

OBADIAH – CHAPTER 1:1-21 – The Coming Judgment on Edom; Esau Mistreated His Brother; Israel's Final Triumph

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Obadiah, the name means “Servant of the Lord” We don’t really know anything about him or for certain when this prophetic book was written.

The Coming Judgment on Edom

Destruction Declared vs 1-2: *Oba 1:1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom (We have heard a report from the LORD, And a messenger has been sent among the nations, saying, "Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle"):*

Oba 1:2 "Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You shall be greatly despised.

Destruction Described –

vs. 3-9: *Oba 1:3 The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'*

Oba 1:4 Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," says the LORD.

Oba 1:5 "If thieves had come to you, If robbers by night— Oh, how you will be cut off!— Would they not have stolen till they had enough? If grape-gatherers had come to you, Would they not have left some gleanings?

Oba 1:6 "Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! How his hidden treasures shall be sought after!

v. 1 Obadiah – He was sent to the proudest of people- the Edomites. His name speaks a servant or a worshipper of the Lord, but who he was we know not. We - The prophets, have heard. A rumor - Not an uncertain report, but it comes from God. Is sent - By the Lord first, and next by Nebuchadnezzar who executed on Edom what is here foretold. The nations - Those that were with, or subject to Nebuchadnezzar.

v. 2 Edom—they *were* a great people, as we are going to see in this book—are now going to be brought down. Obadiah gives this as a prophecy which looks to the future, but from where we stand today, we see that it has been fulfilled. An ambassador is sent and doom is declared.

v. 3 What was the great sin of Edom which brought about God's judgment upon her? "**The pride of your heart has deceived you.**" What was it for which God hated Edom? It was *pride*. I am confident that, the minute I say this, the wind is taken out of the sails of many of my readers. They are going to say, "Is that *all*? Pride is bad, but it's not that bad, is it?" Description of the coming destruction.

v. 4 **God will bring you down** - God who is in the heavens would throw thee down. When men could not marshal armies against thee, stars should fight in their courses against thee. Nothing can stand which God will cast down, Jer 49:16-17. You're going down!

v. 5 **Your treasures will be stolen!** If thieves - If thieves by day had spoiled thee, they would not have thus stripped thee. Robbers - If robbers in the night had been with thee, they would have left somewhat behind them. "Till they had enough - But here is nothing left. **Allies kept their treasures in Petra, thinking that's where they would be safe!** When the city was discovered in 1812, there were no treasures to be found, which is most amazing! **Not one thing (artifact) was found**-unique in the history of archaeology.

v. 6 Esau - The father of this people, put for his posterity. Sought up - All that the Edomites had laid up in the most secret places, **are seized and brought forth by soldiers.**

FOX NEWS – 1/24/15 -Netanyahu snub takes relations with White House to a new low. White House furious over Netanyahu and Boehner meeting. The White House announced that Obama won't meet with Netanyahu during his visit because of the proximity to Israeli elections.

Obadiah – The promised destruction of Edom the most minor (shortest) of the minor (shorter) prophets – only 21 verses. **But what an important message!** Important to the Edomites, the proudest of people, **and important to us.** God desires to show the world what those who walk according to His will and those who don't or won't. God sovereignly chose Abraham to show the people and nations of the world the blessings and lack thereof on how they responded to Abraham and his descendants! Abraham to Isaac; Isaac to Jacob (Israel) and Esau! Esau (Edom) was rejected because he was carnal. All along the promise was given to Jacob, who had a real heart for God. One day, when hungry, Esau traded his birthright for some red stew, because he cared not for spiritual things. Enmity developed between Esau and Jacob. Jacob left and went to Syria. Esau married some pagan wives and started another major family, located southeast of Jerusalem in area, today, a part of Jordan. Three major cities were developed; **Bozrah, Teman, and Petra.** For years Petra was undiscovered and Bible critics say that that city was just a myth. In 1812, Swiss explorer, Johann Burckhardt, found the city of Petra. Led by a guide, allegedly going to offer a sacrifice to Aaron and to Esau, up through the very narrow path and came to Petra, cliffs as far as you see. He had discovered the rock city of Petra, which held up to a million people. Because the only way in and out of the city was the narrow path, the Edomites thought they were absolutely safe. **They were very proud and very arrogant.** Obadiah was sent with the messages to the Edomites.

His message –

Predicted destruction of the Edomites. – vs. 1-16
The Promised Restoration of the Israelites – vs. 17-21

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Oba 1:7 All the men in your confederacy Shall force you to the border; The men at peace with you Shall deceive you and prevail against you. Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it.

