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BIBLE STUDY

**Greater Refuge Memorial Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

596 West Church Street, Orlando, FL 32805 ~ Phone 407.872.1984

Web site [www.RefugeOrlando.com](http://www.RefugeOrlando.com/)

***Elder Marcus R. McCoy, Jr., Lead Pastor***

***Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Pastor Emeritus and Diocesan***

**“AS THOU HAST DONE,**

**IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO THEE”**

**Obadiah**

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It is primarily speaking of the condemnation and destruction of Edom from God. The prophet Obadiah was the penman. Nothing is known about him. The name "Obadiah" means servant of Yahweh. Historical Background Scholars are uncertain when Obadiah was written. The most likely option is that it was penned shortly after the final destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Obadiah is a prophetic condemnation of Edom for its treatment of the people of Judah. Theirs was a conflict dating back to the twins in Rebekah’s womb, who were their patriarchs. The Edomites were descendants of her elder son Esau, and the people of Judah were the descendants of Jacob. Edom was enemies of Israel, even though they were related by blood. Their hatred for them went back to Esau losing his birth right to Jacob. The Edomites had closed their borders and their hearts to the people of Israel on their way to the promised land. They also reveled in the judgment and destruction of Judah years later by the Babylonians, picking off some stragglers and returning others to their captors. They even looted Jerusalem after its fall. God’s judgment against Edom, therefore, was harsh: the nation would be destroyed with no possibility of recovery. It tells us God is opposed to piling additional troubles on those who are suffering, even if they are being disciplined by him. Obadiah, in fact, teaches the vital lesson that God’s treatment of us is based in part on the way we treat others in his kingdom family. The Herods of the New Testament are of Edomite heritage.

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***Obadiah 1:1 "The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle."***

The one message that Obadiah was sent to deliver was actually sent to Israel but was about Edom. Obadiah had a vision from God which revealed this to him. The heathen nations are called to battle against Edom. Edom was a hostile neighbor of Judah on its southeast border and fought with Israel and Judah on a number of occasions (1 Samuel 14:47; 1 Kings 11:15-17; 2 Chronicles 20:22; 21:8-11). Obadiah was charged with delivering a message from the Lord about Edom. The Warrior in the heavens had summoned his armies and declared: Let us go to war against her. When God gives someone a vision of this nature, he is compelled to tell it. Notice, "Thus saith the Lord GOD". The words that Obadiah speaks are not his own, but the Words of God in Obadiah's mouth. Edom, in the spiritual sense, is representing the power of the world that are in opposition to true religion. It appears in the vision, that Obadiah actually saw the heathen world summoned to come against Edom.

***Obadiah 1:2 "Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised."***

The Edomites apparently thought they were big stuff, because here God vows to make them insignificant. They were physically small, but perhaps, this goes further than that. The world around had observed their bitter hatred for their relatives the Israelites, and especially Judah. They had even sided against Judah when the Babylonians attacked. It seemed they took every opportunity to do evil to Israel.

***Psalm 55:12-16***

***12 For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:***

***13 But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.***

***14 We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.***

***15 Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.***

***16 As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me.***

***Obadiah 1:3 "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation [is] high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?"***

***Obadiah 1:4 "Though thou exalt [thyself] as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD."***

Their pride went back to their belief, that the birthright was theirs through Esau. They had an arrogant heart and were very prideful. They forgot that Esau had no regard for his birthright and sold it to his brother Jacob for a bowl of soup. They were deceived with their hatred. They dwelled in the mountains where they thought they were safe from the enemy. The word that "clefts" was translated from means refuge. They arrogantly thought they were impossible to defeat. They had forgotten the power of Almighty God. No one can defend against a judgment of God. Pride is the chief sin, the one that led Satan to rebel against God, and humans have followed in Satan’s footsteps. We puff out our chests like we’re somebody, but God isn’t impressed. Edom seemed to soar like an eagle, asking, Who can bring me down to the ground? But their arrogant hearts had deceived them, and God was going to bring [them] down hard. An eagle makes his nest in the highest place he can find. There is no place so high, that God cannot bring it down. Even the eagle's nest can be reached, if it is God who wants it.

***Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”***

***Obadiah 1:5 "If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? If the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave [some] grapes?"***

***Obadiah 1:6 "How are [the things] of Esau searched out! [how] are his hidden things sought up!"***

Obadiah is showing that in a raid, the robbers do not take everything. They just take what they want and run. When grasshoppers come on the crop, it is the same thing. They do not destroy the root of the plant, just the vegetation on top. They would even leave some grapes on the vine, if it were just a plague of grasshoppers. This is given to contrast the greatness of the destruction that will come on Edom, as a judgment of God. The natural enemy might not find the secret places, where Esau had hidden things, but God is aware of all those secret places. When thieves come to a house, they don’t typically show up in a moving van. They usually creep in at night and steal only what they want, but Edom would be pillaged and all his hidden treasures boldly taken until nothing was left!

***Obadiah 1:7 "All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee [even] to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, [and] prevailed against thee; [they that eat] thy bread have laid a wound under thee: [there is] none understanding in him."***

The people, who Edom thought to be their friends, will, now, be their enemies. Edom was a treacherous country itself and it would reap that same treachery. The allies, spoken of here, are probably countries like Moab and Ammon. The Ammonites and the Moabites were very evil distant relatives themselves. They were the descendants of Lot’s incestuous relationship with his daughters. Worse, every surrounding nation that has a treaty with Edom would deceive and conquer them, which is a reminder that international peace negotiations are fragile and untrustworthy for a nation that rejects the Lord.

***Psalm 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”***

***Obadiah 1:8 "Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise [men] out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?"***

Wisdom is a gift from God. Even the wise ones of Edom couldn’t spare the populace from their coming doom. It is God who destroys the wise in Edom. Their counsel is of no use anymore. When God removes their wisdom, they make terrible decisions. This judgment is spoken of God.

***Obadiah 1:9 "And thy mighty [men], O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter."***

Teman was the southern part of Idumea {Edom}. One of Job's friends was a Temanite. Generally speaking, the men of Teman would have stopped the attacking army, before it got to the mountain stronghold. Nothing will stop this destroying army, that the Lord sends against Edom. They will be slaughtered. The warriors of Teman (a region in Edom) would turn tail and run so that everyone was destroyed. Notice Obadiah doesn’t encourage Edom to repent to avoid God’s judgment. The just Judge of the nations had rendered a verdict with no appeal.

***Obadiah 1:10 "For [thy] violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever."***

***Obadiah 1:11 "In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou [wast] as one of them."***

The bitter feelings of Edom went back to Esau's hate for his brother Jacob. They had even refused the Israelites passage through their land into the promised land. This, again, is speaking of their joining in with Babylon to destroy Judah. They were eager to destroy their relative Judah, anytime they could. God did not look kindly upon them for this hatred. After this battle, Edom, as a nation, fades from history and is heard from no more.

***Obadiah 1:12 "But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress."***

They should have mourned over the problems that Judah had, instead of being glad. God will not overlook their hatred against Judah.

***Matthew 5:22 "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."***

***Obadiah 1:13 "Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid [hands] on their substance in the day of their calamity;"***

Not only had they gone in, after Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and Judah, but they actually took things belonging to Judah home with them. They looted Jerusalem and Judah.

***Obadiah 1:14 "Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress."***

They lay in wait for those of Judah and Jerusalem, who were fleeing to safety. They did not help them, as a near relative should have done. They actually turned them back to their Babylonians.

***Obadiah 1:15 "For the day of the LORD [is] near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head."***

Since they sided in with the heathen nations to destroy Judah and Jerusalem, they will suffer the same punishment as the heathen nations. They deserve their destruction God has spoken upon them. Edom rejected an opportunity to receive God’s blessing by blessing his people so they would experience the terror of the day of the Lord instead. The prophets often spoke of “the day of the Lord” to refer to specific times of God’s judgment on wicked nations, either in history or at its end. As you have done, it will be done to you brings to mind the guy we’ve all known who got what he had coming to him. The hammer he dropped on other people finally fell on his own head. Here, God tells Edom they will receive exactly what they had dealt to others. And this is what all humanity deserves: just retribution for our sins. But that’s what makes God’s grace so amazing. Grace means giving someone what they don’t deserve. And, as believers in Jesus Christ, that’s what we receive. But for those, like Edom, who oppose God’s agenda, what they deserve will return on their own head.

