



**Gaza, Lebanon West Bank?
The Day of the Lord Is Near
Obadiah 15-21**

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Obadiah 15–21

“For the day of the LORD is near for all the nations. Just as you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. For just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink to the last drop, And become as if they had never existed. But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their property. Then the house of Jacob will be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau



will be like stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,” For the LORD has spoken. **Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain; Also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin the territory of Gilead. And the exiles of this army of the sons of Israel, Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad, Will possess the cities of the Negev.** The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD’S.” (NASB 2020)

What we are told here in Obadiah 15 is that the Day of the Lord is only near, it hasn’t started yet. So, what is the clue that it is near? Jesus provided that timing for us with the parable of the fig tree.

Mark 13:28–32

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (NRSV)

The Day of the Lord became technically near when Israel became a nation again. That took place in 1948 and will extend to the beginning of the Day of the Lord, when the Tribulation begins.

Since the Bar Kochba Rebellion in 135 AD, the nations have performed religious ceremonies on the Temple Mount, not the Jews. “The establishment of the Roman Aelia Capitolina on the ruins of Herodian Jerusalem began a long chapter in the region’s history without meaningful Jewish prominence.” (Shirokov and Lizorkin-Eyzenberg 2016)

The surviving Jews, many of whom were sold as slaves, were expelled from the restored Aelia Capitolina and from Judea in general (Eusebius, Eccl. Hist. 4.6.3). The expulsions also applied to Jewish Christians, thus leaving the gentile population to lead the church in that area. Hadrian continued his rebuilding of Aelia Capitolina and the other cities of the province, now renamed Syria Palestina (“land of the Philistines”). His plans included the construction of a temple to his personal god, Jupiter, over the site of Solomon’s temple as well as on the site of the Samaritan shrine on Mount Gerizim. (Matthews 2015, 230-231)

Gentiles still call the shots today. But only since 1948 have we been near to the Day of the Lord. It is interesting to note though that the current occupants of the Temple Mount act like the Jews were never there in the first place. Something that only became noticeable after 1948.

According to the Quran (Surah 17:1), Mohammed made a miraculous night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem in AD 621. There he led worship at “the farthest mosque,” was lifted to heaven, and returned to earth to carry on his teachings. At that time there was no mosque in Jerusalem, but 15 years later, Caliph Umar built a small mosque to commemorate the prophet’s night visit.

The Al Aqsa Mosque (“the farthest mosque”) was built in AD 705, then rebuilt in 754, 780, and 1035. The Dome of the Rock was built in AD 692 over the place where Mohammad supposedly ascended to heaven. This rock is also identified by Christians and Jews as the place where Abraham offered Isaac and the location of the Holy of Holies in the Jewish Temple. During the Crusades, Christians took temporary control of the Temple Mount, and the Al Aqsa Mosque was used as a palace and church in 1099. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)



Obadiah 16

“For just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink to the last drop, And become as if they had never existed.” (NASB 2020)

All of that to say that Obadiah 16, which is a shift to the nations from Edom, is reflective of the current state of the Temple Mount today which has been the case for almost 2000 years. A reversal is still in the works.

“On June 7, 1967, the army of Israel captured the Old City of Jerusalem. The previous month the Egyptians had decided to attempt once more to conquer Israel.

They poured one hundred thousand troops into the Sinai Peninsula, ordered the UN peacekeepers out, and made a military alliance with neighboring Jordan. Israel felt its only hope was to launch a preemptive strike, which it did on June 5. Jordan and Syria immediately entered the war. Two days later, the Israelis captured the Old City, which had been part of Jordan. As a result of this military victory in what is known as the Six Day War, Israel once again possessed her ancient capital. It had been 1897 years since Jews last had controlled Jerusalem in AD 70.” (Rusten and Michael 2005, 469)

At present, the Jerusalem Islamic Wakf oversees the day-to-day administration of the Temple Mount. And recent archaeological activity uncovering the 1st century Pilgrimage Road from the Pool of Siloam to the Western Wall has increased tensions. “ Today, thousands of Jews ascend the Mount according to halachic (Jewish legal) guidelines. Many immerse beforehand. Many whisper psalms. Some bow. Increasingly, they pray openly.” (Freund 2026)

A future day is coming when all of the activity on the Temple Mount done by the nations will stop, and it will be like they never even existed.

Obadiah talks about other events to take place during this interim period as well.

Obadiah 17–18

““But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their property. Then the house of Jacob will be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau will be like stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,” For the LORD has spoken.”” (NASB 2020)

Verses 17-18 say that there will be a time when Israel returns to their land. The remnant of the house of Esau would be still living in the land; today we would refer to them as Palestinians.

