# *“Studying the Gentile Prophets”—Obadiah 1--* Edom’s judgment is coming

**[](https://www.etsy.com/listing/218196045/original-bible-art-obadiah-theme-verse)**

***Obadiah’s backstory***

**The book of Obadiah is a brief prophetic word regarding the nearby nation of Edom. And it’s bad news for Edom. This is the shortest book in the \*Old Testament and the** [**fourth-shortest book of the Bible**](http://overviewbible.com/the-5-shortest-books-of-the-bible-in-order/) **(after** [**Third John**](http://overviewbible.com/3-john/)**,** [**Second John**](http://overviewbible.com/2-john/)**, and** [**Philemon**](http://overviewbible.com/philemon/)**). The “SINS OF EDOM” are enumerated in Obadiah: 1. Pride, verses 3-4, 2. Confederacy, verse 7, 3. Violence, verse 10, 4. Rejoicing, verse 12, 5. Looting, verse 13, 6. Hindering Jews from escaping, verse 14, 7. Drunken celebration, verse 16. Obadiah means ‘the servant of \*Yahweh’ Or it means ‘the person who gives honour to \*Yahweh’. There are many people with this name in the \*Old Testament, but this author is not any of these. Obadiah unpacks a longstanding history/feud between Israel and one of its enemies, Esau/Edom/Idumaean—and more importantly, the history of God’s covenant with Israel’s ancestors. The Israel/Jacob vs. Edom/Esau rivalry is more than just two nations who don’t get along. The struggle begins in the book of** [**Genesis**](http://overviewbible.com/genesis/)**. God made a promise to Abraham: He would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him. (**[**Genesis 12:1–3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen%2012.1%E2%80%933)**, “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:2And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:3And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”) That blessing was passed on to Isaac, Abraham’s son (**[**Genesis 21:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen%2021.12)**, “And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called,”** [**26:24**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gn%2026.24)**, “And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.”) Isaac’s wife Rebekah had twins: Esau and Jacob (**[**Genesis 25:24–26**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen%2025.24%E2%80%9326)**, “**And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. 26And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.”**) God told Rebekah that one nation would prevail, and that Esau would serve Jacob (**[**Genesis 25:23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen%2025.23)**, “**And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.”) **Isaac (accidentally) reiterated this promise, making Jacob the master of Esau (**[**Genesis 27:29**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen%2027.29)**, “**Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.”**) How did that happen? Esau sold Jacob his birthright for a bowl of soup, and then Jacob tricked their father into giving him the blessing of the firstborn. Esau wasn’t too happy about that, and for a while, he was bent on killing his twin. Jacob and Esau eventually resolved their differences (**[**Genesis 33:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gen%2033.4)**, “**And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept,”**) OR DID THEY? And God gave both of their descendants a land. Esau’s descendants became the nation of Edom, while Jacob fathered the** [**12 tribes of Israel**](http://overviewbible.com/the-12-tribes-of-israel-a-quick-guide/)**. Israel’s capital was Mount Zion (Jerusalem); Edom’s was Mount Seir (**[**Deuteronomy 2:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Deut%202.5)**, “Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.”) Both had an inheritance. Both had a mountain. Only one was God’s chosen people.  As time wore on, the relationship between their descendants became strained, basically hostile!  Edom refused to let Moses and the Israelites take the highway through their land, and opposed them militantly (**[**Numbers 20:20–22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Num%2020.20%E2%80%9321)**, “And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand. Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.22And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto mount Hor.”) When Israel was serving God under the righteous king David, God’s prediction to Rebekah came true: Edom served Israel as a vassal state (**[**2 Samuel 8:14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Sam%208.14)**, “**And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.”**) But after Solomon and Israel turned from God, the kingdom divided and troubles with Edom reignited (**[**1 Kings 11:14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Kings%2011.14)**, “**And the Lord stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom,”[**2 Kings 8:22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Kings%208.22)**, “**Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.”) **When God finally exiled Judah to Babylon, Edom helped the Babylonians loot Judah, and happily returned to their own fortified cities in Mount Seir. Edom was cheering on the Babylonians…Psalm 137:7, “Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Raze it, raze it, even to the foundation thereof,”** [**Obadiah 10–11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Obad%2010%E2%80%9311)**, “For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever. 11In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.” To the Edomites, it’s a message of judgment and doom. To the Jews, it’s a message of faithfulness and salvation. Since the Jews knew the story of Jacob and Esau, they knew about God’s message to Rebekah. Israel has a longstanding rivalry with the nation of Edom, but now Edom has gone too far.  Obadiah’s message is simple: no matter how safe they think they are, no matter how wise they think they are, Edom can’t get away with this!! So God sends his messenger to them: a man named Obadiah (Hebrew for “servant of Yahweh”). Through Obadiah, God swears to turn the tables on Edom.** **The object of the prophet's ire (actually, the Lord's ire) is Israel's twin brother Esau (Edom), and his physical and spiritual descendants. Obadiah accuses Edom of "violence against your brother Jacob." This is not an isolated incident of violence, but systematic, repetitive, unrelenting violence. The JPS translation of verse 10 is, "For the outrage to your brother Jacob, disgrace shall engulf you, and you shall perish forever."**

