

The Teachings of Obadiah

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The Teachings of Obadiah

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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Obadiah 1

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."

- This book is a vision that God gave to Obadiah.
- This book is about Edom.
- The Lord is raising up enemies against Edom from among the Gentiles.
- God is raising up enemies against Edom for the purpose of destroying her in battle.
- The Lord is the one who is raising up trouble against Edom.
- There are times when God stirs up enemies against a nation and sends war upon them.
- God decides the fate of nations. He rules over all of them.

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

- The Edomites were a small nation that was greatly despised by the Gentiles.
- God used His divine power to make the Edomites a small and despised nation.
- God has the power to raise up nations and tear them down. He can make them small or large, honored or despised, as He sees fit.

- God decides the fate of nations.
- God decides how a nation is viewed by others.
- God can bring down proud individuals and proud nations.

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?"

- The Edomites were a proud nation that lived in the clefts of the rock.
- The Edomites were convinced that they were invincible and no one could destroy them.
- The Edomites were proud of their high and lofty position.
- The Edomites had been deceived by their pride. They weren't as invincible as they thought.
- God was familiar with the Edomites and He knew about their pride.
- God used male pronouns when talking about the Edomite nation, which is different from the female pronouns He used when talking about Israel.

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."

- Although the Edomites were proud of their high and lofty position, God said that He would bring them down to the ground.
- It didn't matter how high the Edomites climbed. Even if

they reached the very stars themselves God would still bring them down.

- The Lord is able to bring down any nation, no matter how high it reaches.
- God was determined to destroy the Edomite nation.
- God compared the Edomites to an eagle who flew high over the ground, and compared their home to a nest. No matter how high they flew or where they built their nest, He would bring them down.
- It's impossible to reach such a high and lofty position that even God can't humble you.
- No nation can ever be strong enough to overcome the will of God.
- In the end God decides the fate of nations. Even strong nations aren't strong against Him.

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?"

- God said that thieves leave some things behind when they rob a home, but He would leave absolutely nothing of the Edomites.
- God said that those who gather grapes leave a few behind during the harvest, but He would leave nothing.
- God was going to utterly destroy the Edomites and leave absolutely nothing behind. There would be no surviving remnant.
- The metaphor God used when discussing Edom's

destruction was a thief who came by night, which is used elsewhere in the Bible as an end-times metaphor.

- God was going to utterly cut off the Edomites.
- God pronounced judgment on a Gentile nation – one that He *didn't* have a covenant relationship with.
- God holds all nations accountable, including Gentile nations.
- The Lord judges nations and punishes them for their sins. This includes nations that don't have a covenant relationship with Him.

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

- The Edomites were the descendants of Esau.
- The Lord referred to the Edomites using male pronouns because He viewed them as an extension of Esau.
- God wasn't going to allow the Edomites to hide anything. Every one of their hidden things would be revealed.
- Nothing was going to remain hidden in the day of God's judgment upon the Edomites.

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; that they eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him."

- The Edomites had formed a confederacy with other nations and made peace with them.

- The confederacy that the Edomites had formed would turn against them and overcome them.
- The nations that Edom had formed treaties with had been lying to them, and the Edomites didn't realize it.
- The Edomites thought they were secure and surrounded by friendly nations, but in reality they were in great danger and couldn't see it.

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?"

- God was going to remove wisdom from the Edomites and take away their wise men.
- God has the ability to remove wisdom from nations.
- God governs over the nations and can make their leaders either wise or foolish. He can send wise men among them or He can take them away.
- God decides if nations make wise or foolish decisions. Wisdom comes from Him, and He can withhold it or take it away.
- The Lord rules over the nations.
- One of the ways that God destroys nations is by taking wisdom away from them.

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."

- The prophecy mentions Teman, a city in Edom. Teman

was also the grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:8-11).

- The mighty men of the Edomites wouldn't be able to save them. Every single one of the Edomites would be slaughtered.
- When this prophecy is fulfilled, the Edomites will die in battle and will be slaughtered. Every one of them will be killed.
- The territory that the Edomites possessed was a mountain.
- God intended to utterly destroy all of the Edomites.
- God does more than just rebuke nations for their sin. He also destroys them.
- There are some nations that God has decided to utterly destroy.

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

- The reason God decided to destroy the Edomites was because of the violence that they inflicted upon the Jews.
- Esau was Jacob's brother. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau and the Jews were the descendants of Jacob, and yet the Edomites hated the Jews and fought against them for centuries.
- God was going to kill all of the Edomites as punishment for what they did to the Jews.
- God was going to make the Edomites small and despised, and cover them with shame, because of what they did to the Jews.

- God was going to cut off the Edomites forever. No remnant would survive and they would never return.

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."

- This prophecy mentions a time when Jerusalem was conquered and its people were carried away captive. However, this happened multiple times throughout history, and the passage doesn't provide enough details to pinpoint the exact date.
- When foreigners conquered Jerusalem and carried the Jews away captive, the Edomites participated.
- When the Jews were greatly distressed and defeated by their enemies, the Edomites chose to take the side of their enemies and make things even worse.
- God notices the behavior of nations and He judges them accordingly.
- God notices those who oppress His people and He holds them accountable for it.

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."

- God was angry with the Edomites for rejoicing over the destruction of Jerusalem.

