

OBADIAH

536 OR 845 BC

Reconciliation is Central to Repentance

to bet on a future. Obadiah's little book is about the long-term results of an unreconciled heart. Ancient wounds of rejection. Revenge followed their attack against Judah, the enemy followed the enemy for a long time. Wounded up those

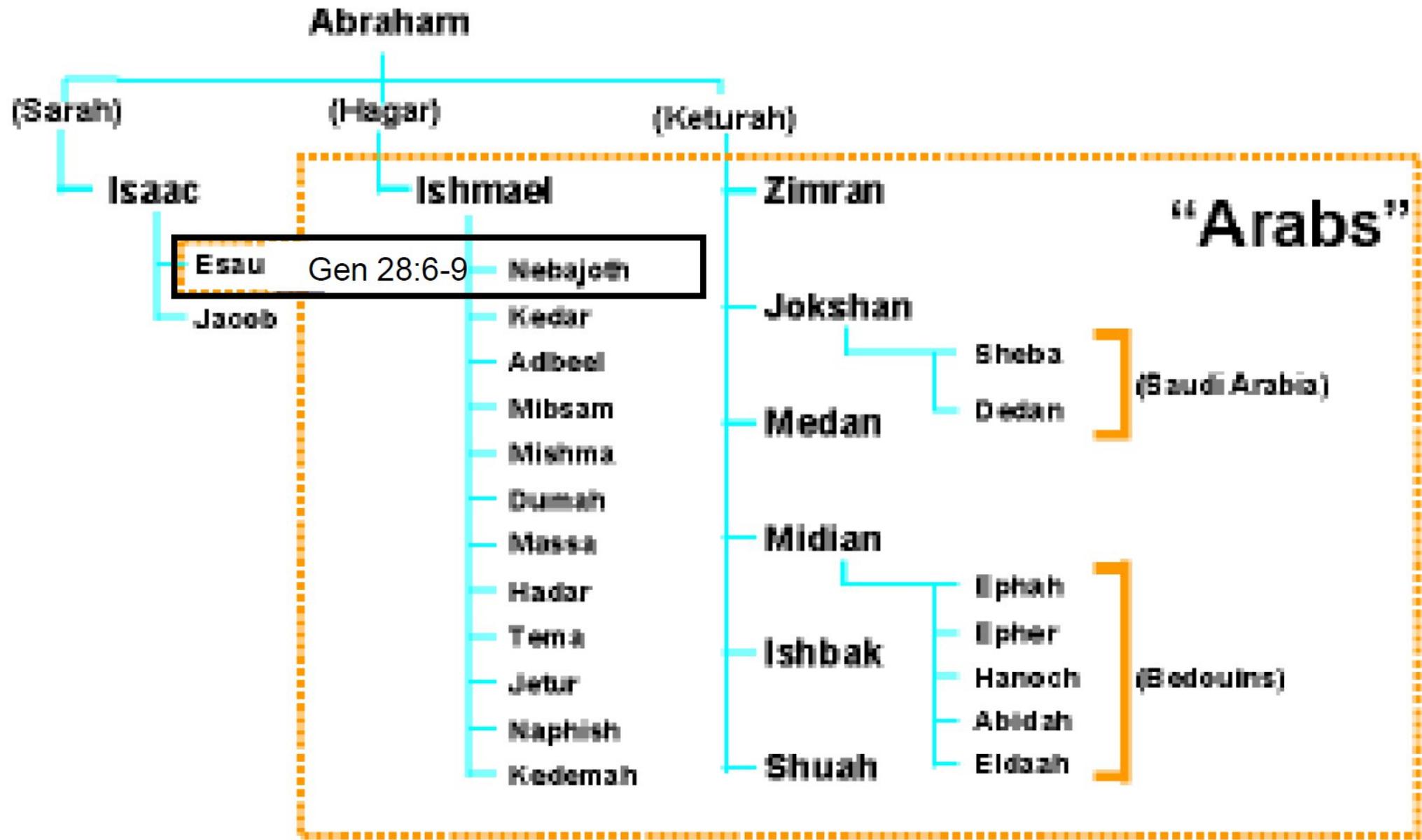
The Coming Judgment
The vision of Obadiah