**The book can be considered a formal indictment of charges against Edom, as well as their accomplices. The indictment stipulates the most severe capital offenses, with an equally severe sentence to be executed. Cruel, sadistic, maniacal, unconscionable, monstrous are the crimes of Edom against Jacob. The Edomites boasted in their natural defenses. The ancient city of Petra - once the capital city of Edom, known as Sela - had amazing defenses. It is a city carved into the rock, accessible by a narrow canyon almost a mile long. At the end of the canyon there is a spectacular city carved in stone, and seemingly incapable of being conquered by any army.**

**The writer gave a message of hope to God’s people. He told them that they would see God’s judgement. God ruined Edom. They forgot that Israel’s people’s God had power over all. When God carried out his judgement of the nations, then Israel's people would see God’s justice. Then he would give back to Judah's people what other nations had taken from them. The book is in two parts but it has one message. Verse 15 links the two parts**. **Edom's army ‘cuts down’ Judah in verse 14. \*Yahweh speaks in verses 1, 4 and 8. And he acts in verses 15 and 21. Crime and punishment go together, as Obadiah says in verse 15. Proud people will become humble. Some people are glad that people steal. But then they will realise that people steal from them.**

**Part one: \*Prophecy against Edom, verses 1-14**

Verse 1 Title and message

Verses 2-4 First prophecy: Pride brings destruction.

Verses 5-7 Second prophecy: People steal things. They are not loyal.

Verses 8-9 Third prophecy: The day of Judgement

Verses 10-14 Reasons for God’s judgement of \*Edom

They did nothing to help Judah.

They laughed at Judah’s \*destruction.

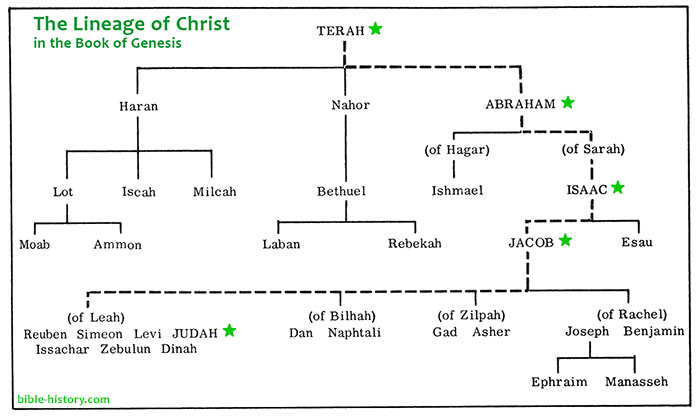
**Part two: Israel and the nations, verses 15-21**

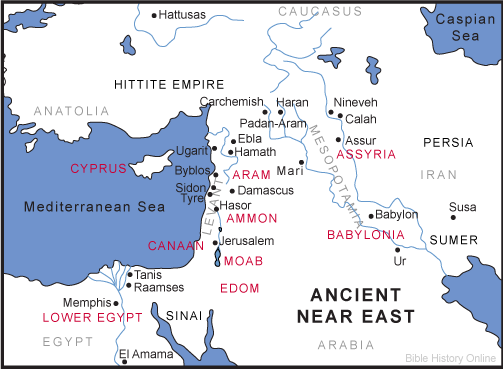
Verses 15-18 The situation will completely change.

Verses 19-21 The kingdom will come.

[**Genesis 25:28**](http://www.bible-history.com/studybible/Genesis/25/28/)**, “And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.”**

According to the Bible Esau was Isaac and Rebekah’s firstborn son, and he had a twin brother named Jacob. His name means hairy because he was that way when he was born and throughout his life. Esau married Canaanite women, and their territory was the land of Edom and they were always contending against Israel through their history.

[](http://www.bible-history.com/old-testament/lineage-of-christ.jpg)

[](http://www.bible-history.com/geography/maps/map_ancient_near_east.html)

