

- I) V1-4 INTRO: The vision of Obadiah Thus says the LORD GOD concerning Edom
  - a) The Book of Obadiah was written around 840 BC by Obadiah (worshiper/servant of Jehovah)
    - 1) In scripture there are 13 men named Obadiah: Scholars are divided over just who he is
    - 2) The bible does not give his background information so nothing can be known with certainty
  
- II) THE BOOK: Is Obadiah's prophecy concerning judgment that will fall on the land of Edom
  - a) Edom was so. of Israel, from the so. border of the Dead Sea to Eilat (Gulf of Aqaba)
    - 1) It covered portions that included Jordan, with Petra being a stronghold city
  
- III) EDMITES: Were descendants of the patriarch Isaac
  - a) Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau
  
- IV) ISAAC: Was married to Rebekah and desired children, but Rebekah was barren
  - a) He prayed for 20 years that God would make it possible for her to conceive, and she did
    - 1) She had a difficult pregnancy and out of concern she prayed for the reason why
  
- V) KEY: It was revealed to her that she was carrying twin boys
  - a) Gen 25:23 And the LORD said to her: Two nations *are* in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.
    - 1) The firstborn son "came out red", and was hairy so he was named Esau
    - 2) The second son was born holding on to Esau's heel: heel catcher/supplanter (Jacob)
  
- VI) ESAU: Was his father's favorite
  - a) He loved to hunt and was an outdoorsman
  - b) Jacob was a mild man, and enjoyed a more comfortable way of living: he was his mom's boy
  
- VII) EVENTUALLY: Jacob conspired to take both his brother's *birthright* and *blessing*
  - a) The birthright was for the first born son, and spoke of his preeminence over any others
    - 1) He would get a double portion of the father's possessions and becomes head of the family
  
- VIII) KEY: The blessing was the most valuable heritage parents gave to their children
  - a) The blessing was regarded as the greatest happiness that could come to children
    - 1) Jacob took the blessing of the covenantal promises made to Abraham, which were promises of abundance, authority over nations, and authority in the family, as well as general blessings
  
- IX) ESAU: Would live in fields, be warlike, and serve his brother
  - a) His response to his father's words was to comfort himself with thoughts of *killing Jacob*
    - 1) Eventually he married and moved south and became the father of the Edomites (Gen 36:1, 8)
  
- X) THE WAR: That began in the womb, and stretched into adulthood was continued by their descendants
  - a) This lead to the judgment God pronounces here on Edom
  
- XI) IN MALACHI: God made an amazing statement concerning Esau
  - a) Mal 1:2-3 I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' *Was not Esau Jacob's brother?*" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; But Esau I have hated
    - 1) Obadiah explains why God said He hated Esau
  
- I) KEY: Why were they being judged

- a) FIRST: They refused to help Israel when she was in the wilderness
    - 1) Nu 20:14-21 records how Moses requested safe passage through their territory, and it was refused
    - 2) The king even threatened violence against them if they tried to cross
  - b) SECOND: Edom did not come to their aid during a time of invasion, possibly by Philistines who came against Jerusalem (V11)
- II) BECAUSE OF THIS: God pronounces judgment on Edom
- a) HE SAYS: You will be small among nations, your pride had deceived you, you will be cut off, Esau shall be searched out, your warriors will fear, shame will cover you, you will be cut off, you will be repaid
    - 1) You were happy when Jerusalem fell, but you will be dealt with
- III) V1 THE VISION: Of Obadiah Thus says the LORD GOD concerning Edom We have heard a report
- a) It begins with a formal declaration that the message is from God against Edom
    - 1) The Lord has sent a messenger to stir up nations to rise up against Edom
    - 2) POINT: God moves them to fulfill His determination to judge Edom
- IV) V2-4 BEHOLD: I will make you small among the nations you shall be greatly despised
- a) God is bringing them down because of their proud belief in their own might
    - 1) They lived in caves on the hills, and because of this felt they were completely safe
    - 2) Because they were high on hills and small mountains, who could ascend to defeat them?
- V) THIS PRIDE: Had convinced them that they were incable of being beaten by enemies
- a) It is this pride that God hates and that will bring judgment on them
    - 1) They are arrogant and self-sufficent, and God makes it clear that they will be judged
- VI) V4 THOUGH: You exalt yourself as high as the eagle and though you set your nest among the stars
- a) POINT: You think that you dwell safely, out of reach but the fact is, God can reach you
    - 1) Amos 9:2 Though they dig into hell, From there my hand shall take them; Though they climb up to heaven, From there I will *bring them down*
- VII) YOU THINK: That no one can bring you down from your habitation, but you are wrong
- a) Your pride has led to your being taken down
    - 1) Is 14:12-15 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
      - 2) You may be inaccessible to man, but not to God
- VIII) V5-6 IF THIEVES: Had come to you, if robbers by night Oh, how you will be cut off
- a) Thieves can break in and steal all they want or can carry away, but do not take everything
  - b) Grape harvesters take the best grapes, but do not always take all the grapes
    - 1) But you will be completely ransacked, and will have nothing left
    - 2) V6 Your ruin will be total, nothing shall be left, even the hidden treasures (in Petra)
- IX) V7-9 ALL THE MEN: In your confederacy shall force you to the border The men at peace with you
- a) Your allies will turn on you and you will have no one to help you
- I) V8 WILL I NOT: In that day says the Lord Even destroy the wise men from Edom
- a) Your wise men will not bring forth any wisdom, as they will be destroyed