How do we know today is the time period being discussed? The terms used for the people tell us. The house of Jacob ties verse 17 and 18 together and is a contrast to the house of Esau. But the house of Jacob infers both the northern and southern kingdoms reunited. This is seriously the case as “the house of Joseph is apparently mentioned so as to include the northern ten tribes, a designation so used repeatedly by the Old Testament prophets elsewhere. Even though the northern tribes had been removed from the land by the Assyrians (722 BC), they too will be returned to the land. Together once again, the twelve tribes of Israel will collectively subdue the house of Esau.” (Busenitz 2003, 276) But this has not happened yet.

Israel will be like a fire is to kindling, which means highly successful. This is exactly what happened. In AD 1948, Israel was reborn as a nation. Within hours many Muslim nations attacked. The attacking nations told the Muslim inhabitants that they should flee until they had wiped out all the Jews, then they could return to life as normal. However, by the war's end the Jews had won and gained even more of their



ancient territory back. Those who fled were displaced. Obadiah correctly reveals the result of the 1948 war.” (Johnson 2021)

A remnant of Judah will be restored on Mount Zion. Israel regained full control of Jerusalem in 1967 so this is in the process of being fulfilled. Once Messiah returns, it will indeed be holy, but currently, on Mount Zion, are those who escaped. The land is once again possessed by Israel. Some of the remnant who had been previously threatened by Edom, now are back in the land.

At some point in the future, those who remain from what was once Edom, will be eliminated. Edom physically was in what is today, southern Jordan.

Obadiah 19–21

“Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain; Also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin the territory of Gilead. And the exiles of this army of the sons of Israel, Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad, Will possess the cities of the Negev. The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD’S.” (NASB 2020)

In the process of Israel returning to the land though, we are told where those of the nations run to as Israel returns.

Israel became a nation in 1948 in the middle of the land. Those who left as “refugees,” later to be referred to as Palestinians, went to three locations and Obadiah outlines the taking of those areas.

Obadiah 19a

“Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau (southern Jordan), And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain (Gaza strip); Also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria (west bank)...” (NASB 2020)

This is all in the process of being fulfilled right now.

Yahweh will empower his remnant to repossess the former territories once held by David and Solomon. Expansion will be effected in all directions, fulfilling the promises made to Jacob in his ladder dream at Bethel (Gen 28:14). (Busenitz 2003, 278)

Those areas will, **prior to the beginning of the Day of the Lord**, once again become part of Israel. At some point in the near future, Israel will finish the incorporation of the west bank into the nation. They will also deal with the Gaza Strip.

And since we see that Gilead is in the area we see today as northwest Jordan. The south of Jordan, in other words Jordan, will also become part of the nation too.

What we are seeing here is a yet future event. “Israel’s remnant would become a mighty army that would humiliate its former oppressors. The destruction of Edom and other enemy nations would enable the dispossessed Israelites to regain their lands.

Some form of the root word “to possess” (yarash) appears five times in verses 17–21. Obadiah’s prophecy echoes the earlier oracle of Balaam that Edom would become an Israelite “possession” (yeresah) (Num 24:18).” (Fuhr and Yates 2016, 156)

Gilead, Moab and Edom (Jordan) will be possessed by Israel.



And this is to take place while the Day of the Lord is near, in other words, before the Tribulation begins. And there is more.

Obadiah 20

“And the exiles of this army of the sons of Israel, Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad, Will possess the cities of the Negev.” (NASB 2020)

Zarephath is between Tyre and Sidon on the coast of Lebanon. And then we read this just this past week.

Israel should move its border with Lebanon up to the Litani River, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Monday, amid ongoing military operations against the Hezbollah terror group. (Agencies and TOI Staff 2026)

Seeing that Israel is to become vastly larger nation, we now learn that even those who are still outside the land, referred to as exiles here, will also return. “It is a promise of the territorial expansion of God’s people in all directions until they regain their ancient territory. The old promise of the land is reaffirmed as the implicit corollary of the restored covenant and God’s renewed blessing.” (Allen 1976, 168)

What we see is an assurance here from YAHWEH that no matter how far away His people may be from the land, they are not to far away for God to restore them to the land.

Obadiah 21

“The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD’S.” (NASB 2020)

God is moving forward today undeviatingly, unhesitatingly toward the accomplishment of His purpose; that is, of putting His King on Mount Zion. He says that He will turn and turn and overturn the nations until He comes whose right it is to rule (see Ezek. 21:27).

Nothing can deter or detour or defer God in His plan and in His program. No son of Esau, no animal, can stop Him. No proud man walking this earth can cause God to relinquish or retreat one inch. He is moving today to victory. The kingdom is the Lord’s! (McGee 1997, 736)

Let’s pray



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