* 1. **Who is Edom?** This name has its origins from Esau, Jacob’s brother. They struggled with each other in the womb. (The womb means the part of the body where a baby grows before birth.) The writer of **Hebrews 12:16-17, “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”** Esau was not spiritual. He gave his rights as the oldest son to Jacob. He exchanged them for one meal. Afterwards he wanted to inherit his rights. But his father refused to give them to him. Edom's people lived in Seir. This is an area of mountains south and east of the Dead Sea. Two important trade routes went through it. Because its people controlled these roads, they got a lot of money... **Its two chief cities were Bozrah and Sela. Sela is near the famous city of Petra**. People cut this city out of red rock. It is still possible to see part of it today. After Israel's people had left Egypt, they wanted to go through Edom. But Edom's people did not allow Israel's people to go through ***(Numbers 20:14-21, “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”)*** Saul attacked Edom and he defeated its army… **(1 Samuel 14:47, “So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.”)** David killed many of Edom's people. He made its other people his slaves **(2 Samuel 8:13-14, “And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.14And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.”)** Solomon built his ships at a port called Ezion-geber in Edom. ‘Hadad, the king of Edom, was an evil enemy of Israel. He caused great suffering.’ **(See 1 Kings 11:22, “Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.”)** Edom attacked Judah at the time of King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20). ‘During the rule of Jehoram, Edom's people opposed the authority of Judah's rulers. Edom became a kingdom that other countries did not control.’ (**See 2 Chronicles 21:8, “In his days the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king.”)** Later King Amaziah captured Edom again and he killed 20 000 of Edom's people **(2 Chronicles 25:11-12, “And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.12And other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces.”)** When Ahaz was king of Judah, Edom's soldiers attacked it. They captured many people. Now Edom was completely free **(2 Chronicles 28:17, “For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives.”)** From 734 BC Assyria's rulers controlled Edom and then Babylon controlled Edom. Then the power of Edom’s people became weaker. Arabs controlled Edom and then the Nabateans controlled it. Many of Edom's people moved to southern Judah. People then called this area Idumea. (This is where the Arabs and many of Edom's people lived.) The kings called Herod came from this country. They were Israel's kings at the time of the New Testament. **‘My sword descends in judgement upon Edom’ (Isaiah 34:7).** ‘**You people of Edom, he will punish the bad things that you have done. He will show your evil actions to everyone’ (Lamentations 4:22).** **‘I will punish Edom for the injuries that it has done to other nations’ (Ezekiel 25:12-14).** ‘**Edom will be a desert’ (Joel 3:19**). **(Isaiah 63:1-6, “Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.”)** **In Malachi 1:2-5, “I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob,3And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. 4Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation forever. 5And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The Lord will be magnified from the border of Israel.”** The writer looks back to Edom's destruction. ‘I have loved Jacob but I have hated Esau. I have changed his mountains into a desert.’
  2. [**Genesis 36:43**](http://www.bible-history.com/studybible/Genesis/36/43/)**, “Duke Magdiel, duke Iram: these [be] the dukes of Edom, according to their habitations in the land of their possession: he [is] Esau the father of the Edomites.”**
  3. [**1 Chronicles 1:34**](http://www.bible-history.com/studybible/1+Chronicles/1/34/)**, “And Abraham begat Isaac. The sons of Isaac; Esau and Israel.”**
  4. **Refer to Ezekiel 36:5, “Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey.”** The most compelling Scriptural evidence to identify the Edomites is found in Ezekiel 36:5. The first fifteen verses of that chapter give God's viewpoint of the preeminent issue of our day, the ownership and eventual disposition of what the world calls the "West Bank." Verse 5 describes a conspiracy between the nations of the world and "Edom" to misappropriate that land that God had granted to Jacob. Therefore, we can conclude that Edom, in the modern context, is the West Bank Palestinians.
  5. **Read Ezekiel 35. The book of Obadiah is also closely related to the prophecy of Ezekiel 35, which is a prophecy against the same group of people.**
  6. **Parallel Obadiah with Jeremiah 49.** Large chunks of Obadiah are repeated in Jeremiah 49, in the oracle against Edom there. I am of the opinion that when portions are repeated nearly verbatim in other places in the Bible, it is very significant, a reinforcement of the importance of that message. In this case, the context in Jeremiah is important, I believe, in regards to other events prophesied in that same section of text. In Jeremiah 48-49, Edom and several other neighbors of Israel are addressed. These include Jordan, Syria, Iran, and Arabia, and portions of these prophecies await future fulfillment. This provides additional support to our understanding that portions of the Obadiah prophecy against Edom also await future fulfillment
  7. **Where did Edom dwell? Use** [**Deuteronomy 2:29**](http://www.bible-history.com/studybible/Deuteronomy/2/29/)**,** “As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me; until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us.”

**1-4, “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, *saying,* Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle): Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be greatly despised. The pride of your heart has deceived you, *you* who dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; *you* who say in your heart, Who will bring me down to the ground? Though you ascend *as* high as the eagle, and though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down, says the Lord**.”

