



The Book of Obadiah

The Justice & Mercy of God

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BACKGROUND

- ✘ Shortest book of the Hebrew Bible
- ✘ Obadiah cited as author, 1:1
- ✘ A unique prophecy, in that it focuses on Edom, rather than on Israel
- ✘ Focuses on God's judgment on Edom for mistreating Israel, and concludes with God's mercy on Israel.

OBADIAH: THE JUSTICE & MERCY OF GOD

BACKGROUND

- ✘ Edom was a name for Esau
- ✘ Genesis 25: 30 and Esau said to Jacob, “Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished.” Therefore his name was called Edom.
- ✘ Edom settled south of Israel



BACKGROUND

- ✘ The timing seems to coincide with the events of roughly 840 BC, recorded in 2 Kings 8:20-22
- ✘ The parallel passage, 2 Chronicles 21:8-11 adds:
 - ✘ 11 Moreover, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot and led Judah astray.
 - ✘ 1 Kings 8:20 In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves.
 - ✘ 21 Then Joram crossed over to Zair, and all his chariots with him. And he arose by night and struck the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots; but *his army fled to their tents*.
 - ✘ 22 So Edom revolted against Judah to this day...

OBADIAH: THE JUSTICE & MERCY OF GOD

OUTLINE

- ✘ 1-16 Justice to Edom: Judgment
 - + 1-2 Judgment pronounced
 - + 3-9 For pride against Israel
 - + 10-16 For violence against Israel
- ✘ 17-21 Mercy to Israel: Exaltation
 - + 17-18 As fire
 - + 19-20 As possessors
 - + 21 As judges

1-2 Judgment Pronounced	3-9 For Pride Against Israel	10-16 For Violence to Israel	17-18 As Fire	19-20 As Possessors	21 As Judges
Justice to Edom: Judgment 1-16			Mercy to Israel: Exaltation 17-21		
Obadiah: The Justice & Mercy of God					

1-2 JUDGMENT PRONOUNCED

- ✘ Ob 1 *The vision of Obadiah.*
- ✘ Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom— We have heard a report from the Lord, And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, “Arise and let us go against her for battle”—
- ✘ 2 “Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised.

✘ Ob 1 חֲזֹן עֲבַדְיָה כֹּה־אָמַר
אֲדַנִּי יְהוָה לְאֶדוֹם שְׁמוּעָה
שָׁמַעְנוּ מֵאֵת יְהוָה וְצִיר
בַּגּוֹיִם שָׁלַח קוֹמוֹ וְנִקְוָמָה
עָלֶיהָ לְמִלְחָמָה:

✘ 2 הִנֵּה קָטָן נִתְתִּיךָ בַּגּוֹיִם
בְּזוּי אַתָּה מְאֹד:

3-9 FOR PRIDE AGAINST ISRAEL

- × 3 “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’
- × 4 “Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” declares the Lord.

× ³ זָדוֹן לִבְךָ הַשִּׁיאָךְ שִׁכְנִי
בְּחַגְוֵי־סֹלֶעַ מְרוֹם שְׁבַתוֹ
אָמַר בְּלִבּוֹ מִי יוֹרֵדֵנִי אֶרֶץ:

× ⁴ אִם־תִּגְבִּיֶה כְּנֶשֶׁר וְאִם־
בֵּין כּוֹכָבִים שָׁיִם קִנָּךְ מִשָּׁם
אוֹרִידְךָ נְאֻם־יְהוָה:

OBADIAH 1-16 JUSTICE TO EDOM: JUDGMENT

10-16 FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL

- × 10 “Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever.
- × 11 “On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And **cast** lots for Jerusalem— You too were as one of them.
- × 12 “Do not gloat over your brother’s day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast In the day of *their distress*..

