

**A LOOK AT THE BOOK
OBADIAH
YOUR DEEDS WILL COME BACK ON YOUR HEAD!**

Ralph Porter

AUTHOR, DATE, AND BACKGROUND

Of the person, date and background of Obadiah, little is known.

The book was written in response to an attack against Jerusalem in which the Edomites participated.

Four such occurrences are known.

The first between 848-841 B.C.

The last in 585 B.C.

Since the Holy Spirit did not reveal more concerning the date or occasion, perhaps one should not be conjectured either.

The fact of a preceding plundering of Jerusalem should be enough to satisfy.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The book announces the doom of Edom and ultimate triumph of Israel.

The cause of judgment was its attack against Israel.

When God made His covenant with Abraham, He told him that He would make his seed into a great nation (Gen. 12:2-3).

He presents the basis of His treatment of all the people of the world. *What is it?*

Obadiah shows us the practical application of this principle.

Edom had mistreated Israel.

This is especially significant in the light of their history.

Who are they (Gen. 36:1)?

Whose struggle do these two nations continue?

As descendants of Esau, Edom should have known better (Gen. 12:3; 25:23; 27:29).

They should have assisted Israel.

Rather than assist Israel, they joined her attackers, and thus became subject to divine judgment.

Purpose of the messages—as preached by Nahum to the people of his day

- To condemn Edom
- To warn them of the danger
- To convince them to stop persecuting Israel

Obadiah serves as a warning to Edom, or any other nation, that would attempt to attack God's people. He will defend them and destroy those who attack them.

Purpose of the book—as written and preserved for Israel's sake.

Purpose for future generations:

- Inspire confidence among God's people—He hasn't abandoned them.

The book should be an encouragement to God's people Israel.

He will continue faithful to them and defend them against the nations, even when they are in rebellion against Him.

He is faithful to His promises.

They will be restored and blessed.

Message of the book:

"Your deeds will come back on your own head!"

- In spite of their sin, God hasn't abandoned His people.
- Those who bless Israel will be blessed; those who curse them will be cursed.

Condemnation of Edom and the final triumph of Israel.

Edom, the descendants of Esau, knew the risk they were taking (Gen. 12:3; 27:29).

They should have helped Israel, since they were brothers.

God will defend His people and destroy their enemies, even though they are walking in sin.

ORGANIZATION AND ARGUMENT

The book announces the doom of Edom and the ultimate triumph of Israel.

It is logically divided on this basis.

CONDEMNATION OF EDOM 1-16

The first section predicts the doom of Edom 1-16

CALL TO THE NATIONS 1

God sends His messenger with an order.

What's the order?

God calls the nations to go up against Edom.

ATTITUDE OF EDOM 2-3

What was her attitude?

Her false security (2-3) and certain judgment (4-9) are described.

Pride 2-3a

False security 3b

JUDGMENT AGAINST EDOM 4-9

How is the judgment described?

Will they be able to escape? 4

No escape 4

What will happen to their treasures? 6

No exclusion 5-6

What will happen to their friends? 7

No friends 7

No wise men 8

What will happen to their mighty warriors? 9

No warriors 9a

What will happen to all people?

No life 9b

CAUSES OF JUDGMENT 10-14

Why is God going to judge them?

The basic cause of judgment is failure to help Israel, a nation to which they are related by blood.

They even participated in active oppression of Israel.

Violence 10

Alliances against Israel 11

Despising Israel 12a

Enjoying Israel's destruction 12b *"You should not look down on him!"*

Proud of Israel's trouble 12c *"Nor rejoice in the day of their destruction"*

Entering to plunder Israel 13 *"Nor boast in the day of their trouble"*

Killing fugitives 14a

Delivering survivors 14b

In summary, God is going to judge them because in the day of their suffering, a nation related to them by blood refused to help them.

In fact, they joined in at least as enthusiastically as the other nations, if not more so.

They should have helped their brother, but they persecuted him.

CONDEMNATION OF EDOM 15-16

Therefore, Edom is condemned along with the rest of the nations.

What is near? 15

The day of the Lord is near.

What's going to happen to them? The same thing will happen to them that they have done to others

What will they receive?

They will receive what they have given out.

Day of judgment near 15

Recompense guaranteed 16

The final prediction of doom includes Edom with the other nations who have not followed Yahweh. She will receive similar treatment to what she gave Israel.

RESTORATION OF ISRAEL 17-21

In contrast to Edom's future, the Israel's future is presented.

A remnant will escape and be saved.

The land will be returned to them, and they will participate in the kingdom of God.

PROMISES FOR ISRAEL 17

What are the promises for Israel?

Deliverance 17a

Holiness 17b

Possession of inheritance 17c

What will happen to Esau's family?

DESTRUCTION OF EDOM 18

Their enemies will be removed.

POSSESSION OF THE PROMISED LAND 19-20

Israel's promise will be fulfilled.

Who will possess the kingdom?

ESTABLISHMENT OF KINGDOM 21

Israel's kingdom will be established.

In spite of the rebellion of the nations against God and His people, God still reigns over all His creation.

In Psalm 2 we find a commentary that explains what we see in Obadiah:

The nations have raised up against Yahweh and against His people.

God laughs at them, and judges them.

One nation that should understand the foolishness of such a rebellion is Edom.

They are related to Israel by blood.

Instead of helping their brother, they have joined the rebellion against Yahweh and attack against Israel.

Therefore, God is going to judge them, together with their other enemies.

Edom has to learn the importance of the promise given in Gen. 12:3.

What lessons should we learn from the study of this book?