

Historical Context

- Obadiah is a prophecy of judgment against the nation of Edom (Seir)
- Judah and Edom were brother nations: Jacob (Israel/Judah) and Esau (Edom).

Deuteronomy 23:7-8

“You shall not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother; you shall not detest an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land. ⁸The sons of the third generation who are born to them may enter the assembly of the Lord.

- Although it is difficult to identify the exact date of Obadiah was written, the vast amount of Biblical evidence points to the time shortly after the Babylonian invasion of Judah in 586 B.C..
- Edom was a small kingdom in the mountains between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba.
- A Long history of bitter rivalry, hatred, and bloodshed:
 - **(Numbers 20:14-21)** Refused to allow Israel safe passage to Promised Land.
 - **(1 Samuel 14:47)** Saul won military victories against Edom.
 - **(2 Samuel 8:13-14)** David defeated Edom and established garrisons there.
 - **(1 Kings 11:14)** The Lord used Edom to punish Solomon for apostasy.
 - **(2 Kings 8:20-22)** Edom won independence from Judah in 840 B.C.
 - **(2 Chronicles 25:11-12)** King Amaziah of Judah brutally killed 20,000 Edomites.
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Now Amaziah strengthened himself and led his people forth, and went to the Valley of Salt and struck down 10,000 of the sons of Seir. **The sons of Judah also captured 10,000 alive and brought them to the top of the cliff and threw them down from the top of the cliff, so that they were all dashed to pieces.**

- **(Amos 1:6, 11-12)** Edom involved in trafficking slaves from Judah
- **(Obadiah 1-21)** Edom’s Treachery against Judah 586 B.C..

Psalm 137:7

Remember, O Lord, against the sons of Edom
The day of Jerusalem,
Who said, “Raze it, raze it
To its very foundation.”

Lamentations 4:21-22

Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, Who dwells in the land of Uz;
But the cup will come around to you as well, You will become drunk and make yourself naked.
²²*The punishment* of your iniquity has been completed, O daughter of Zion;
He will exile you no longer. *But* He will punish your iniquity, O daughter of Edom;
He will expose your sins!

Ezekiel 25:12-14

'Thus says the Lord God, "Because Edom has acted against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and has incurred grievous guilt, and avenged themselves upon them," ¹³therefore thus says the Lord God, "I will also stretch out My hand against Edom and cut off man and beast from it. And I will lay it waste; from Teman even to Dedan they will fall by the sword. ¹⁴I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel. Therefore, they will act in Edom according to My anger and according to My wrath; thus they will know My vengeance," declares the Lord God.

Also see **Isaiah 34:5-17; Ezekiel 35:1-15.**

Structure & Outline

- I. **Utter and Permanent Destruction of Edom (1-16)**
 - a. **Announcement of Judgment (1-9)**
 - b. **The Reason for Judgement (10-14)**
 - c. **The Terrors of Judgment (15-16)**

- II. **Israel Will Be Exalted & Jehovah Will Reign from Mount Zion (17-21)**
 - a. **The Remnant Will Escape to Mount Zion (17)**
 - b. **The Conquest of Edom & Surrounding Nations (18-20)**
 - c. **Jehovah's Universal Reign from Mount Zion (21)**

Major Themes, Message, & Application

Pride Comes Before the Fall (1-4)

¹The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom— We have heard a report from the Lord, And an envoy has been sent among the nations *saying*,

"Arise and let us go against her for battle"—

²"Behold, I will make you small among the nations;

You are greatly despised.

³"The arrogance of your heart has deceived you,

You who live in the clefts of the rock,

In the loftiness of your dwelling place,

Who say in your heart,

'Who will bring me down to earth?'

⁴"Though you build high like the eagle,

Though you set your nest among the stars,

From there I will bring you down," declares the Lord.

- **What is Your Security? In What do you Trust?**

- **How is that connected to Arrogance?**

The Poison of Betrayal (5-14)

“If thieves came to you, If robbers by night—
O how you will be ruined!—
Would they not steal *only* until they had enough?
If grape gatherers came to you,
Would they not leave *some* gleanings?
6 “O how Esau will be ransacked,
And his hidden treasures searched out!
7 “All the men allied with you
Will send you forth to the border,
And the men at peace with you
Will deceive you and overpower you.
They who eat your bread Will set an ambush for you.
(There is no understanding in him.)
8 “Will I not on that day,” declares the Lord,
“Destroy wise men from Edom
And understanding from the mountain of Esau?
9 “Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman,
So that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.
“Because of violence to your brother Jacob,
You will be covered *with* shame,
And you will be cut off forever.
11 “On the day that you stood aloof,
On the day that strangers carried off his wealth,
And foreigners entered his gate
And cast lots for Jerusalem—
You too were as one of them.
12 “Do not gloat over your brother’s day,
The day of his misfortune.
And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah
In the day of their destruction;
Yes, do not boast
In the day of *their* distress.
13 “Do not enter the gate of My people
In the day of their disaster.
Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity
In the day of their disaster.
And do not loot their wealth
In the day of their disaster.
14 “Do not stand at the fork of the road
To cut down their fugitives;
And do not imprison their survivors
In the day of their distress.

- **Guilt by association**
- **Sowing and Reaping**

○ The Day of the Lord (15-21)

- The fate of historical Edom is representative of the judgment that awaits all nations who oppose God and His people.

“For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations.

As you have done, it will be done to you.

Your dealings will return on your own head.

¹⁶ “Because just as you drank on My holy mountain,

All the nations will drink continually.

They will drink and swallow

And become as if they had never existed.

¹⁷ “But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape,

And it will be holy.

And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.

¹⁸ “Then the house of Jacob will be a fire

And the house of Joseph a flame;

But the house of Esau *will be* as stubble.

And they will set them on fire and consume them,

So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,”

For the Lord has spoken.

¹⁹ Then *those of* the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau,

And *those of* the Shephelah the Philistine *plain*;

Also, possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria,

And Benjamin *will possess* Gilead.

²⁰ And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel,

Who are *among* the Canaanites as far as Zarephath,

And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad

Will possess the cities of the Negev.

²¹ The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion

To judge the mountain of Esau,

And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

- Clearly Illustrated in the passages where Edom is judged before the coming of Israel's eschatological restoration **(Isaiah 34-35; Ezekiel 35-37; Isaiah 63-66)**

- **The Lord Returning as a Warrior from Bozrah (Edom) becomes an image of Jesus at His Second coming:**

Isaiah 63:1-6

Who is this who comes from Edom,
 With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,
 This One who is majestic in His apparel,
 Marching in the greatness of His strength?
 "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."
² Why is Your apparel red,
 And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?
³ "I have trodden the wine trough alone,
 And from the peoples there was no man with Me.
 I also trod them in My anger
And trampled them in My wrath;
And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments,
And I stained all My raiment.
⁴ "For the day of **vengeance** was in My heart,
 And My year of **redemption** has come.
⁵ "I looked, and there was no one to help,
 And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold;
 So My own arm brought salvation to Me,
 And My wrath upheld Me.
⁶ "I trod down the peoples in My anger
 And made them drunk in My wrath,
 And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."

Compare to **Revelation 19:11-16**

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ **He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood,** and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."