

# OBADIAH -LESSON ONE

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Why would you write an entire prophecy addressing a foreign nation yet designed to be read by another people?
  - a. It is when you are trying to bring comfort and hope to your readers.
2. Obadiah is a prophet of God inspired with a vision regarding Israel's long time enemy, Edom
  - a. Edom will fall (v.4)
  - b. However, the day is coming when God's people Israel will be exalted (v.17-18)

## I. THE DATE OF THE BOOK (845 B.C.)

- A. Obadiah does not indicate a specific date for his prophetic vision (cf.v.1)
- B. Internal evidence only offers a time when Jerusalem's gates were stormed by a plurality of enemies who divided up Jerusalem's treasures, carrying them away (v. 11).
- C. A wide range of dates from 845 B.C. to 400 B.C. have been suggested as the time frame for the book of Obadiah.
- D. Some offered the time following Nebuchadnezzar's destructive plundering of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. as the date.
  1. Psalm 137:7 – *"Remember, O Jehovah, against the children of Edom the day of Jerusalem; who said, "Rase it, rase it." "* (cf. v.1-3)
  2. Jeremiah and Obadiah prophetic likenesses concerning Edom
    - a. Obadiah 1-4 – Jeremiah 49:14-16
    - b. Obadiah 5-6 – Jeremiah 49:9-10
    - c. Obadiah 8 – Jeremiah 49:7
    - d. Some believe they were contemporaries; some believe Obadiah quoted from Jeremiah...Jeremiah could have referred to the prophecy of Obadiah of a previous time when the prophecy was still not completely fulfilled. Jeremiah quoted from the previous minor prophet, Micah (Jer. 26:18, Micah 3:12).
- E. Some point to the times near the end of Jehoram's reign in 845 B.C. as the date of the book.
  1. In the days of the reign of his father, Jehoshaphat, Edom did not have a king. A deputy or vicegerent ruled (I Kings 22:47).
  2. In Jehoram's reign, Edom revolted against Judah and placed a king above them. They remained free from Judah's rule after a battle with Jehoram (2 Chron. 21:8-10).
  3. God stirred up the hearts of the Philistines, Arabians, and Ethiopians to attack Jerusalem (2 Chron. 21:16-17).
    - a. Jerusalem invaded and plundered
    - b. invaded by strangers
    - c. Captives taken
    - d. Judah would again subjugate Edom – Reign of Amaziah (803-787 B.C.- (2 Chron. 25:5-14).

- F. Important recorded events of Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem not found in Obadiah...
1. The rasing (razing) of the walls (2 King 25:10, Jer.52:14, Neh. 2:15-17)
  2. Burning of the Royal Palace (2 Kings 25:9, Jer. 52:13)
  3. Burning of the temple (2 Kings 25:9, Jer. 52:13)
  4. Capture and Deportation of the King to Babylon (2 Kings 25:7)
  5. Deportation of entire nation (2 Kings 25:11-12)
  6. Emigration of Jews to Egypt (2 Kings 25:26, Jer. 41:16-18)

**II. THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK: Obadiah**

- A. A familiar name in Israel – “Servant of Jehovah”
- B. Not certain which Obadiah, if any, who are mentioned elsewhere in Jerusalem's history.
1. The one who hid 100 prophets from Jezebel, Ahab's wife (I Kings 18:12).
  2. Of the group sent by Jehoshaphat to teach the law in Judah (2 Chron. 17:7).
  3. One of the overseers in repairing the temple under Josiah's reign (2 Chron. 34:12).

**III. HISTORY OF EDOM AFTER OBADIAH'S PROPHECY...**

- A. The Edomites overcome by Nabataeans and forced to settle in southern portion of Judah.
- B. About 100 B.C. they were conquered by John Hyrcanus of the Maccabees.
1. Forced to be circumcised and accept the Law of Moses
  2. Many became nominal Jews (Herod the Great was one of such proselytes).
- C. By 100 A.D. Edom as a race and nation become lost to history.

**IV. OUTLINE OF BOOK**

- A. Coming judgment prophesied of the fall of Edom (v. 1-9 )
- B. The reason for Judgment – violence and unbrotherly conduct toward Jacob (I Israel) (v.10-16)
- C. Exaltation of Israel over Edom – remnant escapes to Mt. Zion – Jehovah's universal rule (v. 17-21)

**V. DISCUSSION:**

1. Is the message less authoritative if it is a “vision” instead of “spoken?”
2. Why did the small nation of Edom feel so secure and prideful?
3. How “devastating” will Edom's fall be?

4. In verses 10-16 fill in the appropriate warning with the following warning phrases:
  - a. “Look not...” -
  - b. “Enter not...” -
  - c. “Stand not...” –
5. What is the “day of Jehovah?”
6. What mountain is being exalted when Edom’s mountain (Mt. Seir) is being abased?
7. How was God’s two-fold promise through Obadiah fulfilled?
  - a. Israel exalted over Edom in a “physical sense”:
  - b. Israel exalted over Edom in a “spiritual sense”:
8. What Godly wisdom is gained from the study of Obadiah?
  - a. What was the basis of Edom’s pride before their fall (Prov. 16:18)?
  - b. Rejoicing when your enemy falls means you should do what (Prov. 24:17-18)?