

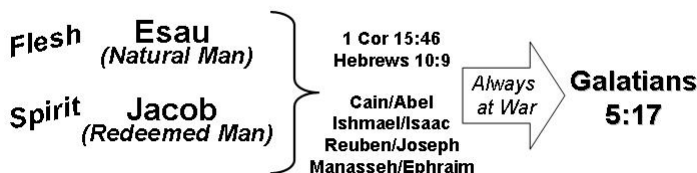
OBADIAH

- Obadiah (meaning “serving Jehovah”) is the shortest book in the Old Testament and is completely focused on the judgment of Edom.

Obadiah’s Contrasts	
Edom	Israel
Esau	Jacob
Mt. Teman	Mt. Zion
The Lost	God’s Chosen

Obadiah (“Servant of God”) Can Be A Name or Title (Obadiah is a common name used repeatedly in OT)
1 Kings 18:3
1 Chronicles 3:21, 7:3, 8:38, 9:16, 44, 12:9, 27:19
2 Chronicles 17:7, 34:12
Ezra 8:9
Nehemiah 10:5; 12:25

- As descendants of Esau (Genesis 25-29, 32-33, 36:9), Edom is Biblically synonymous with those who hate Israel (Gen 25:23; Rom 9:13; Mal 1:2-3). Edom means “red” while Esau means “hairy”, but they are both related (Genesis 25:25-30). Edom’s name might be related to the red stew that Jacob used to take Esau’s birthright (Genesis 25:30).
- Israel was commanded to respect the lineage of Jacob/Israel (Deuteronomy 23:7)
- Edom was in the mountain range east of Jordan 100 miles high (north/south) and 20 miles wide (east/west).
 - Edomites would send raiding expeditions and then retreat back to the mountains; they also forced tolls on the mountain passes/roads.
 - They were defeated by David (1 Kings 11:14), but “shook off” Israel under Joram (2 Kings 8:20).
 - They were aggressors against God’s people even at Jesus birth when Herod (Idumean is Greek for Edom) was made procurator of Judea; having lost their land east of the Jordan, they had relocated to Judea.
 - In 70AD, the Idumeans were essential in the Romans gaining access to Jerusalem before its destruction. Because of the persecution of the Idumeans afterwards, they relocated to Rome.



Trespasses of Obadiah

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Issue</u>
3-4	Pride
8-11	Indifference to Justice
12-14	Betrayal of Brother

References to Obadiah
Related to Jeremiah 49:7-22
Related to Joel 2:32

Foreshadowing of End Time	
Obadiah 1-14	The Nation of Edom
Obadiah 15-21	Edom symbolizes God's judgment on World Empire

Invasions into Judah	
Egypt (Shishak)	1 Kings 14:25-28; 2 Chronicles 12:2-10
Arabs & Philistines	2 Chronicles 21:16-17, 22:1
Syrians	2 Chronicles 24:23-24
Israel	2 Kings 14:7-14
Edomites	2 Chronicles 28:17, 29:8-9
Babylon	2 Kings 24:13-16, 25:4-17; 2 Chronicles 36:18-20

17 Obadiah 1

Read Obadiah 1:1-9 ... The Destruction of Edom for their Pride

1:1 God speaks to Obadiah in a vision.

- Obadiah is probably from Judah although the Talmud states that Obadiah was the servant of King Ahab (1 Kings 18:3-16)
- Jewish Rabbi's use the term "Edom" to represent the enemies of God.
- The name "Lord God" in Hebrew is "Adonai Yahweh." When the name of "Yahweh" is used by itself, English translations capitalize all the letters of "LORD", but "Lord LORD" is a bit redundant when Yahweh is coupled with Adonai. The Jewish community would use the Adonai instead of the holy name of YHWH.

Biblical Prophecies against Edom
Isaiah 34:5, 63:1
Jeremiah 49:7-22
Lamentations 4:21-22
Ezekiel 26:12, 35:1, 36:2-6
Amos 1:11-12

1:2 The Lord can give individuals/nations favor among their peers (Acts 7:10; Proverbs 3:4) or make them despised. The Lord will make Edom despised by other nations.

- Believers should be careful about focusing on the favor of men (Galatians 1:10)

1:3 "Lofty dwelling" references the mountainous region of Edom. Edom's first capital was Bozrah (Jeremiah 49:22), but was then moved to Sela (Greek name of Petra).

- Obadiah could have been the source of Jeremiah 49:16 as the presumptuous heart has deceived the individual.

1:4 God will humble Edom which will be a fall from their mountain fortresses (Amos 9:2-3; Psalms 139:7-12) as they look down upon everyone else in pride

1:5 Even marauders take only what they can carry unlike Edom who destroys everything (scorched earth policy) in their raids. (Ezekiel 25:12-14, 35:1-15)

Challenges Between Edom & Israel
Numbers 20:14-21
Judges 11:16
1 Samuel 14:47-48
2 Samuel 8:14
1 Kings 11:14-25
2 Kings 14:22; 16:5-6
2 Chronicles 20:10-30; 21:8
Amos 1:6, 9, 11

1:6 Edom is associated with Esau – who are you associated with? Edom’s capital city of Petra was a great marketplace for Syrian and Arabian wealth, so there was much to plunder. “Hidden treasures” speak of exposure and judgment (2 Cor 5:10-11; Prov 24:10-12).