* 1. **Discuss Verse 1: What is the title and vision?**
  2. **What does “vision” mean?** The vision of Obadiah: The Hebrew name Obadiah means Worshipper of Yahweh or Servant of Yahweh.
  3. **Who is Obadiah?** There are 13 Obadiah’s in the Old Testament, and one of these may the Obadiah who wrote this book. The word ‘vision’ refers to special words that God uses. He uses them to speak to people. It means that here Obadiah will speak the words of God. The \*prophecy is about a terrible event that would happen to Edom.
  4. **An Obadiah was an officer in King Ahab of Israel’s court and hid Gods prophets in a cave (**[**1 Kings 18:3**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Kings+18:3&t1=en_nas)**, “**And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly.”**)**
  5. **An Obadiah was sent out by King Jehoshaphat of Judah to teach the law in the cities of Judah (**[**2 Chronicles 17:7**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Chronicles+17:7&t1=en_nas)**, “**Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.”**)**
  6. **An Obadiah was one of the overseers who helped repair the temple in the days of Josiah, King of Judah (**[**2 Chronicles 34:12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Chronicles+34:12&t1=en_nas)**, “**And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of music.”**)**
  7. **An Obadiah was a priest in the days of Nehemiah (**[**Nehemiah 10:5**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Nehemiah+10:5&t1=en_nas)**, “**Harim, Meremoth, and Obadiah.”**)**
  8. **Discuss the similarity of Obadiah to Jeremiah 49:14, “**I have heard a rumor from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, saying, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.”  **Obadiah repeats what Jeremiah said in his prophecy. The nations that were once friends with \*Edom's people would attack their country. Obadiah received a message about Edom. At the same time, he heard that this attack would happen.**
  9. **Verses 2-4 display the “First Prophecy: Pride brings destruction.” Where else does the Bible warn against pride? See Proverbs 16:5, “**Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand joins in hand, he shall not be unpunished,” **8, “**Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right,” **and 29:23, “**A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.”
     1. **Review Proverbs 6:16-19, “**These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:17A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,18An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”
  10. **How is Obadiah different from other prophecies?**  **Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom**: Obadiah’s prophecy is unique because he doesn’t deal with Judah or Israel much at all. His focus is on the sin of Edom and the judgment coming upon them. Who were the Edomites?
  11. **Who are the Edomites? Read Genesis 25:19-34, “19*And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: 20And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian. 21And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22And the children struggled together within her; and she said, if it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord. 23And the Lord said unto her, two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. 24And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. 26And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them. 27And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. 28And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob. 29And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: 30And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. 31And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. 32And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. 34Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.”* The Edomites are the people descended from Esau, the son of Isaac and Rebekah and the brother of Jacob (**[**Genesis 25:19-34**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+25:19-34&t1=en_nas)**). Esau was nicknamed Edom (which means, red) probably because he had red hair.**
  12. **Where did they settle? Examine Genesis 36:8-43, “**Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom. 9And these are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in mount Seir: 10These are the names of Esau's sons; Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, Reuel the son of Bashemath the wife of Esau. 11And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz. 12And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife. 13And these are the sons of Reuel; Nahath, and Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah: these were the sons of Bashemath Esau's wife. 14And these were the sons of Aholibamah, the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon, Esau's wife: and she bare to Esau Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah. 15These were dukes of the sons of Esau: the sons of Eliphaz the firstborn son of Esau; duke Teman, duke Omar, duke Zepho, duke Kenaz, 16Duke Korah, duke Gatam, and duke Amalek: these are the dukes that came of Eliphaz in the land of Edom; these were the sons of Adah. 17And these are the sons of Reuel Esau's son; duke Nahath, duke Zerah, duke Shammah, duke Mizzah: these are the dukes that came of Reuel in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Bashemath Esau's wife. 18And these are the sons of Aholibamah Esau's wife; duke Jeush, duke Jaalam, duke Korah: these were the dukes that came of Aholibamah the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife. 19These are the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these are their dukes. 20These are the sons of Seir the Horite, who inhabited the land; Lotan, and Shobal, and Zibeon, and Anah,21And Dishon, and Ezer, and Dishan: these are the dukes of the Horites, the children of Seir in the land of Edom. 22And the children of Lotan were Hori and Hemam; and Lotan's sister was Timna. 23And the children of Shobal were these; Alvan, and Manahath, and Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. 24And these are the children of Zibeon; both Ajah, and Anah: this was that Anah that found the mules in the wilderness, as he fed the asses of Zibeon his father. 25And the children of Anah were these; Dishon, and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah. 26And these are the children of Dishon; Hemdan, and Eshban, and Ithran, and Cheran. 27The children of Ezer are these; Bilhan, and Zaavan, and Akan. 28The children of Dishan are these; Uz, and Aran. 29These are the dukes that came of the Horites; duke Lotan, duke Shobal, duke Zibeon, duke Anah, 30Duke Dishon, duke Ezer, duke Dishan: these are the dukes that came of Hori, among their dukes in the land of Seir. 31And these are the kings that reigned in the land of Edom, before there reigned any king over the children of Israel. 32And Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom: and the name of his city was Dinhabah. 33And Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his stead. 34And Jobab died, and Husham of the land of Temani reigned in his stead. 35And Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who smote Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his stead: and the name of his city was Avith. 36And Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his stead. 37And Samlah died, and Saul of Rehoboth by the river reigned in his stead. 38And Saul died, and Baalhanan the son of Achbor reigned in his stead. 39And Baalhanan the son of Achbor died and Hadar reigned in his stead: and the name of his city was Pau; and his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab. 40And these are the names of the dukes that came of Esau, according to their families, after their places, by their names; duke Timnah, duke Alvah, duke Jetheth, 41Duke Aholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon, 42Duke Kenaz, duke Teman, duke Mibzar, 43Duke Magdiel, duke Iram: these be the dukes of Edom, according to their habitations in the land of their possession: he is Esau the father of the Edomites,” **and Deuteronomy 2:12, “The Horims also dwelt in Seir beforetime; but the children of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their stead; as Israel did unto the land of his possession, which the Lord gave unto them.”** Esau eventually settled in the area of Mount Seir and absorbed a people known as the Horites, which refers to Edomite rulers as *dukes* in the KJV.
  13. **Give examples of Edom’s opposition to Israel.**
  14. **When Israel came out of Egypt and wanted to pass through the land of the Edomites to enter into the Promised Land, the Edomites wouldn’t let them, (**[**Numbers 20:14-21**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Numbers+20:14-21&t1=en_nas)**, “**And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:15How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers: 16And when we cried unto the Lord, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border: 17Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders. 18And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword. 19And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing anything else, go through on my feet. 20And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand.21Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.”**)**
  15. **The Edomites opposed Saul and were conquered under David and Solomon (**[**1 Samuel 14:47**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Samuel+14:47&t1=en_nas)**, “**So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them,” [**2**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Samuel+14:2&t1=en_nas) **Samuel 8:14, “**And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went,” [**1 Kings 9:26**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Kings+9:26&t1=en_nas)**, “**26and king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.”**)**
  16. **In the days of King Jehoshaphat of Judah, Edom joined with Moab and Ammon to attack Judah, but the Lord fought for Judah and defeated them (**[**2 Chronicles 20:1-27**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Chronicles+20:1-27&t1=en_nas)**, “**It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.2Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.3And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.4And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.5And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court,6And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?7Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?8And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,9If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.10And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;11Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.12O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.13And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.14Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation;15And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.16Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.17Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you.18And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.19And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high.20And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.21And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth forever.22And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.23For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.24And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.25And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.26And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the Lord: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.27Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies,” **the famous battle that was led with praise)**
  17. **The Edomites successfully rebelled against King Jehoram of Judah (**[**2 Kings 8:16-22**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+8:16-22&t1=en_nas)**, “**16And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign.17Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. 18And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the Lord. 19Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him always a light, and to his children. 20In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves. 21So Joram went over to Zair, and all the chariots with him: and he rose by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him about, and the captains of the chariots: and the people fled into their tents. 22Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.”**)**
  18. **King Amaziah of Judah brought them back under subjugation (**[**2 Kings 14:9-11**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+14:9-11&t1=en_nas)**, “**And Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.10Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up: glory of this, and tarry at home: for why shouldest thou meddle to thy hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee? 11But Amaziah would not hear. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah.”**)**
  19. **The Edomites again attacked Judah in the days of King Ahaz (**[**2 Chronicles 28:17**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Chronicles+28:17&t1=en_nas)**, “Now hear me therefore, and deliver the captives again, which ye have taken captive of your brethren: for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you.”)**
  20. **Centuries later, King Herod the Great (**[**Luke 1:5**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Luke+1:5&t1=en_nas)**, “**There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.”**) was an Edomite.**
  21. **They fought side by side with the Jews the rebellion against Rome in 66-70 a.d. and were crushed by Rome, never to be heard of as a people again. The predictions of** [**Obadiah 1:10**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Obadiah+1:10&t1=en_nas)**, “For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever,” and 1:18, “**And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the Lord hath spoken it,” **were proven accurate!**