Thus says the Lord
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OUTLINE

- 📍 Background
- 📍 The Pride of Edom (v. 1-4)
- 📍 The Riches and Theft of Edom (v. 5-7)
- 📍 The Total Destruction of Edom (v. 8-9)
- 📍 Crime and Punishment (v. 10-14)
- 📍 God's *Lex Talionis* Judgement of Edom (v. 15-16)
- 📍 The End of Jacob and Esau (v. 17-18)
- 📍 The End of the Matter (v. 19-21)

BACKGROUND



BACKGROUND

- 📍 Israel was forbidden to abhor his Edomite brother (**Deuteronomy 23:7-8**)
- 📍 Edom did not help Israel during their Wilderness Wanderings (**Numbers 20:14-21**)
- 📍 Joshua was allotted the territory of Judah up to Edom, but did not encroach on their lands (**Joshua 15:1, 21**)
- 📍 David conquered Edom and put garrisons throughout the land (**2 Samuel 8:13-14**)
- 📍 Under Ahaz, when Judah was being attacked by Pekah and Rezin, the Edomites invaded Judah and carried off captives (**2 Chronicles 28:17**); Judah never again recovered Edom
- 📍 Destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon in 586 B.C.
- 📍 **Destruction of Jerusalem cheered by Edom (Psalm 137:7-9) and Obadiah 1:12-14**
- 📍 Nomadic Nabateans move from Arabia and drive the Edomites West
 - 📍 Land was better in the new place and was their historical “land” from Esau
- 📍 Edomites take Amalekite territory during the Babylonian Captivity of Judah; Land later known as Idumea
- 📍 Returned to Jewish control during the Maccabean Revolt in 164 B.C.
 - 📍 Later under the prince and high priest John Hyrcanus, Idumeans are forced to die, flee, or convert to Judaism
- 📍 47 B.C. Julius Caesar raises the Idumean Antipater as procurator of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee
 - 📍 37 B.C., Herod, son of Antipater, made king over Israel
- 📍 After the revolts of 70 and 135 A.D., the Edomites became assimilated into the modern Palestinians and the Roman name of the land changes from Idumea to Palestina

THE PRIDE OF EDOM (V. 1-4)

🗨️ A call for everyone to listen and pay attention

🗨️ Message not limited to Israel or Edom; it is for everyone

🗨️ This is one of the main problems with Edom

🗨️ Was also a problem for Israel (**Hosea 5:5; Amos 6:8**)

🗨️ Note that Pride causes Israel to stumble and sin (**Hosea 5:5**)

🗨️ If God judges Edom, then how could he not judge Israel?

🗨️ Could argue that their pride led to all their other sins

🗨️ **Mistreatment of Judah:** Edom thinks they are better than Judah... after all, Esau was cheated out of his birthright

🗨️ **Cheering at her destruction:** What happens to Judah is just, how could they not cheer justice?

🗨️ **Rooted in Pride:** Never realized they had the same issues and that they were assuming God would not judge them

🗨️ Eternal hatred of Esau for Jacob still exists today

🗨️ The deceitfulness of pride

🗨️ Thought they were fine, but failed to account for God

🗨️ Previous examples of God judging pride (e.g. **Ezekiel 16:49**)

🗨️ Nothing wrong with being wise and having a good strategic position

🗨️ But where is your trust truly (**Psalm 20:7; Isaiah 31:1**)?

🗨️ A wise ruler will lead well but, put trust in God

🗨️ God grants wisdom to those that fear Him (**Proverbs 9:10**)

🗨️ The child of God can ask for wisdom at any time (**James 1:5**)

🗨️ Pride is the issue, not their strategic position... but this is not an excuse to be foolish

THE RICHES AND THEFT OF EDOM (V. 5-7)

🗨️ Edom was like ancient Switzerland

- 🗨️ Isolated in the mountains
- 🗨️ Generally secure from attack
- 🗨️ Rich through the facilitation of trade/finance
- 🗨️ Could generally afford to stay independent

🗨️ Riches would not be enough to protect them when enemies (former allies) come to destroy and rob them

- 🗨️ When God's judgment comes, it is impossible to avoid

🗨️ Everything they have will be taken away from them

- 🗨️ Again, the justice of God is precise
- 🗨️ Their wealth made them powerful, but it also made them a target when God determined it
- 🗨️ They trusted in wealth, and God took it away

🗨️ God's judgment would be complete

- 🗨️ Nothing is left over

🗨️ What are we trusting in?

