

## Outline of Obadiah

1-7	Edom's Pride Brought Down
8-14	Edom's Prideful Treatment of Israel
15-16	Same Principle Applied to All Nations
17-21	Distinct Destinies of Israel and Edom

### Author

Obadiah means "servant of Jehovah". There are 12 other men with this name in the Old Testament. However, none can be identified with the author of this book. It is the shortest book of the Old Testament. Obadiah may be the earliest of the writing prophets writing 848-841BC. However, the later date of 586BC could be correct.

### Summary

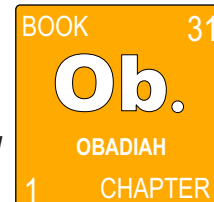
Obadiah tells the story of two nations. That is, the nation of Israel and the nation of Edom. Edom is the region South and slightly east of the Dead Sea usually referred to as the Negev or Negeb. Behind these two nations are two men. The men behind the nations are the founders of these nations, namely, Jacob and Esau. They are the twin brothers of Rebekah (Ge.25:22). Jacob was the father of Israel, and Esau was the father of the Edomites. Even in the womb, before they were born, they struggled together. Jacob was his mother's darling, and Esau was his Father's little man. Their unending conflict extended beyond the lives of these two men. The nations continued this conflict. The Edomites harbored hostility against Israel for centuries

## OBADIAH

**Obadiah's prophecy focused on the destructive power of the pride of Edom. He brings a message of judgment and doom to those who trust their own practices, and a message of hope and comfort to those who trust the Lord.**

(Ek.35:5). Saul (1Sa.4:47), David (2Sa.8:3-14), Joab (1Ki.11:16), and Solomon (1Ki.11:17-22) all had problems with the Edomites. The trouble with Esau is pride. It is the basic characteristic the Bible calls the flesh that wars or lusts against the spirit. Pride is the primary identifying mark of the flesh. Proverbs 6:16 says, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him". The first on the list is pride. What follows are variations of pride.

## PROPHETS



earth, the Romans came and destroyed the cities of Edom including its impregnable fortress. It has been in ruins since. If they have already been destroyed, then what value is it for us to understand. It is the spirit of Esau which is pride that will ultimately be destroyed. Pride was Satan's great sin. Pride is a failure of faith by not seeing things God's way. This is why God is said to hate Esau. This is a force of Esau in all of us that God

### Edom (Esau) Proudful Actions Toward His Brother Israel (Jacob)

Verse 10	Verse 11	Verse 12	Verse 13	Verse 14
Edom was <b>violent</b> toward his brother  <i>Edom showed "violence against thy brother Jacob"</i>	Edom was <b>indifferent</b> over his brother's downfall  <i>Edom stood "on the other side"</i>	Edom <b>gloated</b> over troubles of his brother  <i>Edom "rejoiced over the children of Judah"</i>	Edom <b>plundered</b> his brother's city, Jerusalem  <i>Edom "laid hands on their substance"</i>	Edom <b>exploited</b> his brother during calamity  <i>Edom "stood in the crossway"</i>
<i>God will reverse all these at the "Day of the Lord" (v.8, 19-21), when Edom, and all nations, will be judged by their treatment toward Israel (v.15).</i>				

The universe centers around self, the rival god, namely pride. That is Esau. That is Edom.

Edom was controlled by the Assyrians and the Babylonians in the fifth century BC. They were forced by the Nabateans to leave their territory and move to southern Palestine. There they were known as Idumeans. Herod the Great was an Idumean. Edom had its capital in the ancient city of Petra. The city and temples were carved out of the rocks. Just a few years after our Lord's days on

hates, and it will ultimately be judged.

Theologically we learn from Obadiah that (1) God keeps His promises, (2) God makes His own choices, and (3) we are responsible for the choices we make.



### CHRIST IN OBADIAH

- Verse 21b "And the kingdom shall be the Lord's" referring to the mount of Edom. The LORD, Messiah, shall possess this mount when He comes back to rule (Re.11:15).