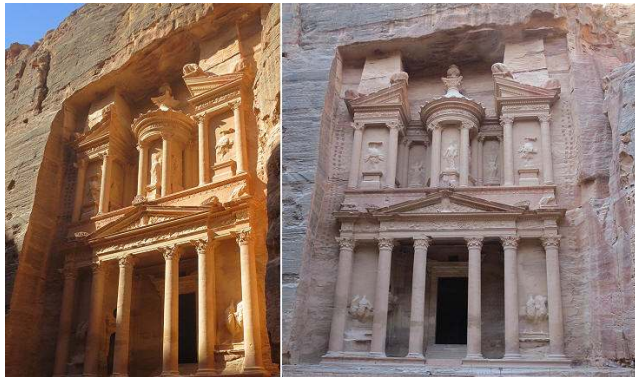
Oba 1:8 "Will I not in that day," says the LORD, "Even destroy the wise men from Edom, And understanding from the mountains of Esau?"

Oba 1:9 Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau May be cut off by slaughter.

Edom Mistreated His Brother

Why Destruction was Deserved!

Oba 1:10 "For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.



v. 7 Treaties subverted! Deceived by their diplomats and allies - Your confederacy - Thy confederates have marched with thee until thou wert come to the borders of thy country. Deceive you - Proved treacherous. Prevailed - Treacherously. A wound - A snare armed with sharp points. No one is aware of it.

v. 8 Wise men out - Troops slaughtered! Not only was Edom noted for the fact that they were well protected in their rocky mountain fastness, in the beautiful city of Petra, but they also had developed a **wisdom and learning and superstition**. Petra was a pagan center where there were many "pillar cults." Expeditions have excavated the great high place on top of the mountains round about Petra where bloody human sacrifices had been offered. Edom was famous for its wisdom. Job's friend, Eliphaz, was a Temanite (see [Job 4:1](#)). People traveled from afar to hear the wisdom of its wise men (see [Jer 49:1](#)). God says that He will destroy the wise men out of Edom and understanding out of the mount of Esau.

v. 9 - "Teman" takes its name from a grandson of Esau and is located in the southern portion of Edom. The Temanites were noted for their courage. Your wise and mighty men are going to be slaughtered. Known for **their military ability and intellectual capability**. Regardless of your capabilities, Edom, you're going down!

v. 10 CRIME OF EDM – What did they do that this destruction is pronounced~ In verses [Oba 1:10](#) through [Oba 1:14](#), Obadiah is going to give a list or a catalog of the reasons that God is going to destroy Edom. **The pride of life was their great sin, but it led also to the committing of other sins.** Pride is an attitude, but **it is an attitude that you cannot conceal very long. It is going to break out like a running cancer because it is such a tremendous driving force in man.** Your philosophy of life is going to gradually work its way down into your fingers, your feet, your eyes, and all your senses. You are going to express that philosophy in some way. If you are godless, you are going to lead a godless life. If you are godly, you are going to lead a godly life—that naturally follows. Therefore, Obadiah is now going to spell out the terrible sins that came from Edom's pride of life.



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Oba 1:11 In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem— Even you were as one of them.

Oba 1:12 "But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly In the day of distress.

Oba 1:13 You should not have entered the gate of My people In the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction In the day of their calamity, Nor laid hands on their substance In the day of their calamity.

Oba 1:14 You should not have stood at the crossroads To cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained In the day of distress.

Israel's Final Triumph – Promised Restoration of Israel
Oba 1:15 "For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.

Oba 1:16 For as you drank on My holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been.

Oba 1:17 "But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

v. 11 You encouraged Israel's foes - Instead of attempting to befriend and help the people of Israel, to whom they were related by blood, they went over to the side of the brutal enemy which had invaded the land. Philistines around 840 B.C. or to Babylon in 587B.C.

v. 12 They rejoiced over the calamity that had come to Judah. That is always an action of pride. When you hear someone rejoicing over the trouble that another individual is having, you may be sure that you are listening to someone who is very proud. Pride is something that God says He *hates*.

v. 13 Now the fourth heartless action of the Edomites is **looting**— Not only did they join with the enemy against Israel, but they actually moved in to loot and plunder after the enemy had taken Israel away into captivity. Pride will lead a man to do some terrible things, and one of them is to steal. **Ps. 137:7 "Raise it, Raise it!" – mow it down!**

v. 14 They enslaved Israel's fugitives They hit bottom when they did this. In this they revealed their animal philosophy of the survival of the fittest. They betrayed their brothers. You see, when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem, the inhabitants scattered and many of them fled to the rugged country of Edom where they could hide. The Edomites, standing at the crossroads, would betray their hiding places. They betrayed their brothers. -**cf. Ez. 35:5-6**

v. 15 As you have done, it shall be done to you! The day - The time which the Lord hath appointed for the punishing of this, and other nations. As thou hast done - Perfidiously, cruelly, and ravenously, against Jacob.

v. 16 God says to Edom, "As you have done, it is going to be done to you. You will be rewarded in the same way." The Lord Jesus said, "As you judge, so shall you be judged" (see **Mat 7:1**). Or, "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap" (see **Gal 6:7**). Edom will suffer in the same ways that she caused others to suffer. **Eaten up, swallowed down!**

v. 17 Zion They shall possess their possessions- Literally this refers to the Jews: typically to the gospel - church. Deliverance - A remnant that shall be delivered by Cyrus, a type of Israel's redemption by Christ. Holiness - The temple, the city, the people returned from captivity shall be holy to the Lord. Their possessions - Their own ancient possessions.

