

# Obadiah



"And cast lots upon Jerusalem."—*Obadiah* i. 11.

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**Prelude:** Holy, Holy, Holy

**Welcome:**

**I-Worship:**

Above All  
He Has Made Me Glad  
We All Bow Down  
How Great Thou Art

**Opening prayer:**

**Message:**

### **The Author**

The author of the book is named Obadiah which means “Servant of Yahweh.”

He was a Minor Prophet a Hebrew prophet of the sixth century B.C.

Obadiah is credited with authorship of the shortest book in the Old Testament, consisting of a mere 21 verses in a single chapter.

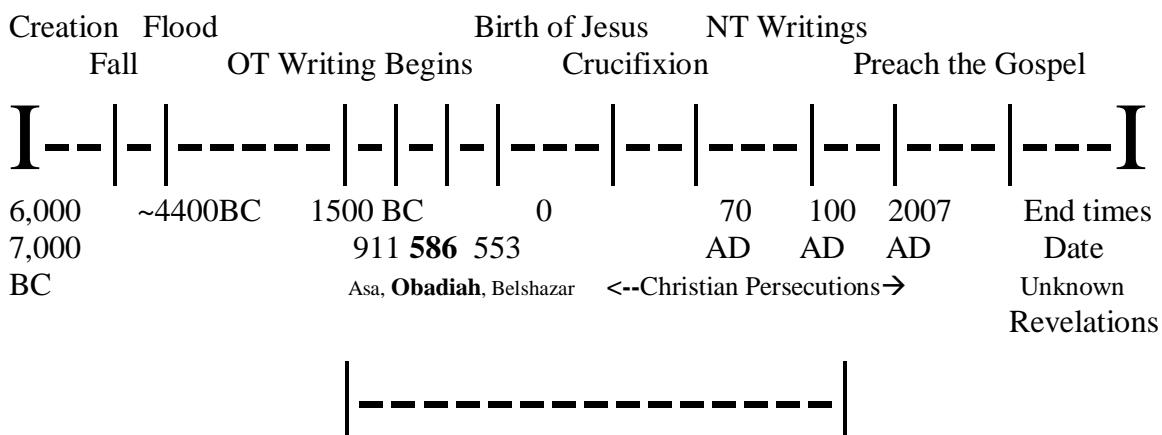
Are you familiar with the book of Obadiah?

Today you will be...

### **The Date**

It is very difficult to know when Obadiah was written because there is nothing in the heading or introduction of the book to pinpoint the date. Looking in the text of the book for historical clues we believe that it points to two possible dates 845 B.C. and **586 B.C.**

Broad consensus suggests that the calamity was in fact the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. From Nabonidus Chronicle, an important Akkadian source for the history of the Neo-Babylonian Empire we learned that Edom itself fell in 553 B.C TO Nabonidus of Babylon. The combination of factors suggests that Obadiah was written between 586 and 553 B.C.



40 Authors writing in 3 continents (Europe, Africa and Asia)

Approximately four times in history the Edomites attacked Judah and plundered Jerusalem. After one of these invasions, the prophet Obadiah announced that God would destroy Edom (Founded by Esau) for attacking His people.

Let us read the bible book of Obadiah right now so we can get the details.

Turn in your bibles to Obadiah. It is located right after Amos and before Jonah.

## **Obadiah 1 (King James Version)**

### **King James Version (KJV)**

#### [Public Domain](#)

1The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

2Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

3The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

4Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

5If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave some grapes?

6How are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!

7All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.

8Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

**9**And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

**10**For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

**11**In 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.

**12**But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

**13**Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity;

**14**Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

**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.

**16**For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

**17**But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

**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.

**19**And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

**20**And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

**21**And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

### **The Objects of Destruction (1:8-9)**

God would destroy the wise men and the mighty men in Edom. During the coup, the leaders were killed first and eventually everyone else was slaughtered or deported.

