

Obadiah

I. Overview

- A. Obadiah is the shortest prophecy and the smallest book in the Old Testament
- B. Very little is known about Obadiah and his lineage or the time in which he prophesied
- C. His prophecy deals with the condemnation of Edom

II. History

A. Twin brothers

Genesis 25:21-25 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

Genesis 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. (red)

B. Unkindness to Israel

Numbers 20:14-21 And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us: How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers: And when we cried unto the LORD, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border: Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders. And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword. And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will

pay for it: I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet. And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand. Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

Outline

I. Concerning Edom

A. Edom, hear the news

Obadiah 1:1-2 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. Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

1. Obadiah is the spokesperson, but the message is from the Lord
2. The announcement is made that a messenger is being sent among nations to discuss Edom
3. The message encourages these nations to join together to battle against Edom

B. Edom, here are your problems

1. Their pride had lifted them up

Obadiah 1:3-4 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? 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.

- a) Edom had put their trust in their habitation – they thought because their cities were among the high rocks that they were invincible
- b) Regardless of how high they were, God could bring them down
- c) The higher up we go, the farther we have to fall

2. Their wealth would be taken from them
Obadiah 1:5-6 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 grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave some grapes? How are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!

a) The thieves would steal everything – nothing would be left behind

b) Everything would be taken including things they thought were hidden

3. Their partners would be no more
Obadiah 1:7 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.

a) They had made peace treaties with neighboring nations

b) Their alliances would turn against them

4. Their wise men would be destroyed
Obadiah 1:8 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?

5. Their fighting men would be defeated
Obadiah 1:9 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.

C. Edom, this is what you have done

1. They had been violent against Israel and Judah
Obadiah 1:10-11 For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever. 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.

2. They rejoiced when Judah was being attacked
Obadiah 1:12 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.

3. They had assisted the enemy when Judah was attacked
Obadiah 1:13-14 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; 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.

D. Edom, the day of the Lord is near

Obadiah 1:15-16 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. 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.

- 1.** God's judgment was forthcoming
- 2.** The principle of reaping what you sow is given – Edom would be rewarded for their wickedness with God's judgment
- 3.** They had drunk in celebration beforehand but now they would drink the cup of the wrath of God

II. Concerning Israel – Future Millennial Kingdom

A. God will deliver you

Obadiah 1:17-18 But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. 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.

- 1.** During the millennial kingdom Israel would again possess their land
- 2.** The house of Jacob (southern kingdom and the house of Joseph (northern kingdom) will again be reunited
- 3.** The house of Esau will be no more

B. God will give you your land that was promised

Obadiah 1:19-20 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. 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.

1. The Israelites would reclaim the land formerly inhabited by the Edomites, the Philistines and the Samaritans

2. The Israelites would possess the land of the Canaanites

C. Christ will rule from mount Zion – Jerusalem

Obadiah 1:21 And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.