**29. When did Obadiah write this prophecy? Concerning Edom: Because of what this book says of Edom and Jerusalem, we can gather a date for Obadiah’s ministry. The only time markers we have in the book are the attack against Jerusalem (**[**Obadiah 1:10-14**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Obadiah+1:10-14&t1=en_nas)**) and the fact that this passage also seems to indicate that Edom was not under Judah’s rule at the time.**

1. [**2 Chronicles 21:16-17**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Chronicles+21:16-17&t1=en_nas)**, “**Moreover the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians: 17And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons,” **describes an attack against Jerusalem during the reign of Jehoram (848-841 b.c.) by the Philistines and the Arabians.**
   1. **2 Kings 24 and 25 describe the attack of the Babylonians against Jerusalem in 586 b.c.**
   2. **Probably the better choice is the earlier attack, because** [**Obadiah 1:10-14**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Obadiah+1:10-14&t1=en_nas) **doesn’t seem to indicate that Jerusalem was totally destroyed, as it was under the Babylonian attack. If Obadiah’s prophecy considers this time period under Jehoram (848-841 b.c.), it makes him a contemporary of the prophet Elisha and also makes him the earliest of the prophets, probably beating Joel by a few years. It also means that this Prophet Obadiah *may* be the same man mentioned in** [**2 Chronicles 17:7**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Chronicles+17:7&t1=en_nas)**, “**Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.”
2. **Elaborate on this: “The Edomites boasted in their wisdom.” Use I Kings 4:30, “**And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt, “**and Jeremiah 49:7, “**Concerning Edom, thus saith the Lord of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?” **The men of Edom - especially of the city Teman - were noted for their wisdom. The phrase *men of the East* in the Old Testament often refers to men from Edom**, and passages like [1 Kings 4:30](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Kings+4:30&t1=en_nas) declare the great wisdom of the *men of the East*. As well, [Jeremiah 49:7](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jeremiah+49:7&t1=en_nas) says of Edom: *Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?* This was another source of pride for the Edomites. **SEE NUMBER 15, TOO!!**

