### **Obadiah**

#### **OUTLINE**

- 1. The introduction to the oracle v. 1
- 2. Edom's coming judgment revealing how they will be punished vv. 2-9
  - a. The breaching of Edom's defenses vv. 2-4
  - b. The plundering of Edom's treasures vv. 5-7
  - c. The destruction of Edom's leadership vv. 8-9
- 3. Edom's crimes against Judah that caused the need to punish Edom vv. 10-14
  - a. The statement of the charge v. 10
  - b. The explanation of the charge vv. 11-14
- 4. The Day of the Lord will come against all nations just like it will against Edom vv. 15-16
- 5. The restoration of Israel's sovereignty vv. 17-21
  - a. The judgment of Edom and the nations vv. 15-18
  - b. The occupation of Edom by Israel vv. 19-21
- The Kingdom of the Lord v. 21

Obadiah follows Hosea, Joel, and Amos because like these three books Obadiah speaks of Israel's return in the end at the Day of the Lord.

#### The Call to the Nations to come against Edom (1):

Obadiah 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: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!"



- "Lord GOD" is from adonai Yahweh which would normally be translated "Lord LORD" meaning "master LORD".
- 2. "We have heard a report"
- 3. "a messenger has been sent"
  - a. The "envoy" or "messenger could be:
    - i. God's desire to bring surrounding nations
    - ii. God sending an actual messenger (Obadiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc.) to the nations

- 4. "Vision" and "Report" from the LORD correlate together in that what was seen in the "vision" is presented in the "report".
- 5. This is parallelled in Jeremiah 49:13-14:

"For I have sworn by myself, declares the Lord, that Bozrah shall become a horror, a taunt, a waste, and a curse, and all her cities shall be perpetual wastes."

I have heard a message from the Lord,

and an envoy has been sent among the nations:

- "Gather yourselves together and come against her, and rise up for battle!"
- 6. Notice the movement, plans and actions of the nations are caused by the Lord in this case.
- 7. The nations are doing the work of the Lord even though they do not recognize the Lord or agree with his purpose and plan. They are blind to the fact they are used by God to accomplish his purpose.

#### The Announcement of the Three Punishments to be Dealt to Edom (2-9):

Obadiah 2 – "Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised."

	3966 [e] mə·'ōd.		959 [e] <b>bā∙zui</b>	1471 [e] bag·gō·w·yim;		6996 [e] <b>qā·ṭōn</b>		2009 [e] hin·nêh	-	
•	ָלְאָׂד: greatly		בָּןוּי shall be despised	בַּגּוֹיֻם among the nations	נְתַהְּיךּ I will make you	לָטֶּׂן small	•	הגָה Behold	2	
	Adv	Pro-2ms	V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-ms	Prep-b, Art   N-mp	V-Qal-Perf-1cs   2ms	Adj-ms		Interjection		

- 1. Verses 2-9 contain three sections which are separated or identified with the phrase "declares the Lord"
  - a. v. 4 "I will bring you down, declares the LORD."
  - b. v. 8 "Will I not on that day, declares the LORD, destroy the wise men out of Edom."
- 2. The three separate sections are:
  - a. Verses 2-4 is the breaching of Edom's defenses.
  - b. Verses 5-7 is the plundering of Edom's treasures
  - c. Verses **8**-9 is the destruction of Edom's leadership
- 3. This verse summarizes what is going to take place:
  - a. Edom will be small among the nations
  - b. Edom will be utterly despised
- 4. Note the emphatic position in the Hebrew text of the words:
  - a. "small" "SMALL I will make you among the nations."
  - b. "despised" "DESPISED you shall be greatly."

Obadiah 3 – The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart,

"Who will bring me down to the ground?"



776 [e] 3381 [e] 4310 [e] 3820 [e] 559 [e] yō·w·ri·dê·nî bə·lib·bōw, 'ō·mêr ā·res. 9 בלבו אמר ארץ: מי to the ground will bring me down who in your heart [You] who say V-Hifil-Imperf-3ms | 1cs Prep-b | N-msc | 3ms V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms N-fs Interrog

- 1. Just like Esau his descendents national character was pride. They lived a life of indepence from God and man (other nations). So, they considered themselves self-suficient and superior.
  - a. The Hebrew word used for "pride" is zadon (or, ze-do-wn) /zaw-done/
    - i. Comes from the Hebrew verb *zud* or *zid* which means "to boil", "to boil up", "to seethe"
    - ii. These words *zud* or *zadon* became illustrations for "acting proudly", "behaving presumptuously" or "living rebelliously"
      - 1. This includes the idea that a boiling bubble is a hollow, empty space with a lot of meaningless motion.
    - iii. This word "pride" occurs three times in the Genesis account of Esau in Genesis 25:27-34:
      - 1. v. 3 "The pride of your heart has deceived you."
- 2. Dr Constable (https://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/) quotes one commentator who wrote:

"Edom's natural defenses were imposing. Its main centers of civilization were situated in a narrow ridge of mountainous land southeast of the Dead Sea ... This ridge exceeded a height of 4,000 feet throughout its northern sector, and it rose in places to 5,700 feet in the south. Its height was rendered more inaccessible by the gorges radiating from it toward the Arabah on the west and the desert eastwards.

