

Obadiah

"The 4th of July for the People of God"

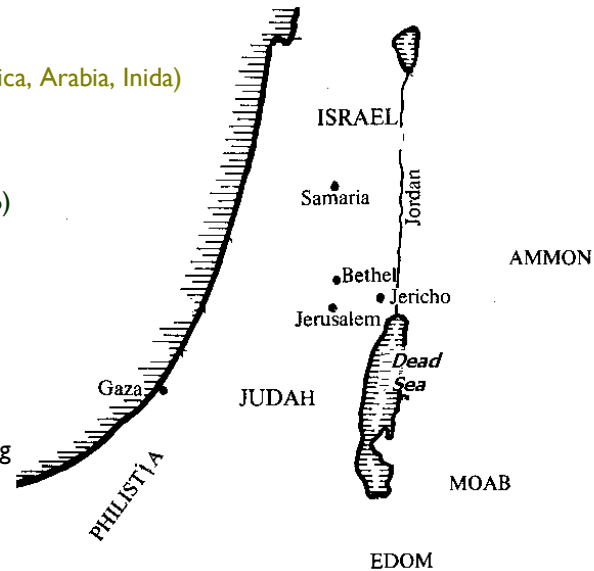
Destruction Predicted (vs 1-9)

author, not much known: date: either shortly after 845 or 586

- "The vision of Obadiah" Describe what makes the prophecy of Scripture unique.
 - not just speculative or wishful forecasting
 - not just political propaganda
 - this book in particular is a message of judgment from God
 - prophets never claim prophecy is their own (2 Peter 1:10)
 - sometimes 'burden' is used for the word vision to introduce prophecy
- "Edom" (vs 1) Edomites were decedents of Esau.
- What was the chief sin of the Edomites? (vs 3)
 - pride of their heart
- Would you say that there are nations today equally guilty of this sin? (vs. 3)
 - all nations are
 - whenever a nation grows powerful and comes to be ruled and populated by those who oppose God, immediately pride takes over
 - David's pride --> his personal sin
 - Edom's pride in its strategic fortress
 - (land 5000 feet above sea level, cliffs around cities)
 - BUT God's response (Ps 139, "where can I go...")
- Besides its strategic location, what else could Edom take pride in? (vs 5,6)
 - wealth
 - copper + other mines,
 - trade route, on the Kings Highway (connects trade to Egypt, Africa, Arabia, Inida)
 - if you were playing the board game risk, this would be one spot on the board everyone wants to control
- How might nations today be tempted to take pride in this as well? (vs. 5,6)
 - any country
 - rich countries, corrupt rulers of poor countries
 - ourselves (Lk 12:16-21)
- What other source of security would fail Edom? (vs 7)
 - "cleaver deception of allies" (vs 7)
- Read verse 8. Notice what Edom prided itself in. List ways that possessing this can be a blessing and a pitfall for nations:
 - "men of understanding" (vs 8)
 - apparently Edom known for its wisdom
 - without the blessing of wise rulers, a nation loses much of its strength, but its trust was misplaced.
- To what extent is God's judgment going to take place against Edom? (vs 9)
 - the desolation will be complete

"The Day of the LORD
is near for all
nations...."

-Obadiah 15



The Cause of Edom's Punishment (vs 10-14)

- Who was Edom's pride directed against? (vs 10)
 - We see Edom's pride is directed against God's people, thus against God.
- What was the history of the relationship like between Israel and Edom? (vs 10) (cf. Ge 27:39-40)
 - tension between Esau's descendents and the children of Israel
 - Esau's position was his own doing, not God's fault
 - married unbelieving wives (Ge 28:6-9)




- ii. story of selling birthright (Ge 27) (cf. Hebrews 12:16) -disregarded the Messianic promise
 - c. Esau's decedents were like Esau
 - i. (Num 20) -didn't let Israel pass through in their exodus
 - ii. fought king Saul
 - iii. fought king David -he broke their power, exacted a tribute
 - iv. rebelled against king Solomon -squashed by him
 - v. (2 Ki 8) -finally independent again in 846
12. How did Edom respond to Israel's suffering? (vs 11)
- a. 845 Judah invaded by Philistines and Arabs
 - b. Edom join in the plunder
13. How does the attitude of pride display itself when Israel is being attacked by others? (vs. 12-14) Apply this to your own life.
- a. malice, greed, arrogance, -acted like a bunch of hyenas

The Day of the LORD: retribution & restoration (vs 15-21)

14. How does one understand the phrase "The Day of the LORD"? (vs 15) How did others use this phrase: (cf. John the Baptist Mat 3:7-12 & Malachi 4)
- a. this is the day the LORD will act on his decrees of judgment and mercy
 - b. ultimately it refers to the final day -Judgment Day
 - c. Obadiah refers to physical judgment and final judgment
15. What do you notice in verse 15 as the 'new' topic under discussion?
- a. "all nations" - OT prophecy uses Edom as symbolic of God's judgment for those who reject him (vs 15)
16. What is meant by "drink"? (vs 16) -(cf. Jer 25:27-29)
17. How do you understand the place that Obadiah places opposite to Edom "Mount Zion" ? (see note on right)
- a. "on Mount Zion will be deliverance, it will be holy" (vs 17)
 - b. God's rescue of his church (cf. Heb 12:22)
18. "No survivors" (vs 18) Do you think this literally happened?
- a. 435 BC Edomites displaced by Arabs
 - b. 70 AD Emperor Titus attacks them in rebellion --> disappear as a nation
19. How are we to understand this restoration of Israel? (19-20) Did this literally happen? When will this happen? (read Amos 9:11-12, Rev 21:1-14)
- a. 1948 Israel & Zionism. Physical restoration?!
 - b. No, a spiritual restoration of all believers (cf. Amos 9:11-15)
20. On what note/tone does this prophecy end? (vs 21)
- a. The gospel is preached by the Spiritual decedents of Israel.
 - b. the church spreads the word of God's deliverance (cf vs 17)
 - c. This is a message even for repentant Edomites (Eph 3:6 Is 42:7-8, 2 Pet 3:9)

Edom is a type, a real place or person which represents a grander use of the image in picture language. Edom is both historically real and representing "all nations" which stand as enemies of God's people.



21. What kingdom does verse 21 speak about? (cf. Rev 11:15)

Further questions for consideration:

1. Does God decide who will rule a nation on earth? (vs 4 "I will bring you down")
 - a. (cf. Dan 2:21, Rom 13:1-2)
2. Evaluate this statement: "God control nations that go to war so that the winner can always say, 'we had God on our side.'"
 - a. (vs 12 "don't look down" vs 21 "and the kingdom will be the Lords")
 - b. God used heathen armies to accomplish his purpose, God allowed Israel to lose battles to teach them lessons.
 - c. God is in control, he even uses bad things to accomplish his desired purpose
3. Edom took pride in strength, wealth, allies, and wisdom. (vs 3-8) List other things that we can be tempted to take pride in today.
 - a. technologies
4. Edom's pride displayed itself in horrible acts toward Israel. (vs 12-14) Agree or Disagree: Times have changed and nations are more civil today.
5. Obadiah's book closes on the reminder that God's church will work to spread his kingdom.(vs. 21) What ways do you see this being fulfilled in your church and personal life?