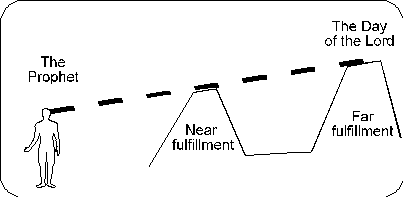
**5-9, “If thieves had come to you, if robbers by night; Oh, how you will be cut off! - Would they not have stolen till they had enough? If grape-gatherers had come to you, would they not have left *some* gleanings? Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! *How* his hidden treasures shall be sought after! All the men in your confederacy shall force you to the border; the men at peace with you shall deceive you *and* prevail against you. *Those who eat* your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it. Will I not in that day, says the Lord, Even destroy the wise *men* from Edom, and understanding from the mountains of Esau? Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.”**

1. **In verse 7, who are the Edomites’ alliances? and trusted in their allies - their *confederacy*, the *men at peace with you* (**[**Obadiah 1:7**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Obadiah+1:7&t1=en_nas)**). They thought that their alliances made them strong, and they were proud because of that strength.**
2. **Why were the Edomites known for their wisdom?**  Destroy the wise men from Edom, and understanding from the mountains of Esau: The Edomites were renowned for their great wisdom, but God would bring such great judgment that even their wise men would be destroyed.
   1. **Refer to Job’s Eliphaz in Job 2:11, “**Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came everyone from his own place; **Eliphaz the Temanite,** and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.”
3. **Parallel** [**Obadiah 1:1-9**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Obadiah+1:1-9&t1=en_nas) **with** [**Jeremiah 49:7-22**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jeremiah+49:7-22&t1=en_nas)**, “**Concerning Edom, thus saith the Lord of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished? 8Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time that I will visit him.9If grape gatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleaning grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough. 10But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he is not.11Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me.12For thus saith the Lord; Behold, they whose judgment was not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and art thou he that shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink of it.13For I have sworn by myself, saith the Lord, that Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes.14I have heard a rumor from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, saying, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.15For, lo, I will make thee small among the heathen, and despised among men.16Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord.17Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof.18As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the Lord, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.19Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan against the habitation of the strong: but I will suddenly make him run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? And who will appoint me the time? And who is that shepherd that will stand before me? 20Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them. 21The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea. 22Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs,” **so Jeremiah probably had Obadiah’s prophecy before him as he wrote and ministered.**

**10-14, “For violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. In the day that you stood on the other side; in the day that strangers carried captive his forces, when foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem; even you *were* as one of them. But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother in the day of his captivity; nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; nor should you have spoken proudly in the day of distress. You should not have entered the gate of My people in the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor laid *hands* on their substance in the day of their calamity. You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped; nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained in the day of distress.”**

1. **When was there violence by Edom against Israel? For your violence against your brother Jacob**: The family lines of both Israel and Edom go back to a common ancestor - Isaac. Esau (Edom) was the **brother** of **Jacob** (Israel). This made Edom’s sin against Israel all the worse.
2. **When did Edom cheer Israel’s enemies on? In that day you stood on the other side**: What did Edom do when **strangers** attacked Judah and **foreigners entered his gates**? *Nothing*. They stood by and cheered for Judah’s misery (**nor should you have rejoiced**).
   1. **See Psalm 137:7, “**Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Raze it, raze it, even to the foundation thereof.” When Babylonia attacked.
3. **When did Edom refuse Israel passage? Review Numbers 20:21-22, “**Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him. 22And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto mount Hor.”
4. **In Verse 14, God cuts down Edom. Discuss.**

**15-16, “For the day of the Lord upon all the nations *is* near; as you have done, it shall be done to you; your reprisal shall return upon your own head. For as you drank on my holy mountain, *so* shall all the nations drink continually; yes, they shall drink, and swallow, and they shall be as though they had never been.”**



1. **What is “The day of the LORD?” Is this “far future?”** Upon all the nations is near: God wants Edom to know that though distress and calamity came upon Judah, it can and will come upon Edom also. That day is **near**.
   1. **According to Obadiah, what will happen when “the Lord has His day” comes”**
      1. **Edom will be brought down from Mount Seir (**[**Obadiah 4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Obad%204)**)**
      2. **Israel will be gathered back to her land (**[**Obadiah 19–20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Obad%2019%E2%80%9320)**)**
      3. **Edom will be plundered (**[**Obadiah 6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Obad%206)**)**
2. **How does verse 15, (“For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head,”) link the first two parts of Obadiah?** In that verse, Obadiah warns people. He says, ‘The day of the Lord is near for all nations.’ The ‘day of the Lord’ is a special time when God will punish the nations. He warns Edom's people that they will not escape. ‘People will do to you what you have done to other people.’ Obadiah repeats the word ‘day’ in verses 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15.
3. **Equate God’s promise in Genesis 12:3,** “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed,” **with verses 15-16.** As you have done, it shall be done to you: God will give simple *justice* to the Edomites, no more and no less. What they did to the people of Judah will also be done to them. The same principle is true for us, so if we want mercy from God, we do well to give mercy to others. There is a sense in which Gods judgment against Edom was just the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham in [Genesis 12:3](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+12:3&t1=en_nas). The Edomites cursed Israel, so they were cursed. If we want to be blessed, we should bless the Jewish people.

