). They refused to let Israel pass through their land. Num 20
 - c). The Jews were ordered not to detest them because they were their brothers. Deut 23:7
 - d). The Edomites were not part of the conquest. Josh 15:1
 - e). During the period of the Judges, they again refused transit through their land. Jud 11
 - f). David made the Edomites to be servants at one point in history. 2 Sam 8:14
 - g). Solomon had an Edomite for a wife. 1 Kgs 11:14
7. There are many prophecies against Edom yet to be _____.
- a). The bulk of them come together at the Second Advent. Isa 11; Isa 21; Isa 34; Isa 63; Jer 9; 25; 40; 49; Eze 25; 32; 35; 36; Dan 11; Joel 3; Amos 1
 - b). The main reason is a lack of national repentance during history and their persecution of Judah.
8. Edom is where the Kings of the East will be gathered at the _____ Advent. Rev 9:16; Rev 19:19-21
9. Based on the information in the balance of this book, this prophecy has not been *fulfilled*.



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2) A Specific Prophecy. 1:2

"Behold (**HINNEH**), I will make (**Qal PF NATHAN**) you (**Edom**) small (**QAtAN**) among the nations (**GOYIM**); You (**Edom**) are greatly despised. (**BAZAH**)

Summary:

1. Edom is called to pay careful attention to this prophecy from the Lord.
2. There will be a time when none of the nations will like the Edomites.
3. Edom is situated in modern day Jordan.
4. The King of the North, en route to defeat the King of the South during the Tribulation, will permit Edom, Moab and Ammon to stay. Dan 11:40-45
5. As Esau despised his birthright of the Abrahamic Covenant, nations will despise him. Gen 25:34
 - a). Conscious hatred of the Lord could bring the death penalty in Israel. Num 15:28-31
 - b). The Jews have frequently been the objects of this scorn over the years.
 - c). Especially the Messiah. Isa 53:1-3
 - d). The Jews came to despise their God by offering blemished sacrifices to Him. Mal 1:6-14