Vs. 17-21 When the Lord comes back, all shall be Israel's that was intended to be hers. The Edomites, however, would be burned as stubble. Centuries after this prophecy was given, A.D. 70, when the Romans came into the area, due to guerilla warfare and disease, the Edomites could not effectively resist them. But when the heard there were rebels in Jerusalem stand up to the Romans, according to Josephus, **the 20,000 remaining Edomites joined them and holed up in the temple.** When Titus began to burn Jerusalem and destroy the temple, **history tell us that 8,500 Edomites were burned alive with tit. The remaining 12,000 Edomites were slaughtered in the city or outside the city gates.** This is why you'll never meet an Edomite. They were permanently destroyed.

SUMMARY –Obadiah's prophecy ends by saying that, although Edom will be destroyed, Israel will go on.
Ethnically – this is a reminder to all people at all times tha God's hand in on the Jews in a very special way. In the Book of Genesis, God declared that those who blesse d them would be blessed while those who cursed them would themselves be cursed (12:3)
Personally it should speak to each one of us! – Hey, I'm safe and secure! **Prov. 6:16-19** – God says the number one thing that I hate is **PRIDE!** He despises pride!
1- Pride makes you independent from God. "I don't need to seek God anymore;! Independence is the result. And this separates you from all blessings from God. It's when you're broken you depend on Him. Monitor your prayer life. When you're proud you don't pray! When you're broken you come to prayer meetings, you have morning devotions.
2. Pride makes us insensitive to others! Pride moves us **into apathy** when others suffer. "They're getting what they deserve". We also **see jealousy** moving in. Not caring about others and their suffering, but being jealous of them. **Prov. 13:10 – "Only by pride comes contention!"**

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Oba 1:18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

Oba 1:19 The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, And the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim And the fields of Samaria. Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

Oba 1:20 And the captives of this host of the children of Israel Shall possess the land of the Canaanites As far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Shall possess the cities of the South.

Oba 1:21 Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

HUMBLE THYSELF IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD!

*Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord;
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord.
And He (And He) shall lift (shall lift)
You up (higher and higher)
And He (And He) shall lift (shall lift) you up. (3x+)*

v.18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire and the house of Esau shall be stubble! This was fulfilled in part by Hyrcanus and the Maccabees, 1 Macc. 5:3, but will be more fully accomplished, when the Lord shall make his church as a fire to all its enemies.

v. 19 They - The Jews who live in the south parts of Canaan, next Idumea, shall after their return and victories over Edom, possess his country. Of the plain - The Jews who dwell in the plain country, shall enlarge their borders, possess the Philistines country, together with their ancient inheritance. The former was fully accomplished by Hyrcanus. And if this were the time of fulfilling the one, doubtless it was the time of fulfilling the other also. And all the land which the ten tribes possessed, shall again be possessed by the Jews. Gilead - Here is promised a larger possession than ever they had before the captivity; and it does, no doubt, point out the enlargement of the church of Christ in the times of the gospel.

v. 20 t The captivity - Those of the ten tribes that were carried away captive by Shalmaneser. Of the Canaanites - All the country they anciently possessed with this addition, that what the Canaanites held by force, and the Israelites could not take from them, shall now be possessed by these returned captives. Zarephath - Near Sidon. Of Jerusalem - The two tribes carried captive by Nebuchadnezzar. Sepharad - Probably a region of Chaldea. The cities - All the cities which were once their own.

v. 21 Saviors – Leader, deliverers, literally the leaders of those captive troops, who shall come up from Babylon, such as Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Mystically, Christ and his apostles, and other preachers of the gospel. To judge - To avenge Israel upon Edom. The Lord's - The God of Israel, Jehovah, shall be honored, obeyed, and worshipped by all.

Pride is the root to all contention. Humility is solution to all contention. *Prov. 16:18 Pride goes before destruction...* We will go down if there is pride in our hearts. What's the solution? – **First is the confession of sin.** Confession of sin will keep you humble-both to God and to others. Confessing your faults to others! The second solution to pride lies in humiliation of self! **2 Cor. 12:2** *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.* **2Cor. 12:7** *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.*

2Cor. 12:8 *Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.* **2Cor. 12:9** *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* **2Cor. 12:10** *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* Is there someone who humiliates you constantly? Embrace him! Is there a temptation that taunts you incessantly? Are you plagued by a physical infirmity? **Accept what the Lord is doing though it because it's keeping you humble.** This will keep you tender toward people and dependent upon the Lord. **Humility and brokenness are of utmost importance in His sight.** Therefore, He will do whatever it takes to keep His children in that position. May He keep us ever dependent upon Him lest we become like Edom and are brought down tragically. **May we find our security not in our own plans and profits but in Him alone so that we, like Israel can possess all He has for us!**