***Galatians 6:8-10***

***8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.***

***9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.***

***10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.***

***Obadiah 1:16 "For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, [so] shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been."***

These heathen nations, they had sided with against God's people, are the very ones God will send to destroy them. The Edomites had drunk on [God’s] holy mountain in Jerusalem, perhaps celebrating Judah’s downfall. So the Lord promised that all the nations, including Edom, would drink continually. But not at a party. The Bible often uses the metaphor of drinking to speak of God’s judgment. They had drunk on God's holy mountain in Jerusalem. Now, God will send destruction to them. They drink of the cup of the wrath of God and are destroyed. The unrighteous will gulp down God’s wrath.

***Revelation 14:10 “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:”***

***Obadiah 1:17 "But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."***

The day of the Lord will bring judgment to God’s enemies but deliverance to his people, reversing fortunes. This is a complete change from the message against Edom. This speaks of restoration to God's people. Israel shall come home to Jerusalem and the holy mountain of Zion. Zion, also, speaks of the church, spiritually. This speaks of a spiritual restoration through Jesus Christ, which comes from God's holy mountain. Deliverance comes through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

***Obadiah 1:18 "And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be [any] remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken [it]."***

In a spiritual sense, the house of Esau speaks of the world who is opposed to God and His people. The fire of the house of Jacob is speaking of Israel being full of the fire of God. When the house of Joseph is spoken of together with the house of Jacob, it is speaking of physical Israel {Jews} and spiritual Israel {Christians}. This fire of God will destroy the enemy of God. God, Himself, destroys the enemy of His people. Esau will be stubble, and Jacob will be a blazing fire. Given these insights, it doesn’t take much imagination to figure out that no survivor will remain of the house of Esau.

***Obadiah 1:19 "And [they of] the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and [they of] the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin [shall possess] Gilead."***

This is speaking of the land of Edom {Idumea} being turned over to Judah for a possession. The land of Ephraim will be possessed by the Judeans. Benjamin will possess the other side of the Jordan. This is a reapportioning of the land. Those who live in southern Israel, the people from the Negev, will possess the land of Esau.

***Obadiah 1:20 "And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel [shall possess] that of the Canaanites, [even] unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which [is] in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south."***

This is speaking of the Ephraimites coming back and possessing the land of Canaan. This is happening in Israel today. God restores His chosen people to their land and to their God.

***Obadiah 1:21 "And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S."***

Saviours, in the verse above, is from a word that means they that are saved. This speaks of a time when God's children will take over this land. This could be looking into the far future, when Jesus will reign as King of kings, and His followers will reign with Him. This is speaking of that Lion of the tribe of Judah, who will come and reign upon this earth for one thousand years. He will be headquartered in Jerusalem at that time. This is that throne of David, which will be established forever. This is that King of Peace, which rules the whole earth. Though the people will possess the land, the kingdom will be the Lord’s. God has an agenda for his kingdom. Embrace your place in the King’s plan**.** Our prayer should be, even now, Come quickly Lord Jesus. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. The One we know as Jesus will be KING of kings and LORD of lords. He will have absolute rule.

***Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;"***

***Philippians 2:11 "And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father."***

**Questions**

1. Obadiah is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ book in the Old Testament.
2. What is this book primarily about?
3. Approximately, when was it penned?
4. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the New Testament were of Edomite heritage?
5. How far back did their hatred of Israel extend?
6. How did Obadiah get the message from God?
7. Who was the message sent to?
8. How do we know this message is from God?
9. Edom, in the spiritual sense, is representing whom?
10. Who would come against Edom?
11. Who had they sided with against Judah?
12. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of thine heart hath deceived thee.
13. What does "clefts" mean?
14. Where does an eagle build his nest?
15. What is verse 5 given in contrast to?
16. Wisdom is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from God.
17. Where was Teman located?
18. Why will Edom be cut off forever?
19. What had they done, after Babylon took Judah?
20. Upon mount Zion shall be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
21. What is verse 17 speaking of?
22. What is the fire speaking of in verse 18?
23. Who are the saviours in verse 21?
24. How long will Jesus reign upon the earth?
25. Who will reign with Him?