

OBADIAH (Teacher's Edition)

I. The Predictions of Judgment on Edom	1:1-9
II. The Reasons for Judgment on Edom	1:10-14
III. The Results of Judgment on Edom	1:15-16
IV. The Possession of Edom by Israel	1:17-21

AUTHOR AND WHEN THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN-

The author reveals himself as the prophet Obadiah, a name meaning "servant of the Lord" or "worshiper of Jehovah." This is all we know about him. His prophecy, though, can be dated with some certainty. Most believe the great humiliation of Israel that the prophet mentions was the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, beginning in 605 B.C. and ending with its final destruction in 586 B.C. Thus, the book must have been written shortly after the fall of the city, perhaps while the Israelites were still in Captivity in Babylon.

ABOUT THE BOOK, BASIC THEMES, & TRUTHS & APPLICATIONS-

This book is a condemnation of Edom, plain and simple. It deals with a history of bitter feelings that existed between Israel and Edom, a history that goes back to Jacob and Esau. The Babylonians attacked and finally destroyed Jerusalem over a period of some 20 years. It was these attacks that Edom used to quench their bitter thirst against their own relatives. They joined with the Babylonians, and helped in desecrating the land. In fact, they gloated over the destruction, prevented people from escaping and even helped hunt them down, either killing them or handing them over, and helped in the looting. Added to this was Edom's pride that they themselves would never be judged or destroyed (1-4). This was based on the fact that Petra, their major city, was an impregnable fortress built into solid rock and set deep in a canyon which could only be entered through a single, narrow, easily defended gap. To all this, Obadiah prophesies their sure doom and declares, "For your violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever" (v. 10). Edom is also told that those they helped in destroying Israel will turn on them and ultimately destroy them (7)!

In light of the above, consider this: Obadiah was written as an encouragement to the people of Judah who had just been through judgment! God assures them thru Obadiah that He will intervene to restore them and punish Edom, and in the end He will rule the kingdom.

If you think about this great little book, you will see that it addresses the matter of personal relationships. It is easy to allow those we know best to become the objects of our bitterest resentments. Edom should have sided

with Judah. But **years of bitterness** caused their **emotions to override** any good sense.

Edom's pride is continually dealt with. Why? Because **personal pride** prevents our seeing **the error of our ways** and builds **barriers to block** the way to reconciliation. This book calls us to confront the horrific cost of pride and shows us we will stand face to face with **an angry God** and try to justify ourselves. Hence, it speaks to **repentance and seeking reconciliation** in broken relationships and modeling a lifestyle of **forgiveness and acceptance**.

Ask God to reveal any areas of pride in you. God hates it! It is pride that makes us believe we are **invulnerable to attack**, and ultimately leads to **destruction in our lives**. Exalt God and glorify Him!

One prevailing theme we have in Obadiah is that **retribution is a reality**. Read verse 15; it is the OT version of Galatians 6:7. Refuse to judge others, knowing that **any judgment or criticism** you pass may **return to you**. **Do not rejoice in judgment on others!**

One last theme in Obadiah is that God keeps His covenants and takes covenant promises seriously. God keeps faith with His people no matter how faithless they are. He takes what others do to His people personally. Our sovereign God used other nations to accomplish His purposes in purifying His people- but He was already plotting Edom's doom and announcing future victory for His people.

A POSSIBLE KEY WORD-

Considering our discussion, this should make sense: **the judgment of Edom**.

KEY VERSE(S) AND CHAPTER-

With the understanding that this is a specific judgment against a specific nation because of a specific issue, I believe the key verse is: **OBADIAH 10**. As to the key chapter...well, get real!

JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

- ✓ **The saviors mentioned in 21 speak of judges or deliverers of which Jesus is the chief**
- ✓ **The day of the Lord (15) and the kingdom of God (21) anticipate Jesus' entry into the world**

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

- ✓ **The message from the Lord, the prophetic ministry and even the calling forth of nations are the working of the Spirit**