**\*\*\*\*OBADIAH’S TONE SHIFT HERE……TO A PROMISE FOR ISRAEL!**

**17-20, “But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; the house of Jacob** **shall possess their possessions. 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 them and devour them, and no survivor shall *remain* of the house of Esau, for the Lord has spoken. The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, and the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria. Benjamin *shall possess* Gilead. And the captives of this host of the children of Israel *shall possess the land* of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the South.”**

1. **What happened historically to the Edomites?** The word of the Lord through Obadiah proved true. **The Edomites fought side by side with the Jews the rebellion against Rome in 66-70 a.d. and were crushed by Rome, never to be heard of as a people again.** The predictions of [Obadiah 1:10](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Obadiah+1:10&t1=en_nas) and 1:18 were precisely fulfilled. You just won’t meet an Edomite today.
2. **When will Israel occupy Esau’s land?** The South shall possess the mountains of Esau: ***Obadiah looks forward to a coming day when Israel will occupy and possess the land that once belonged to Esau.*** Though the modern borders of Israel do not encompass the ancient lands of Edom, we can trust that they one day will, either in this age or in the age to come.
   1. **See Ephesians 1:3, “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ,” t**he house of Jacob shall possess their possessions: Possessing these other lands can only happen when we first possess what is ours. God has given us a rich heritage of *every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ* (**[**Ephesians 1:3**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ephesians+1:3&t1=en_nas)**).**
3. **Where are Zarephath and Sepharad?** [Old Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Persian) inscriptions that refer to two places called [*Saparda*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saparda) (alternative reading: *Sparda*): one area in [Media](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Median_Empire) and another in [Asia Minor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia_Minor). It is **speculated that Sepharad could have been** [**Sardis**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardis), in Asia Minor. Whose native [Lydian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lydian_language) name is *Sfard*. Verse 20 is very difficult to understand. We can translate the word ‘group’ as ‘Halah’. This is a place in Assyria. Those people that had to leave their own country went there in 722 B.C. We could then translate the first part of verse 20 in this way. ‘The people from Halah that had to leave their own country will return. (In the beginning they lived in Israel, the northern kingdom.) They will overcome Phoenicia as far north as Zarephath.’) Therefore when they return they will have more land. **The second part of verse 20 refers to the Jews.** Their enemies removed them from their own country in 586 B.C. Perhaps some of the second group went there. When they return they will own southern Judah, the area called the Negev. The kingdoms of Israel and Judah will unite to rule the country.
   1. **Discuss Zarephath in Bible history. Far North….Use I Kings 17:8-24, “**And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, 9Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.10so he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.11And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.12And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.13And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.14For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.15And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.16And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.17And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.18And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?19And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.20And he cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?21And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.22And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.23And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.24And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth,”  **and Luke 4:24-26, “**And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.25But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;26But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow,” During the severe famine in the reign of King Ahab, Elijah sought out lodging **with a widow in Zarephath.** Miraculously, the widow’s small supply of flour and oil was not consumed until the famine came to an end. And when her son died, Elijah brought him to life again (1 Kings 17:8-24). These miracles were recalled by Jesus as an example of a prophet who is unwelcome in his hometown (Luke 4:24-26). **Zarephath was a small town in Phoenicia. It was between the towns called Tyre and Sidon. Phoenicia was the country to the north-west of Israel.**

**21, “Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lords.”**

1. **Who are the “Saviors who shall come to Mount Zion?”** ...Deliverers…Here, the word savior has the sense of deliverers. The contrast is plain; Edom will be completely destroyed, and no saviors shall help her, but saviors shall come to Mount Zion.
   1. **Could this be pointing to the Millennium? Compare with Isaiah 30:21, “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” When** [**Jesus Christ returns**](http://www.truegospel.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/library.sa/subj/return/jesus-christs-return-articles.htm)**, He comes with His saints—the saviors of Obadiah 21.** They, along with Jesus Christ, will come and "judge the mountains of Esau." As part of God's government, their job will be to help govern the entire earth. This is the essence of the [Kingdom of God](http://www.truegospel.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/basics.tour/ID/2/What-Did-Jesus-Preach.htm), a time when mankind—even the Edomites, should any survive—will finally submit to God's rule. **Obadiah 21 parallels a prophecy of the Millennium in** **[Isaiah 30:21:](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/18239/eVerseID/18239" \o "verse) "Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."** These saviors will assist Jesus Christ in delivering people from a way of life that is contrary to God's perfect way. They will help the nations to learn [peace](http://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/PERSONAL/k/273/The-Fruit-of-Spirit-Peace.htm) and righteousness, a way that produces loving harmony between brothers.
   2. **Perhaps other “Saviors”--See Judges 3:9, “**And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother,” **15, “**But when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man left-handed: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab,” **2 Kings 13:5, “**And the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in

their tents, as before time,” **and Nehemiah 9:27, “**Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.” **Such were Judas Maccabees, Hyrcanus, and Aristobulus.**