× 10 מִחֶמֶס אָחִיךָ יֵעָקֹב תִּכְסֶּךָ
בוֹשָׁה וְנִכְרַתְּ לְעוֹלָם:

× 11 בְּיוֹם עֲמִדְךָ מִנֶּגֶד בְּיוֹם שְׁבוּת
זָרִים חִילוּ וְנִכְרִים בָּאוּ שְׁעָרָיו וְעַל־
יְרוּשָׁלַם יִדְּוּ גוֹרֵל גַּם־אֶתָּה כְּאַחַד
מֵהֶם:

× 12 וְאַל־תִּרְא בְּיוֹם־אָחִיךָ בְּיוֹם
נִכְרוּ וְאַל־תִּשְׂמַח לְבְנֵי־יְהוּדָה בְּיוֹם
אֲבָדָם וְאַל־תִּגְדֹּל פִּיךָ בְּיוֹם צָרָה:

× (v. 11 uses a qal perfect, vv. 12-13 uses qal imperfect)

10-16 FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL

- ✦ 15 *“For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.*

✦ 15 כִּי־קָרֹב יוֹם־יְהוָה
עַל־כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם כַּאֲשֶׁר
עָשִׂיתָ יַעֲשֶׂה לָּךְ גַּמְלָךְ
יָשׁוּב בְּרֹאשְׁךָ׃

17-18 AS FIRE

- ✘ 17 “But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.
- ✘ 18 “Then the house of Jacob will be a fire And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau *will be as stubble*. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,”

✘ ¹⁷ וּבְהָרַ צִיּוֹן תִּהְיֶה פְּלִיטָה
וְהָיָה קָדֶשׁ וְיִרְשׁוּ בֵּית יַעֲקֹב
אֶת מִוְרָשֵׁיהֶם:

✘ ¹⁸ וְהָיָה בֵּית יַעֲקֹב אֵשׁ
וּבֵית יוֹסֵף לֶהֱבֶה וּבֵית עֲשָׂו
לִקְשׁ וְדָלְקוּ בָהֶם וְאֶכְלוּם
וְלֹא יִהְיֶה שָׂרִיד לְבֵית עֲשָׂו כִּי
יִהְיֶה דָבָר:

OBADIAH 17-21 MERCY TO ISRAEL: EXALTATION

19-20 AS POSSESSORS

- × 19 Then *those of the Negev* will possess the mountain of *Esau*, And *those of the Shephelah* the *Philistine plain*; Also, possess the territory of *Ephraim* and the territory of *Samaria*, And *Benjamin* will possess *Gilead*.
- × 20 And the exiles of this host of the sons of *Israel*, Who are among the *Canaanites* as far as *Zarephath*, And the exiles of *Jerusalem* who are in *Sepharad* Will possess the cities of the *Negev*.

- × ¹⁹ וִירְשׁוּ הַנֶּגֶב אֶת־הָהָר עֲשׂוֹ
וְהַשְּׁפֵלָה אֶת־פְּלִשְׁתִּים וִירְשׁוּ
אֶת־שְׂדֵה אֶפְרַיִם וְאֶת־שְׂדֵה
שִׁמְרֹון וּבְנֵימֹן אֶת־הַגִּלְעָד:
- × ²⁰ וְגֵלַת הַחֵלֶהֶזָה לְבָנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר־כְּנַעַנִים עַד־צֹרְפַת
וְגֵלַת יְרוּשָׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בְּסִפְרַד יִירְשׁוּ
אֶת־עָרֵי הַנֶּגֶב

21 AS JUDGES

- × 21 The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

- × ²¹ וְעָלוּ מוֹשְׁעִים בְּהָרִי
צִיּוֹן לְשִׁפֹּט אֶת־הָהָר עֵשָׂו
וְהָיְתָה לַיהוָה הַמְּלוּכָה:

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IMPLICATIONS

- ✗ The prophesied judgment on Edom was to be fulfilled at the day of the Lord (Ob 15)
- ✗ Malachi 1:1-5 describes the judgment as still yet future, using the qal imperfect in v. 3 (וְאַשִׁים to make or place).
- ✗ Observe a noteworthy theological implication: Compare with Romans 9:13:
- ✗ Romans 9:13 Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."
- ✗ Malachi 1:2 "I have loved you," says the Lord. But you say, "How have You loved us?" *"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob;*
- ✗ 3 but I have hated Esau, and I have **made** his mountains a desolation and *appointed* his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."
- ✗ 4 Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the Lord of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and *men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the Lord is indignant forever.*"
- ✗ 5 Your eyes will see this and you will say, "The Lord be magnified beyond the border of Israel!"

IMPLICATIONS

- ✘ God will keep His promises both to curse those that curse God's covenant people and to make His covenant people into a mighty nation.
 - + Genesis 12:2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."
- ✘ There is coming a day of the Lord in which all His promises for justice and mercy will be finally fulfilled.
 - + This was a warning for God's enemies, and a comfort to His people.

SO...DON'T DO THIS...



INSTEAD...DO THIS