In addition to these natural fortifications, Edom was strongly defended by a series of Iron Age fortresses, particularly on the eastern frontier where the land descended more gradually to the desert."

- 3. "Rock" is sela refers to Mt. Seir that was made of granite and sandstone
  - a. The Greek word used to translate the Hebrew *sela* is *petra*, the name of the town of Petra at this location in Jordan today and the Nabatean capital.
  - b. "Rock" (sela) could also be referring to antorhe site in Edom NW of Bozrahin northern Edom called Khirbet Sil
- 4. "Who will bring me down?" is the pride of Edom speaking.
- 5. Edom's sense of security deceived them, just as it says in Jeremiah 49:16:

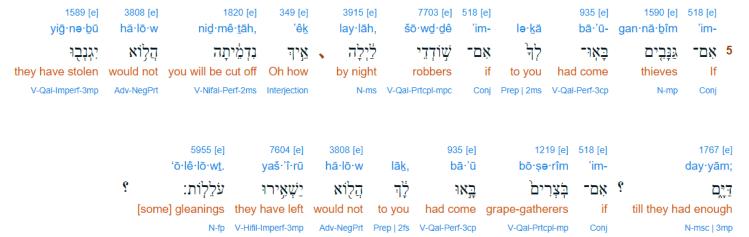
"The horror you inspire has deceived you, and the pride of your heart, you who live in the clefts of the rock, who hold the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as the eagle's, I will bring you down from there," declares the Lord.

Obadiah 4 – Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the LORD.



- 1. This describes their isolated dwelling high in the rugged terrain.
- 2. Very secure from human invasion, but no protection from divine intervention.

# Obadiah 5 – If thieves came to you, if plunderers came by night— how you have been destroyed!— would they not steal only enough for themselves? If grape gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings?



- 1. The second punishment identified by the declaration of YHWH begins here in verses 5-7: the plundering of Edom's treasures
- 2. Edom's national allies would betray them.
  - Covenant partners where consider dishonorable if they broke a covenant
    - i. Psalm 55:20 "My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; <u>he</u> violated his covenant."
    - ii. Amos 1:9 "Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood."
  - b. Edom was not loyal to Judah, so other nations would not be loyal to Edom

- c. Three parallel descriptions are used to communicate this covenant disloyalty towards Edom making this coming betrayal an absolute.
  - i. "All your allies have driven you to your border." (7)
  - ii. "those at peace with you have deceived you." (7)
  - iii. "those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you." (7)
- d. None the less, this covenant betrayal would still surprise Edom, most likely because of Edom's pride:
  - "you have no understanding."
- 3. So, Edom would be deceived by two things:
  - a. Their own pride
  - b. Their own allies
- 4. The plunder of Edom will not be restrained as would:
  - a. Thieves working hurriedly in the darkness would surely leave somethings behind because of their hasty and poor lighting condition.
  - b. Harvesters who working in a cultural setting with the laws of a functioning society require them to leave some fruit or crop behind for the poor of the land to glean later:
    - i. Leviticus 19:9-10 "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God." (Also Deut. 24:19-21)
    - ii. Isaiah 17:6 "Gleanings will be left in it, as when an olive tree is beaten—two or three berries in the top of the highest bough, four or five on the branches of a fruit tree, declares the Lord God of Israel."

#### Obadiah 6 – How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures sought out!



- 1. Edom is pillaged by allies and a house to house search takes place to remove ALL the treasures stored by Edomites
- 2. The loss treasure includes:
  - a. Material wealth
  - b. Human life
- 3. "treasures" maspunaw from matspon meaning "hidden treasure"

Obadiah 7 – All your allies have driven you to your border; those at peace with you have deceived you; they have prevailed against you; those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you— you have no understanding.

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### Obadiah 8 – Will I not on that day, declares the LORD, destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau?

