



OBADIAH

Read Obadiah

Obadiah reflects the bitterness that can come from family disputes and betrayal among relatives. The Edomites descended from Esau, the elder brother of Israel (Jacob; see Gen 25:19–34). They were complacent while Babylon destroyed Jerusalem in 587 BC. They were among many who harassed the returning Jewish exiles.

Reflect: Like Obadiah, I may have said in anger against a relative, “As you have done, it shall be done to you.” Yet it is worth noting that Obadiah concludes, “...the kingdom shall be the LORD’s.” Can I accept that the Lord’s kingship might be more inclusive than my narrow prayers?

Pray: Lord, teach me to acknowledge my hostilities and bitterness, and to turn them over to you. Grant that I may forgive and be open to reconciliation and the healing of broken relationships.

Act: Today I will recall a neglected, forgotten, or broken relationship. I will turn it over to God, and take a step toward reconciliation.

Proud Edom Will Be Brought Low

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 it for battle!”

2 I will surely make you least among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.

3 Your proud heart has deceived you, you that live in the clefts of the rock,^a whose dwelling is in the heights.

You say in your heart,

“Who will bring me down to the ground?”

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

says the LORD.

Pillage and Slaughter Will Repay Edom’s Cruelty

5 If thieves came to you, if plunderers by night—how you have been destroyed!—would they not steal only what they wanted?

If grape-gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings?

6 How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures searched out!

7 All your allies have deceived you, they have driven you to the border;

^a Or clefts of Sela

- your confederates have prevailed
 against you;
 those who ate^a your bread have
 set a trap for you—
 there is no understanding of it.
- 8 On that day, says the LORD,
 I will destroy the wise out of Edom,
 and understanding out of Mount
 Esau.
- 9 Your warriors shall be shattered,
 O Teman,
 so that everyone from Mount
 Esau will be cut off.

Edom Mistreated His Brother

- 10 For the slaughter and violence done
 to your brother Jacob,
 shame shall cover you,
 and you shall be cut off forever.
- 11 On the day that you stood aside,
 on the day that strangers carried
 off his wealth,
 and foreigners entered his gates
 and cast lots for Jerusalem,
 you too were like one of them.
- 12 But you should not have gloated^b
 over^c your brother
 on the day of his misfortune;
 you should not have rejoiced over
 the people of Judah
 on the day of their ruin;
 you should not have boasted
 on the day of distress.
- 13 You should not have entered the
 gate of my people
 on the day of their calamity;
 you should not have joined in the
 gloating over Judah's^d disaster
 on the day of his calamity;
 you should not have looted his goods
 on the day of his calamity.
- 14 You should not have stood at the
 crossings
 to cut off his fugitives;
 you should not have handed over his
 survivors
 on the day of distress.

- 15 For the day of the LORD is near
 against all the nations.
 As you have done, it shall be done
 to you;
 your deeds shall return on your
 own head.
- 16 For as you have drunk on my holy
 mountain,
 all the nations around you shall
 drink;
 they shall drink and gulp down,^e
 and shall be as though they had
 never been.

Israel's Final Triumph

- 17 But on Mount Zion there shall be
 those that escape,
 and it shall be holy;
 and the house of Jacob shall take
 possession of those who
 dispossessed them.
- 18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire,
 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 of
 the house of Esau;
 for the LORD has spoken.
- 19 Those of the Negeb shall possess
 Mount Esau,
 and those of the Shephelah the
 land of the Philistines;
 they shall possess the land of
 Ephraim and the land of Samaria,
 and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.
- 20 The exiles of the Israelites who are
 in Halah^f
 shall possess^g Phoenicia as far as
 Zarephath;
 and the exiles of Jerusalem who are
 in Sepharad
 shall possess the towns of the Negeb.
- 21 Those who have been saved^h shall
 go up to Mount Zion
 to rule Mount Esau;
 and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

^a Cn: Heb lacks *those who ate*

^b Heb *But do not gloat* (and similarly through verse 14)

^c Heb *on the day of*

^d Heb *his*

^e Meaning of Heb uncertain

^f Cn: Heb *in this army*

^g Cn: Meaning of Heb uncertain

^h Or *Saviors*