- God was angry with the Edomites for rejoicing over the distress of the Jews and speaking proudly against them.
- When the Jews were in great pain, the Edomites chose to speak against them and rejoice over it. The Edomites hated the Jews and sided with their enemies.
- God noticed the way that the Edomites hated the Jews, and it angered Him.
- This event took place at a time when God gave the Jews over to their enemies, which meant He was punishing them for their sins. Yet in spite of that He noticed the hatred that the Edomites had for the Jews, and that angered Him.
- Even though God was angry enough with the Jews to turn them over to captivity, He still didn't permit the Edomites to rejoice over their destruction.
- The Edomites shouldn't have rejoiced over the pain of their brothers the Jews, and yet they did.

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;"

- When Jerusalem was conquered by a foreign enemy, the Edomites entered the gates of the city and looted it.
- The Edomites chose to participate in the destruction of Jerusalem and the looting of the city, even though they weren't the ones who conquered the city.
- When the Jewish people were in great pain and had been defeated, the Edomites made things worse by getting

involved and deliberately oppressing the Jews.

- Even though God was punishing the Jews, He became angry when other nations rejoiced over their defeat and took the opportunity to make things worse for them.
- God didn't stop the Edomites from doing this, but He did say He was going to severely punish them for what they had done.
- God blesses those who bless His people (the Jews) and curses those who curse them. This is true even when God is in the midst of punishing the Jews for their sins.

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."

- When Jerusalem was conquered by its enemies, the Edomites stood in the way to prevent any Jews from escaping.
- When Jerusalem was conquered by its enemies, the Edomites found those who had escaped and turned them over.
- Even though the Edomites weren't involved in the conquest of Jerusalem, they made sure that no one escaped or was able to flee, and they stole whatever was left. Since the Edomites did this, God was going to kill every single one of them and leave behind absolutely nothing.
- The Edomites made the destruction of Jerusalem much worse than it would have been otherwise.

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."

- This prophecy is connected to "the day of the Lord". Throughout the Old Testament that's a consistent reference to the tribulation.
- This book is an end-times prophecy, not something that was fulfilled in ancient times. This is supported by the fact that God promised to destroy the Edomites in battle and kill all of them, and yet that never happened in ancient times.
- This prophecy will be fulfilled in connection with the tribulation.
- The events of the tribulation will fall upon all of the Gentile nations as a terrible judgment from God.
- God will do to the Edomites what they have done to the Jews. He will treat them the way they treated others (which is a recurring theme in the Bible).
- God judges nations for their actions. He holds them accountable and punishes them for their sins.

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."

- Since the Edomites oppressed the Jews upon the holy mountain of Jerusalem, God would make sure that the Edomites were oppressed upon the mountain of Edom. He would do to them what they had done to others.
- God was going to send Gentile nations to attack and

swallow up the Edomites.

- By the time God's judgment upon the Edomites was over, there would be none left. They would be so thoroughly destroyed that it would be like they never existed at all.
- God becomes very angry when nations oppress His people the Jews. This is true even when that oppression is inflicted while God is punishing the Jews for their sins.

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

- There would be no deliverance for the Edomites and their mountain, but God would provide deliverance for the Jews and mount Zion.
- The Edomites would be so thoroughly destroyed that nothing of theirs would remain, but the Jews would be restored and keep their possessions.
- This prophecy speaks of a time when God would deliver the Jews, fill their land with holiness, give the Jews great possessions, and give them peace. These things point to the millennium.
- Even though God was angry with the Jews and turned them over to captivity, God wouldn't remain angry with them forever. One day He would deliver them.
- God had a blessed future planned for the Jews even in the midst of His judgments upon them. His judgments weren't intended to destroy them utterly.

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."

- Although God was going to raise up Gentile nations to despise the Edomites, deceive them, and go against them in battle, God was going to use the Jews to utterly devour the Edomites.
- God compared the Edomites to stubble and the Jews to a devouring flame.
- When talking about the destruction of the Edomites, the Lord specifically referred to the house of Joseph, which are the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.
- The flame of the Jews would utterly devour the Edomites, and there would be absolutely no survivors.
- These things were going to happen because the Lord had spoken it. This was His judgment for the terrible things the Edomites did during the day of the distress of the Jews.
- The decision to destroy the Edomites was made by God. He was the one who would carry it out.

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."

- God was going to utterly destroy the Edomites and give their territory to the Jews.
- After this prophecy is fulfilled, Israel's territory will be greatly expanded.

- Those who lived in the south of Israel would possess mount Edom.
- Those who lived in the plain of Israel would possess the territory of the Philistines.
- Israel would once again possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria.
- The tribe of Benjamin would possess Gilead (the land east of the Jordan river).

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."

- God was going to rescue the Jews who had gone into captivity, and would return them to the land.
- God was going to expand the territory of the Jews to include the region of Zarephath (a city between Tyre and Sidon on the coast of Lebanon).
- God would return the Jews to the land, and they would once again possess the southern cities.
- The Edomites were going to lose everything and be utterly destroyed, but God was going to restore the Jews to the land and greatly expand their territory.
- This prophecy mentions Jews being held captive in Sepharad, which some scholars believe is Sardis.

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."

- When this prophecy is fulfilled and the Jews possess mount Edom, there will be saviors (plural) who go to the holy mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau (Edom). This points to the millennium
- In the day that this prophecy is fulfilled, the kingdom will be the Lord's. This points to the millennium.
- The day is coming when mount Zion will have authority over mount Esau and will judge it.
- The day is coming when the kingdom will be the Lord's.