- 1) There will be nothing you can do
  - 2) Pr 21:30 *There is* no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the LORD.
- II) V9 THEN: Your mighty men O Teman shall be dismayed to the end that everyone from the mountains
- a) Teman could be a city near Petra, or may be referring to a geographical location in the north
    - 1) The point is that all will be slaughtered
- III) V10-14 FOR: Your violence against your brother Jacob shame shall cover you
- a) Their pride and arrogance had birthed other sins that God will now charge them with
    - 1) Shame will cover them, and they will be cut off forever
    - 2) We hear much about Israel in the news, but nothing of Edom
- IV) FIRST: When Israel was being invaded, instead of offering aid you sided with their oppressors (V11)
- a) This is being charged against them
- V) V12 BUT: You should not have gazed on the day of your brother in the day of his captivity
- a) They had no sympathy or concern for Israel, but actually rejoiced over their pain
    - 1) Pr 24:17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles
- VI) V13 YOU SHOULD NOT: Have entered the gate of My people in the day of their calamity
- a) Not only did they ally against Israel, but they also entered and looted the city
- VII) V14 YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE: Stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped
- a) Instead of caring for those fleeing, they prevented them from escaping south into Egypt
    - 1) Those they detained they turned over to the invaders
- VIII) V15-16 FOR: The day of the Lord upon all the nations is near
- a) Obadiah is writing concerning judgment and now likens it to the future judgment of God
    - 1) The Day of the Lord is a technical expression related to the great tribulation
- IX) WHEN MESSIAH COMES: To establish His kingdom at the end of the tribulation, He will judge
- a) There is not a common agreement on exactly how this works out
    - 1) Some believe it refers to the judgment of the sheep and goats found in Mt 25
    - 2) This judgment speaks of how the people of earth treated Israel during the tribulation
    - 3) Others think it refers to the final judgment found in Rev 20:11-15
- X) OTHERS: See this being fulfilled during the tribulation, when all who oppose Jesus are killed
- a) As Edom joined Israel's oppressors and were judged, judgment comes Israel's oppressors
    - 1) Edom is a picture of the flesh, and will never partake in God's blessings
- XI) V17-18 BUT: On Mount Zion there shall be deliverance and there shall be holiness
- a) While Edom only awaits destruction, Israel awaits God's blessings
    - 1) They will be completely resettled on their own land, and Mt Zion will again be a holy place
    - 2) Is 52:1 Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean Shall no longer come to you.
- I) WHEN MESSIAH RULES: Holiness will be present

a) Jer 31:23 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "They shall again use this speech in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I bring back their captivity: 'The LORD bless you, O home of justice, *and* mountain of holiness!'

b) Zech 14:20 In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be *engraved* on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

II) V19-21 THE INHABITANTS: Of the South shall possess the mountains of Esau

a) Finally, Edom can only expect destruction in their future

1) Israel will receive blessings, resettled in their own land and no longer under attack

2) The nation will once again possess the land as the rightful owners

III) V21 THEN SAVIORS: Shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau and the kingdom

a) Rulers, deliverers like early judges in Israel will be there to represent God's rule on earth

1) Ps 146:10 The LORD shall reign forever-- Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!