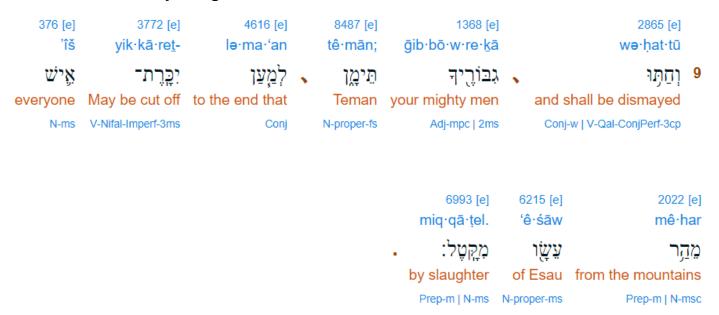




- 1. Here is the second of the two "declares the LORD" statements.
- 2. Edom's "wise men" identified:
  - a. 1 Kings 4:30 "Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt."
  - b. Job 1:1 "There was a man in the land of **Uz** whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil."
  - c. 2:11 "Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him."
  - d. Proverbs 30:1 "The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle."
  - e. Proverbs 31:1 "The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him."
  - f. Jeremiah 49:7 "Concerning Edom Thus says the Lord of hosts:

- "Is wisdom no more in Teman?
  Has counsel perished from the prudent?
  Has their wisdom vanished?"
- g. Lamentations 4:21 "Rejoice and be glad, <u>O daughter of Edom, you who dwell in the land of Uz</u>; but to you also the cup shall pass; you shall become drunk and strip yourself bare."
- 3. Edom's wise men fail because they are filled with pride which prevents them from anticipating the betrayal of national covenants with the surrounding nations. The wise men should have anticipated betrayal, but they could not even imagine it in order to prepare for it.

### Obadiah 9 – And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman, so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

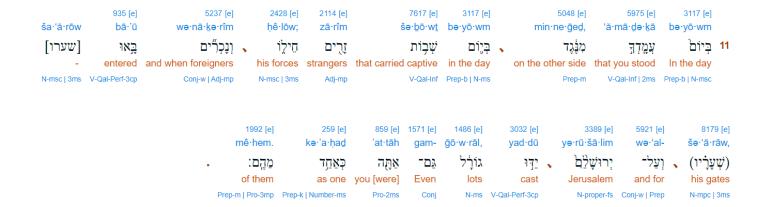


#### Now begin the list of Edom's crimes against Judah (10-14):

Obadiah 10 – Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.

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Obadiah 11 – On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them.



## Obadiah 12 – But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress.



### Obadiah 13 - Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity.



Obadiah 14 - Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress.



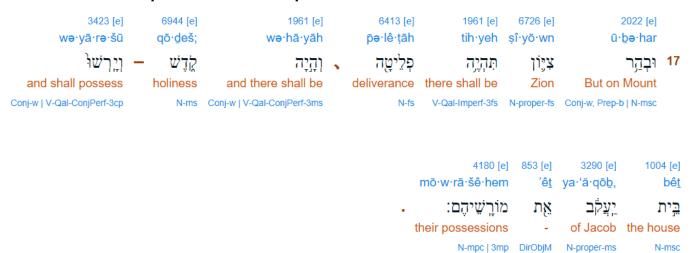
Obadiah 15 – For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.



Obadiah 16 – For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been.



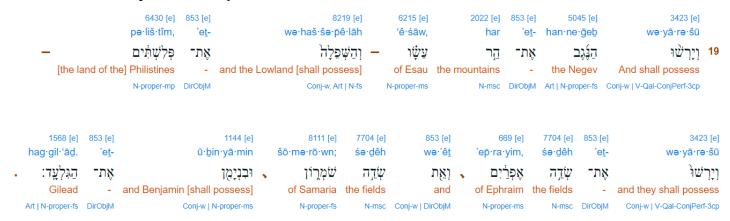
### Obadiah 17 – But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape, and it shall be holy, and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions.



Obadiah 18 – The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau, for the LORD has spoken.



Obadiah 19 – Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines; they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.



Obadiah 20 – The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negeb.



Obadiah 21 – Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

	5927 [e]	3467 [e]	2022 [e]	6726 [e]	8199 [e]	853 [e]	2022 [e]
	wə·'ā·lū	mō·wō·ši·'îm	bə∙har	şî·yō·wn,	liš∙pōţ	'e <u>t</u> -	har
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	And shall come	saviors	to Mount	Zion	to judge	-	the mountains
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4410 [e] 3068 [e] 1961 [e] 6215 [e] ham·mə·lū·kāh. Yah·weh 'ê·śāw; wə·hā·yə·<u>t</u>āh הַמְּלוּכָה: לַיהנָה עַעָׂו the kingdom of Yahweh and shall be of Esau Art | N-fs Prep-I | N-proper-ms Conj-w | V-Qal-ConjPerf-3fs N-proper-ms