

THE TWELVE MINOR PROPHETS – PART 4

\*It is advisable first to read the Preface in Part 1 and also the Introduction to the Minor Prophets which precedes the Study on Hosea. The section on each prophet is a complete Bible study on its own.

THE PROPHET OBADIAH

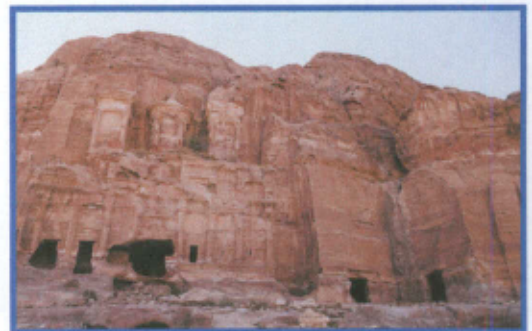
INTRODUCTION

Obadiah's name means *Servant of the Lord*. Little is known of the prophet and the date of his brief prophetic vision of God's judgment against Edom is uncertain. It is probable in this short Book of only one chapter, that Obadiah's prophecies against Edom relate to the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. This date would make him a contemporary of Jeremiah; not King Jehoram and the prophet Elisha during the time of the earlier attacks on Jerusalem by the Philistines and Arabs in the 9th century.

Edom is the land of Esau - the brother of Jacob (Israel); and although Jacob had obtained the Blessing by deceit, he had made peace with Esau. Even so, on their journey to the Promised Land the tribes of Israel were not allowed to pass through Edom. In subsequent years and provoked by Edom these two related peoples were often at war. In his vision from the Lord, Obadiah foretold the downfall of Edom after long hostility against their Israelite brethren.

Read Obadiah vs. 1 - 9

*The Voice of the Lord* condemned Edom's pride in her wise men and the security of her rocky heights (ruins at Petra). Obadiah's prophecy foretold the final downfall of Edom, the result of their ancient hostility against the Israelites. Edom is sometimes referred to as Teman or Seir, their mountain stronghold of Mt. Seir.



*Though you mount on high as the eagle and though you set your nest among the stars, I will bring you down from there, says the Lord.* Obadiah v. 4

*Will not I in that day, says the Lord, destroy the wise men out of Edom?* Obadiah v. 8a

GOD'S REBUKES AGAINST EDOM

Read Obadiah vs. 10 - 14

On the fall of Jerusalem, the boasting Edomites delighted in the city's calamity. The people of Edom failed to assist their brethren and rejoiced when they saw Jerusalem's destruction. They even marched through the city gates as if in triumph to seize her wealth and waited at the roadsides aiming to kill their brethren endeavouring to escape, handing over to the enemy any survivors.

*For the violence you did against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you and you shall be cut off forever.*

Obadiah v. 10

Unlike Zion and Egypt, Edom would not be restored!

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## GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON EDOM AND THE NATIONS

Read Obadiah vs. 15 - 16

Obadiah's words prophesied severe judgment on Esau and God's enemies in all nations both in the near and distant future; but there will be deliverance and blessings for Zion.

*The day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your dealings will return upon your own head.*

Obadiah v. 15

This is the second time (v.8) in this short prophetic book that a future - *Day of the Lord* - is mentioned.

*Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites, that they said on the day of Jerusalem's fall,  
Down, down to the ground with her!*

(Psalm 137: 7)

*For as you (Edom) have drunk on the mountain of My holiness, so shall all the nations drink and they shall be destroyed as though they had not been.*

Obadiah v. 16

## GOD'S DELIVERANCE OF ZION

Read Obadiah vs. 17 - 21

*But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and it shall be holy; and the house of Jacob shall possess its own former possessions.*

Obadiah v. 17

Obadiah's prophecy begins with the Lord's punishment of Edom by the other nations (v.7), but in the *Day of the Lord*, the destruction of Edom would be by the hand of the people of Zion, as the following words reveal -

*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, burn and consume them, and there shall be no survivor of the house of Esau, for the Lord has spoken it.*

Obadiah v. 18



Obadiah's final prophetic word of deliverance is Messianic, for the rule of the Lord will be established and Mt Zion alone will be exalted.

*The kingdom and the kingship shall be the Lord's.*

Obadiah v. 21

N.B. The Old and New Testaments agree that Edom would be destroyed forever but there would be an Edomite remnant, people turning to the Lord.

*All the Gentiles upon whom My name has been invoked.*

Acts 15: 17 (Amos 9: 12)

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