### **The Reason for Destruction (1:10-14)**

#### **The Underlying Sin: Violence to His Brother— Judah (1:10)**

These two nations began with Jacob and Esau. They should have been allies whenever foreign nations attacked one or the other, but we will see Edom's response was when Judah was attacked. What Edom is being judged for is failure to obey one of the underlying principles of the law. The summary of the law was to love God and to love your neighbor. Even though Edom was not under the Law of Moses, they still were responsible before God because their conscience should have told them they were violating the law of love.

### **The Specific Actions: (1:11-14)**

Now Obadiah explains how they failed to show love for their neighbors.

#### **Indifference to Judah's troubles (11)**

When Judah was being attacked by Gentiles, Edom should have come to help his brother, but he stood aloof. He condoned the evil that was taking place.

I think this shows us an interesting principle: It is common in our day to not want to get involved and there are many stories about people standing around, watching a crime be committed and not doing anything about it. This is immoral. James says, "The one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it is sinning" ([James 4:17](#)).

### **Rejoicing over Judah's troubles (12)**

They had an attitude such as, “better them than us.” This is also part of the condoning of sin, but it shows a progression towards a more advanced stage of evil. They aren’t just indifferent, they are glad that it is happening to Israel.

### **Looting Judah's possessions (13)**

This is like people who loot a city after a hurricane or something. If you can have degrees of evil, this is one of the lowest forms of theft. It is taking advantage of another's calamity.

### **Oppressing Judah's people (14)**

When the Israelites fled from their enemies and headed to the south, Edom was there to capture the fugitives and then they sold the survivors as slaves.

Show Progression of evil transparency

Did you know that Edom’s arrogance was grounded in its virtually impregnable mountain strongholds? The Edomites safeguarded their wealth – accumulated from trade-in vaults in the rocks.

Edom, particularly Teman, was known for its wise men. Eliphaz, one of Jobs three friends, was a Temanite.

### **Video to re-enforce learning:**

Obadiah KJV1611 AuthorizedVersion.mpg

### **The major categories of the Obadiah's prophetic message:**

- Promise of Judgment
- Reasons for Judgment
- Description of Judgment
- Future Deliverance or Restoration

About the only thing missing is the call for repentance.

What can we learn from the bible book of Obadiah?

- 1) **Pride deceives and leads to more sin.**

(2) **Sin follows a downward path.** We saw how Edom progressed in their sins against Judah. At first it was just complacency, but then it was the promotion of evil and finally participation in the evil. It shows us how dangerous complacency is. It doesn't stop there.

Are we complacent about anything? Do you remember the first time you heard about Doctor Death? Were you outraged? Now that he has killed over a dozen people, are you desensitized to the news? Does it affect you as much as it did the first time? What about Abortion, violence on TV, etc.

(3) **God will keep His word.** Obadiah said Edom's judgment would be complete and appropriate. They would get what they deserved. And in fact they did.

(4) **God will punish sin.** We are introduced to the Day of the Lord. He sees what nations are mistreating His people and He will judge them accordingly. It shows us that God is in control. This is really important for us to believe when we face tough times.

(5) **God will protect His own.** God is good and He loves us and will take care of us.

### **Conclusion:**

Friends, God is in control of the birds and the flowers, so he certainly can take care of us. Obadiah also emphasizes that God is our Heavenly Father, which means He loves us. And God is good...

So, when we face difficulties, that doesn't mean God is not there or that He doesn't love us. The difficulties sometimes are for our own character and spiritual development. We can get through them if we believe in God's sovereignty and goodness.

The book of Obadiah reminds us that God will keep His word.

Are you caught up in a pattern of sin? Come to your senses for God see all and will not allow your sin to go unpunished. When it comes to sin you have to do it in! Ask the Lord to strengthen you to do the right thing. Take action...

Did you learn something today?

May you be able to recall all that you learned in the bible book of Obadiah in the days to come.

**Let's stand for closing prayer.**

### **Postlude:**

## What a Friend We Have In Jesus

### References:

[http://www.bible.org/page.php?page\\_id=971](http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=971)

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=obadiah;&version=9;>