- 🗨️ Personally, as a Church, nationally, etc.?
- 🗨️ Whatever it is, God may take it away to show that He is in control
- 🗨️ Also shows us what truly matters

🗨️ Note that the issue is not riches themselves, but the pride and actions of Edom

- 🗨️ Wealth, by itself, is not a problem
- 🗨️ The **LOVE** of money is the problem (1 Timothy 6:10)
- 🗨️ It's what you do with it and your relationship with God that matters
 - 🗨️ Not just money, but anything: time, money, work, etc.

THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF EDOM (V. 8-9)

- 🗨️ Seems to be two parts to the removal of wisdom
 - 🗨️ Removal of wise people/leaders
 - 🗨️ Removal of wise/reasonable ideas/actions of the collective
- 🗨️ God tends to give us the rulers we ask for/deserve (1 Samuel 12:13)
- 🗨️ We have a responsibility to pray for them, even (or especially) if they are bad (1 Timothy 2:2)
- 🗨️ This may seem harsh, but consider what Edom did
 - 🗨️ Prevented Israel from going through their land in the Wilderness
 - 🗨️ Rejoiced at the destruction of Judah
 - 🗨️ Joined in the slaughter of Judah
 - 🗨️ Prevented people from escaping
 - 🗨️ And they were brothers...
- 🗨️ The judgement and justice of God is perfect
 - 🗨️ If it seems harsh to us, it is because we have not understood the depths of our sin
 - 🗨️ Do not understand the extent of His holiness and perfection
- 🗨️ If God judged Edom, then He must judge America; and if America, then the world

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (V. 10-14)

Crime

🗨️ Violence against Jacob

- 🗨️ Note “Jacob”, the disobedient title for Israel
 - 🗨️ Even when they were disobedient, it was not right to oppress them
 - 🗨️ Even in this state, God still loved them (**Malachi 1:2**)
- 🗨️ Just because they are prophesied to experience hardship and persecution, does not mean we should be the ones to bring that about (e.g. **Matthew 18:7**)
 - 🗨️ The disobedience of the Jews has been the excuse for many anti-Jewish actions throughout history
- 🗨️ Even in disobedience, God still cares about His people
- 🗨️ Even in our disobedience, God still cares about us

Punishment

🗨️ Shame

- 🗨️ The desire to hide or cover oneself due to faults, failures, etc.
- 🗨️ Shame is not the same as repentance
 - 🗨️ Nowhere do we see Edom repentant
 - 🗨️ Based on the history between Edom and Israel, it looks like they have never repented
 - 🗨️ Sorrow for the consequences of sin does not matter unless we change
 - 🗨️ Part of the reason for trials in our life is to get us to acknowledge our sin and repent (**Hebrews 12:5-11**; **1 John 1:9**)
 - 🗨️ If lesser measures do not work, God may use stronger measures (e.g. **Jonah**)

🗨️ Cut off forever

- 🗨️ *kāraṭ* = kill, destroy, or behead
- 🗨️ As a people-group or nation, no longer around
- 🗨️ However, decedents still exist and cause problems

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (V. 10-14)

🗨️ Did not help at the destruction of Israel (v. 11)

- 🗨️ They were brothers, and God expected them to act better... even in judgment
- 🗨️ Wanted to get part of the spoils
 - 🗨️ Becoming rich at the expense/suffering of others
 - 🗨️ Demonstrates the total hatred of Edom to Judah
 - 🗨️ Treasure and the heart (**Matthew 6:21**)

🗨️ Rejoiced at Israel's Destruction (v. 12)

- 🗨️ Gazed, rejoiced and spoken proudly
- 🗨️ **Gazed:** They could not look away and were enjoying it
- 🗨️ **Rejoiced:** Physical, carnal reaction instead of spiritual understanding or depth
- 🗨️ **Spoken Proudly:** 'Look how much better we are than them'
- 🗨️ God does not take pleasure in the destruction of wicked people (**Ezekiel 33:11**)

🗨️ Compare the reaction of Edom and Jesus to the destruction of Jerusalem (**Matthew 23:37**)

🗨️ Joined in the Plunder (v. 13)

- 🗨️ Took advantage of the misfortune of others
- 🗨️ Could not wait to get their hands on wealth
- 🗨️ "gazed on their affliction"
 - 🗨️ They took it all in and enjoyed it
 - 🗨️ Different from Jeremiah in **Lamentations**

🗨️ Prevented the Escape of Those Who Fled (v. 14)