1:7 While Edomites are complacent, their allies will push them out. Edom fell to Babylon (582 BC) and the Nabateans from Northern Arabia migrated into their land. Edom moved over into Judea.

- Edom did not know who to trust as her friends betrayed her.

1:8 This is the first use of the timing “on that day.” The initial use of “that day” has a short-term realization (Obadiah 1:10-14) while the remainder of the verses (Obadiah 1:15-21) are focused on the eschatological realization of “that day” when the pride of mankind is destroyed.

1:9 Teman (meaning “south”) was renowned for valiant men, but they were wise in their own eyes (Job 4:1; Jeremiah 49:7; Isaiah 5:21, 40:31; Proverbs 3:7, 26:5, 12; James 3:13-17)

- One of Job’s friends originates from Teman (Job 2:11).
- Teman was named after the grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:11, 15, 42)
- The concept of “cut-off” infers death without descendants.

1:10 The descendants of Esau broke a covenant with their kinsmen (Jacob’s lineage).

Possible Fulfillments of the Destruction of Edom	
580BC	Destruction by Babylon
550-400BC	Displacement from Petra by Nabataean Arabs (Malachi 1:2-5)
312BC	Antiochus (Commander under Alexander the Great)
175BC	Judas Maccabeus
125BC	John Hyrcanus defeated “Idumea”

1:11 Edom seems to have assisted the Babylonian conquest of Judah. The concept of “casting lots for Jerusalem” was related to dividing the spoils of the conquered land. (Joel 3:3; Nahum 3:10)

Read Obadiah 1:10-14 ... The Destruction of Edom for Their Wrongs Towards Jacob

- 1:12 “Yes, you” ...do not gloat over a brother’s downfall. (Psalm 137:7; Lamentations 2:15-17; 4:21; Ezekiel 36:2-6)
- 1:13 The Hebrew word for “calamity” (’êḏām עֲדָיָם) is related to the Hebrew term for “red” which is the meaning of Edom (’ēḏōwm עֲדוֹם).
- 1:14 With native knowledge of the mountain ranges, Edom controlled the flight of the Israelites through the mountain passes (either collecting toll, killing them, or capturing them to turn them over as prisoners to Babylon).
- Edomites may have controlled the mountainous crossroad which were considered “decision points” (Jeremiah 6:16). Flesh is as much of an enemy to the saint as the sinner.

Read Obadiah 1:15-21 ... The Salvation and Victory of Jacob

- **The remainder of the chapter conveys an eschatological meaning about the end times where Edom symbolizes prideful world powers.**
- 1:15 “As you have done, so it will be done to you; what you deserve will return on your own head.” In the positive sense, one is rewarded according to their faith as well (Mt 9:29).
- 1:16 God’s holy mountain (Jerusalem/Zion – Rev 14:10, 18:6; Is 63:1-6) is contrasted to Edom’s sinful one. Although it seems that Edom toasted the downfall of Jerusalem, they would now drink God’s wrath.
- A “Drink” is an Old Testament idiom for the judgment of God (Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17, 22; Jeremiah 25:15-16, 27-28; Ezekiel 23:32-34; Matthew 20:22; 26:39, 42; Revelation 14:10; 16:19)
- 1:17 Mount Zion is juxtaposed to Mount Seir. The Temple was built on Mt. Moriah; however, the city of Jerusalem was represented as Mt. Zion.
- 1:18 The house of Jacob (southern) and the house of Joseph (northern) show a restoration of a united people in Israel (Psalm 77:15). The stubble are the ruins of man’s accomplishments away from God (Exodus 15:7; Matthew 3:12; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). The house of Esau represents the world functioning apart from God.
- 1:19 The Negev represents southern Israel, and God’s people will spread their land even to Gilead eastward. The Shephelah were the hills along the Mediterranean coastal plains that the Philistines inhabited. In the reunited tribes of Israel. Ephraim and Samaria represent the northern kingdom that will join with the southern kingdom. Benjamin will also have the land in the Transjordan region (Gilead).
- 1:20 Israelites in Halah (an Assyrian city - 2 Kings 17:6, 18:11; 1 Chronicles 5:26) and Zarephath (“place of refining” between Tyre and Sidon) and Sepharad (“end of wandering”) will possess the land
- Sepharad might be a metaphor for the farthest location of exiles (possibly Turkey, Media, Spain or islands off coast of Libya)
- 1:21 Those who have been saved will rule as Judges in Mount Zion; man manages, but God owns. The kingdom of God will take over the kingdoms of men. The spiritual kingdom of God came at Jesus first incarnation, and beyond that, Jesus will rule the earth in the millennium.
- “LORD” (all capital letters) is used to represent God’s covenant name of “Yahweh” (Exodus 3:14).