

## Obadiah

Name: עֲבַדְיָהוּ "Obadyah"

--"Servant of Yahweh"

--the name was popular in the O.T.

--there is reason for saying the name is symbolic or a pseudonym

Theme: The Denunciation of Edom for pride.

Date: no date is given; probably about 845 B.C..

There are four possible occasions:

- (1) The invasion of Shishak, king of Egypt during the reign of Rehoboam of Judah (1 Kings 14:24-26, 2 Chr 12), about 926 B.C.
- (2) The invasion of the Philistines and the Arabians during the reign of Jehoram of Judah (2 Chr 21:16-17) about 848-841 B.C. [Most likely]
- (3) Invasion of Jehoash of Israel during the reign of King Amaziah of Judah about 790 B.C. Not likely because, according to Obad. 11, the invaders were strangers.
- (4) The invasion of Nebuchadnezzar about 586 B.C. [the critics date]

Historical Setting:

--the inhabitants of Edom were descendants of Esau

--the Edomites lived on Mt. Seir, the capital was Sela (Petra), a mountain fortress

--the Edomites felt proud and secure

--there was a long history of enmity between Edom and Israel

-Jacob and Esau's trouble (Gen 27, etc.)

-Edom's refusal of passage to Moses

-War with Saul (1 Sam. 14:47)

-Subjugation under David (2 Sam 8:13-14)

-Unsuccessful rebellion under Solomon

-Finally achieved freedom in the revolt of 845 under Jehoram (2 Kings 8:20-22)

-continuous hostility until 586 B.C.

-the Edomites were displaced from Petra by the Arab Nabataeus about 312 B.C., according to Obadiah's prophecy

Critical Problems:

--The critics say the book is a collection of oracles against Edom.

--The critics say the book is intensely nationalistic.

## Outline of Obadiah

**Key Verse:** “Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau,  
And the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.” (vs. 21)

### **I. The Prophet Heard a Rumor of Edom's Ruin (1-9)**

- A. The Lord called for Edom's ruin (1)
- B. The Lord listed the cause of Edom's ruin (2-4)
  - 1. They were proud (3)
  - 2. They had false security in Petra (3)
  - 3. They indulged in self exaltation (4)
- C. Edom's ruin will be complete (5-9)
  - 1. Edom's ruin is illustrate by two similes (5-6)
    - a. Edom's ruin exceeds the pillage of thieves (5a)
    - b. Edom's ruin exceeds the gathering of grapes (5b-6)
  - 2. Edom will be destroyed by their allies (7)
  - 3. All Edom will perish (8-9)  
(wise men, mighty men, everyone)

### **II. The Prophet Lists Five Reasons for Edom's Ruin (10-14)**

- A. They treated Jacob [Israel] with violence (10)
- B. They aided Israel's enemies (11)
- C. They rejoiced at Israel's calamity (12)
- D. They partook of Israel's spoil (13)
- E. They cut off Israel's refugees (14)

### **III. The Prophet Recorded the Rewards of Edom's Ruin (15-21)**

(The Day of the Lord)

- A. Revenge will be taken on Edom (15-16)  
(They will be repaid in kind)
- B. Restoration will be given to Israel (17-21)
  - 1. Deliverance will come to Zion (17)
  - 2. Destruction will come upon Edom (18)
    - a. It will be complete
    - b. Edom will have no remnant
  - 3. Dispossession will be Edom's fate (19-20)
  - 4. The Kingdom will come to Zion (21)  
--see Isaiah 11:14; 34:1-17

Other Prophecies against Edom:

- Jer 49:7-22
- Ezek 25:12-14
- Ezek 35:1-15
- Amos 1:11-12
- Amos 9:12
- Num 24:15-24