- 🗨️ Either killed or gave to the Babylonians those that escaped
 - 🗨️ Demonstrates the full extent of hatred
 - 🗨️ True desire to see death and captivity for all of Judah
- 🗨️ Recall that even though God prophesied the judgement of Judah, they are still responsible for their actions
 - 🗨️ Knows in advance what we will do, but we are still held to account when we sin
 - 🗨️ His sovereignty and perfect knowledge does not negate our free will or accountability
 - 🗨️ Note that it says "you should not" (v. 14) meaning they had the option to do otherwise and chose not to
- 🗨️ God holds us accountable for our actions
- 🗨️ One day we will give an account (**2 Corinthians 5:10**)

GOD'S *LEX TALIONIS* JUDGMENT ON EDMOM (V. 15-16)

- 📍 The judgments that God sends us are just and (seem to be) aligned to what we have done
 - 📍 Jacob was a schemer and gets out-schemed by Laban and his sons
 - 📍 Israel abused the Land by not letting it rest, so God put them into captivity to let the land rest (2 Chronicles 36:19-20)
- 📍 Everything that Edom did relative to Judah will be done to them
 - 📍 Joined in the destruction and death of Judah, so Edom would be destroyed
 - 📍 Betrayed their brother, so Edom would be betrayed by their allies
 - 📍 Sought the total destruction of Judah, so Edom would be totally destroyed
 - 📍 Helped push Judah out of their land, so Edom would be pushed out of their land
- 📍 The judgment of God is just, and often terrifying
 - 📍 We love to speak of the mercy and grace of God, but that cannot exist without His judgment
 - 📍 Two sides of the same coin
- 📍 The difference between Judah and Edom, is that Edom will not be restored (v. 16)
 - 📍 Unless you are deep into Biblical or historical scholarship in this area, you might never have known Edom existed

THE END OF JACOB AND ESAU (V. 17-18)

👤 God wants holiness for Judah and us

- 👤 This has not yet been fulfilled
- 👤 Wants us to seek Him and be more like Him

👤 This is the final end of Jacob, but only after extreme suffering

- 👤 **Hosea 5:15-6:2**
- 👤 This is the actual point of the Tribulation
- 👤 Any interpretation with the Church present misses the purpose

👤 There are consequences for our actions

- 👤 Yes, God does love us, but judgment is part of that love
 - 👤 Meant to bring us back to Him
 - 👤 Or correct us
- 👤 Does not excuse the people who have persecuted them, but it does mean it was part of God's plan

👤 Jacob survives (Esau's plans to the contrary) and succeeds

- 👤 "our God is a consuming fire" (**Deuteronomy 4:24; 9:3; Hebrews 12:29**)
- 👤 Esau is left destroyed -- Stubble gets consumed by fire

👤 Again, could be argued that this has yet to be fully fulfilled

- 👤 Edom as a singular, political entity no longer exists, except in their descendants today
- 👤 Regardless of what happens in Gaza, etc., for final fulfillment, Israel must be holy and following God for final fulfillment

👤 "For the LORD has spoken"

- 👤 Demonstrates the finality of the judgment
- 👤 This is the same voice that called the universe into being
- 👤 When God commands us not to be afraid (**Hebrews 13:6**) that is a command given with the same voice and power

THE END OF THE MATTER (V. 19-21)

🗨️ Only God gets to set the bounds of nations, particularly Israel

🗨️ We are in danger whenever we try (Joel 3:1-2)

🗨️ Note that this may be speaking of a specific tribulation-era act due to the dispersion mentioned

🗨️ The Land in the proper sense has already been divided with other countries such as Jordan and Iraq

🗨️ Will receive more than what we currently think of as Israel

🗨️ Comes at the expense of their former enemies

🗨️ Can also see this in **Ezekiel 47:13-48:29**

🗨️ Never conquered all that God had for them

🗨️ Did not fully push out/kill the tribes God called them to in **Joshua**

🗨️ “Saviors” is better translated as “deliverers”

🗨️ Who are they?

🗨️ Some speculation that this refers to a future Kingdom-period governmental system which uses Judges like in the book of **Judges**

🗨️ Recommend **Ezekiel 40-48** for additional study on this time

🗨️ Note that at the end the kingdom is God’s

🗨️ All things belong to Him (**Revelation 5**)

🗨️ But are still in rebellion

🗨️ Anything we have we are stewards of and will give an account for

🗨️ Israel is unique in that God has specifically put His name to that place

🗨️ Just “leased” it out

🗨️ All things are His, but the Land in particular is special