

THE MINOR PROPHETS

Obadiah – Does God Have Enemies?

November 17, 2024

Background

*The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom...
Obadiah 1 (ESV)*

A. Who was Obadiah?

B. Who were the Edomites?

*Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said,
“Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!” Psalm 137:7 (ESV)*

*“Thus says the Lord GOD: Because Edom acted revengefully against the house of
Judah and has grievously offended in taking vengeance on them,...”
Ezekiel 25:12 (ESV)*

*Because you cherished perpetual enmity and gave over the people of Israel to the
power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final
punishment, Ezekiel 35:5 (ESV)*

1. God will judge the Edomites.

*“...We have heard a report from the LORD, and a messenger has been sent
among the nations: “Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!” Obadiah 1 (ESV)*

*Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.
Obadiah 2 (ESV)*

*For behold, I will make you small among the nations, despised among
mankind. Jeremiah 49:15 (ESV)*

*The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in
your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, “Who will bring me down to the
ground?” Obadiah 3 (ESV)*

*Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from
there I will bring you down, declares the LORD. Obadiah 4 (ESV)*

*If thieves came to you, if plunderers came by night— how you have been
destroyed!— would they not steal only enough for themselves? If grape gatherers*

came to you, would they not leave gleanings? *How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures sought out!* Obadiah 5–6 (ESV)

But I have stripped Esau bare; I have uncovered his hiding places, and he is not able to conceal himself. His children are destroyed, and his brothers, and his neighbors; and he is no more. Jeremiah 49:10 (ESV)

All your allies have driven you to your border; those at peace with you have deceived you; they have prevailed against you; those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you— you have no understanding. Obadiah 7 (ESV)

Will I not on that day, declares the LORD, destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau? And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman, so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter. Obadiah 8–9 (ESV)

Concerning Edom. Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished? Jeremiah 49:7 (ESV)

*Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, *Eliphaz the Temanite,*... Job 2:11 (ESV)*

2. Why were the Edomites enemies of God?

Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. Obadiah 10 (ESV)

“You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother...” Deuteronomy 23:7 (ESV)

Because you cherished perpetual enmity and gave over the people of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final punishment, therefore, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; because you did not hate bloodshed, therefore blood shall pursue you. Ezekiel 35:5–6 (ESV)

On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them. Obadiah 11 (ESV)

But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress. Obadiah 12 (ESV)

Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, “Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!” Psalm 137:7 (ESV)

Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity. Obadiah 13 (ESV)

...therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Surely I have spoken in my hot jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave my land to themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy and utter contempt, that they might make its pasturelands a prey. Ezekiel 36:5 (ESV)

Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress. Obadiah 14 (ESV)

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:2-3 (ESV)

3. God will judge all nations by what they have done.

For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. Obadiah 15 (ESV)

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations... The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.
Joel 2:1-3 (ESV)

...God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 (ESV)

For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been. Obadiah 16 (ESV)

4. God and His people will win.

But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape, and it shall be holy, and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions. Obadiah 17 (ESV)

The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau, for the LORD has spoken. Obadiah 18 (ESV)

And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel, and they shall do in Edom according to my anger and according to my wrath, and they shall know my vengeance, declares the Lord GOD.
Ezekiel 25:14 (ESV)

Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines; they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negeb.
Obadiah 19–20 (ESV)

Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's. Obadiah 21 (ESV)

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 (ESV)

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."
Revelation 11:15 (ESV)

5. Conclusion

1. God is large and in charge of history. He determines the rise and fall of nations, regardless of their power or size.
2. The choices we make today impact tomorrow. The pride and sadistic celebration of the Edomites led to the end of their nation.
3. The Old Testament is filled with prophecy verified by history. This is why we know it is true.
4. God has enemies. The only way not to be one is to be saved through Jesus.

Life Group Questions

1. **Read Obadiah 1-9.** Why did God judge the Edomites? (There is more than one answer.) What can we learn from this for everyday life?
2. God described how he would carry out judgment against the nation of Edom. Is God carrying out judgments against nations the same way today?
3. **Read Obadiah 10-14.** How did the Edomites celebrate the national disaster of the Israelites? What happened to them? What does this teach us about how to handle the suffering of others, even if they are our enemies? See Matthew 5:44.
4. **Read Obadiah 15 and 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.** How will God judge nations and individuals when he returns? According to 2 Thessalonians, what is the only way for Jesus' return to be a day of relief instead of vengeance against our sins?
5. **Read Obadiah 19-20.** God doesn't just restore his people to their land, but he expands it and gives them more. What does this teach us about how God treats his people, even though we don't deserve it?
6. **Read Obadiah 21.** How does this verse point forward to Jesus as the ultimate savior God raises up for us?