

Outline of Obadiah

The book of Obadiah is about judgment upon Edom, which is the nation that came from Esau. Obadiah's name means "servant of the LORD" or "worshipper of the LORD." Some interpreters believe that he is the earliest of the Minor Prophets, having written around 845 B.C. As such, he would have overlapped the ministries of Joel (south) and Elijah and Elisha (north). Others put the date of Obadiah's composition around the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. In this case, he would have overlapped or been near in time to the ministries of Daniel, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah.

The ancient city called Petra was the capital of Edom, previously called Sela. Hidden away for centuries south of the Dead Sea, it was re-discovered in 1812. It has been uninhabited for centuries. Thus we know that God's oracle of doom through Obadiah was fulfilled.

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Notes

- See Gen. 27:38-40. At the occasion of Jacob's trickery to receive the blessing of the firstborn, Esau requested some kind of blessing from his father, and he did receive something. But notice that twice he is predicted to be the servant of his brother (v. 37, 40). God's line would come through Jacob.
- See Mal. 1:2-5. Here Esau is said to be "hated" as compared to Jacob who is "loved." Esau's descendants, Edom, were decimated.
- Rom. 9:10-13. Here the hating and loving is indicated in terms of the doctrine of divine election. God chose Jacob over Esau, both of them still in the womb, neither having done any good or evil. This is used in Romans to demonstrate that the purpose of God according to election will not be frustrated. God has that prerogative.

- Note that Esau was profane (Heb. 12:16-17); he despised his birthright (Gen. 25:34); and his was not the line that God chose to bless with the Messianic promises.
- Regarding verse 12, note Proverbs 17:5 about the one who rejoices at calamity.
- The possessions of verse 17 are enumerated in verse 19-20.
- Note verses 19-21 which indicate the establishment of the millennial kingdom.
- The Day of the Lord is an important eschatological concept in the Bible. It includes the 7-year tribulation and 1000-year kingdom. Note Amos 5:18-20 (these verses indicate that the DOL was known before Amos wrote in the 700s B.C., thus the earlier date for Obadiah).
- Note that looting and betrayal will turn on the heads of the Edomites (5-7, 13-14).
- Other passages of Scripture speak of Edom: Isa 11:14; 34:5-17; 63:1-6; Jeremiah 9:25-26; 25:17-26; 49:7-22; Lam 4:21-22; Ezekiel 25:12-14; 35:15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11-12; 9:11-12.