

# **Obadiah**

## **Introduction:**

The theme of this book: not seeking evil for your enemies: See Proverbs 24.17-18

Articles and photographs about Petra (check at your local library):

*National Geographic*, 12/1955, p. 853ff

*National Geographic*, 2/1984, p. 246

*National Geographic*, 12/1998, p. 116

Most people are not familiar with the book of *Obadiah*

-And most people have not heard of the Edomites

However, the Edomites should be known to all people who have studied the Old Testament

-**Who were the two sons of Rebekah and Isaac?** Jacob and Esau (twins)

-**What race of people came from Jacob?** Israelites (Jews, through Judah)

-**What race of people came from Esau?** **Read Genesis 25.30** – Edom (other name of Esau)

-**What was Esau's character like?** Wild, went for temporary pleasures

**Read Hebrews 12.14-17**

The Edomites established their civilization in the desert, known as Petra

-They became clever, ruthless, scheming people

-They were enemies of the Jews

**The Edomites were not religious people**

-In the Old Testament, they were mentioned a lot, but we never read of the gods of the Edomites

-They were basically not a religious people

-They lived only for this life (food, power, vengeance)/they were very hardened people, proud, self-sufficient

Last mention of Edomites: **Read Malachi 1.2-5**

-A reference to the destruction of Petra

The prophet Obadiah was one of the 12 Minor Prophets

-His name means “worshipper of God”

-We believe that he lived after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586BC

-The Edomites were happy over the fall Jerusalem

They felt full of self-confidence (that they could not be conquered, because of the mountains and their rock formations and their fortresses)

This is the shortest book in the Old Testament/one of the “no chapter” books (*Philemon/2-3*

*John/Jude/Obadiah*)

## **Obadiah 1-9**

**V1**– **What was the source of Obadiah's message?** He had received a revelation from the Lord

-In other words, Obadiah had heard a report from God

-**How had the news of this report been spread?** An “envoy” or messenger had been sent among the nations

- God was using various nations as his agents to punish evil-doers
- This is consistent with other passages which tell us that God will carry out revenge on evil nations

**V 2**– Seems to be God speaking through the surrounding nations

- Message?** Edomite nation will be small and despised

**V 3**–**What were the Edomites bragging about?** Lived in a canyon/capital city was in a deep valley, surrounded by 200 feet cliffs/entrance to the city was an opening only 12 feet wide

- A very narrow mountain pass

**Bragging?** They were safe/no-one could get them/very shrewd people

**Applications today:**

1. Survivalists – train to live in the wilderness
  - The country song: “A Country Boy Can Survive” – he can hunt, fish, live in the wild, because he had his 4x4 (and what about gas?)
2. National Defense – Star Wars, rail guns, aircraft carriers - a belief that no-one can get us
  - Edomites were proud and defiant, thought that they would never fall to their enemies
  - “Clefts of the rock” – Jesus was prophesied to be the rock (*Isaiah 32.2*)
  - Song: Rock of Ages

**V 4**– **Compared to what?** Eagles (hard to get to their nests) and stars (cannot reach)

- Message from the Lord?** I will bring you down – **Read Proverbs 16.18** – (pride, etc.)

**V 5** – God’s judgment is severe

- Would the invaders take just a little?** No – like robbers/they would take all they want

**V 6** – Notice: Esau = Edom (their father)

- the hidden treasures would be found and taken

**V 7**– **What would happen to the allies of the Edomites?** They would all betray Edom

- Even those who bought bread from them would ambush them
- Imagine how the Edomites must have laughed at Obadiah’s prophecy – but God’s vengeance was coming soon

**V 8**– **What else would not save them?** All their wisdom and understanding

- They had been very shrewd/sly – but that would not do them any good

**V 9**– Teman – city in the south part of Edom

**V 1-9 – the tremendous cost of pride** – the nation would be destroyed because God said it would happen

## **Obadiah 10-14**

**V 10**– God never punishes people without a good reason

- What was the specific reason for the coming destruction of Edom?** They had done violence to Jacob (the Jews)

**Read Number 20.14-21** – The Edomites did not allow the Israelites to go through Edom on the

journey to the Promised Land

-That was about 1445-1440 BC – this was after 586 BC – about 900 years later – God has a long memory

-People think that if they committed a sin many years ago, God has forgotten about it/it no longer counts

-One man has said, "An unscriptural marriage isn't a problem after 30 years – God has forgiven them after that long" – but that is not correct

**V 11**– **What else was God upset about?** When Jerusalem was destroyed in 586BC, the Edomites rejoiced

-We are never to rejoice over the misfortune of others (floods along Mississippi/fires in California/hurricane in New Orleans, etc.)

**V 12**– They gloated over their brother's destruction

**V 13**– Possibly they had looted Jerusalem when the Babylonians were finished

**V 14**– **What else had the Edomites done when Jerusalem was destroyed?** Had blocked the road of the refugees, survivors, had imprisoned some of them

-They were cruel and ruthless people

## **Obadiah 15-21**

**V 15**– **When would the Edomites' destruction take place?** Soon

-Basic principle: Golden Rule – **Read Matthew 7.12**

-Their behavior would return on them

**V 16**– The Edomites apparently had entered Jerusalem during and after the destruction

-**God's revenge?** The nations would consume Edom and never regret it (not look back)

**V 17**– **What would happen to God's people Jerusalem?** Some would escape and return

**V 18**– **Message?** God's people would recover, but the Edomites would cease to exist

-**Fulfilled?** Yes – Jews are still here/Christians still here

-**When was the last time you ran into an Edomite?**

**V 19**– A prophecy about Maccabean Age (about 200 BC) – the Jews again occupied the area

**V 20**– Jews would actually rule the territory of Edom someday (ruled by Jordan today)

**V 21**– God's kingdom would survive

### **Lessons from Obadiah:**

1. Never trust in physical weapons and defenses for protection; we should trust in God
2. Never ridicule God's people/it is a dangerous thing to make fun of God's people (see the book of *Revelation*)
3. Never celebrate over anyone's misfortune

God will carry out his vengeance against his enemies (regardless of time) – **Read Galatians 6.7-8**

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