1. **How will judgment come to Esau?**
   1. **The presence of deliverers is a judgment against Edom, because Edom will have no deliverers.**
   2. **The judges will rule over the territory of Edom.**
   3. **The judges will actually sit in judgment over Edom and their sins.**
2. **The high note at the end implies the Millennial Kingdom. Discuss. And the kingdom shall be the Lords: The brief prophecy of Obadiah ends on this high note. The Edomites seemed to have their day against Gods people but at the end of it all, the kingdom shall be the Lords. He knows how to take care of Gods people and to advance His kingdom in a glorious way.**
   1. **Can this note of encouragement be the central purpose for this prophecy of Obadiah? We wonder if it ever had much of a reading in the streets or palaces of Edom; but it certainly was received as welcome encouragement among the suffering people of God. Obadiah tells all Gods people: Don’t worry about those who ignore your need, those who rejoice at your problems, those who take advantage of your crises, those who join their hands with others in attacking you. I will take care of them.**
3. **It seems as though God loved Jacob, rather than Esau. Elaborate.**
   1. [**Malachi 1:2**](http://www.bible-history.com/studybible/Malachi/1/2/)**– “I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, wherein hast thou loved us? [Was] not Esau Jacob's brother? Saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob.”**
   2. [**Genesis 25:28**](http://www.bible-history.com/studybible/Genesis/25/28/)**– “And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of [his] venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.”**
4. **What is the message from Obadiah for today’s people? See Mark 10:38, “**But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”  **John 11:52, “**And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad,” **and Galatians 6:16, “**And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.” **Jesus Christ has drunk from the 'cup' of God’s anger. He did this for them. Jesus said, ‘Can you drink the cup of suffering that I must drink?’ (Mark 10:38)**. **‘Christ’s death “joined in one body all the separated people of God” (John 11:52). The “Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16) will stand complete.**
5. **Why is there no “call for repentance” for the Edomites?**
   1. **Compare this with the other Minor Prophets? Especially Nahum?**
6. **How does God keep His Word to His people in Obadiah? The book of Obadiah shows that God will not forsake His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.** The message for the modern reader is clear. When Jesus comes again, God will kill his enemies. Edom's people are an example of God's enemies. But he will rescue those that call him for help. He will keep them safe for ever. They will enjoy all the blessings that God has promised them.
7. **Why is verse 21 often labelled, “The Theme Verse of Obadiah?” Theme verse in Obadiah? “*The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the LORD’S. “ (***[***Obadiah 21***](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Obad%2021)***) VICTORY FOR JACOB!***

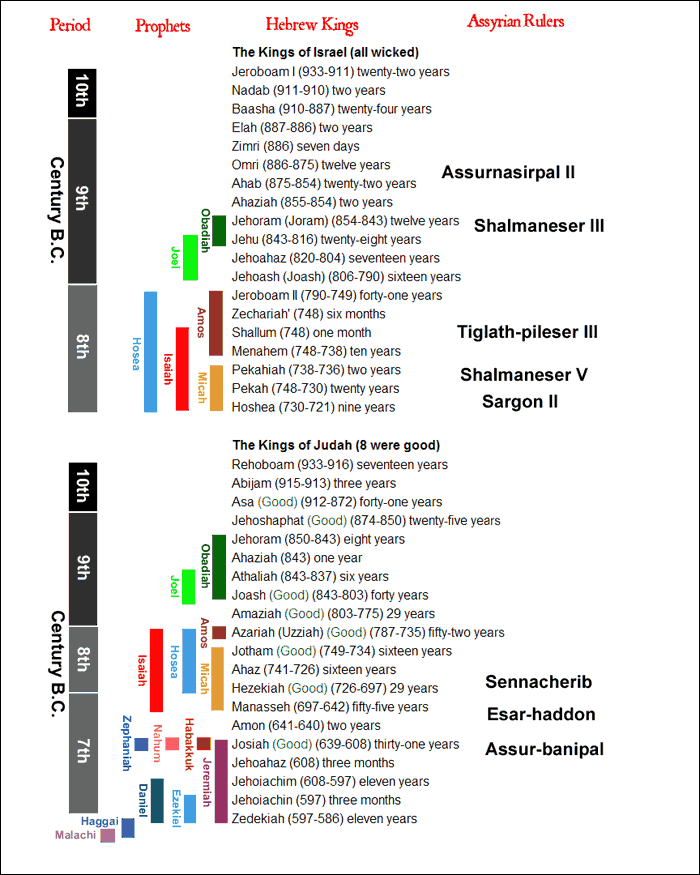
**Final notes**

**Obadiah is a difficult book to understand. However, the message is very important for today. In this book, we learn that God will completely defeat his enemies. God says to the Messiah, ‘Sit here on the right side of me. I will put your enemies under your feet.’ (See Hebrews 1:13.) Punishment will come upon \*Edom's \*people. It is like the punishment that will come upon Babylon's people. In Revelation 18:5, 6 the writer says, ‘God remembers their wicked acts. Do the same to them as they have done to you.’ In his book, Obadiah also teaches that one day God will let His people return. He will be the King over all. There will be a New Jerusalem. ‘The royal seat of God will be in the city. It is also the royal seat of the Lamb (a name that Jesus had). God's servants will serve him’ (Revelation 22:3, “**And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.”)

***And, here are the promises:***

**Ephesians 2:10, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”**

**Philippians 2:14-15, “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe."**

[](http://www.bible-history.com/black-obelisk/kings-prophets.html)