Bible Synthesis IV

OVERVIEW OF OBADIAH

The book of Obadiah speaks of the continued feud between Jacob and Esau, for Esau is Edom. *It is a family feud*. This is the shortest book in the Old Testament. In literary form, Obadiah is a "doom song." Its theme is "Retribution for Edom."

The name Obadiah means "servant of the LORD." Nothing is known about him aside from the facts given in this short book.

The date of writing is discussed in the introduction. Those who hold him to have been a contemporary of Jeremiah state that verses 10–14 (v. 11) fix the date. They say that this was no doubt the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.

Consult a map to locate the territory of Edom. Also compare Jeremiah 49:7–22 with the message of Obadiah.

OUTLINE OF OBADIAH

1. Complete Destruction of Edom Predicted —Oba. 1–9

-1. Edom not thought of very highly by their neighbors —vv.1– 2

- What is taking place concerning Edom — "We have heard a rumour from the LORD":
  - An ambassador is sent among the heathen
  - "Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle." —What the ambassador says.
  - Edom has been made small among the heathen, and greatly despised.

-2. The sin of Edom — PRIDE —vv. 3–4

- Petra referred to in v. 3
- Their fortress (Petra) would not save them —v. 4

-3. Their destruction will be thorough —vv. 5–7

- Esau (v. 6) progenitor of the Edomites — twin brother of Jacob.
- "Hidden things" (v. 6) — They had great wealth in iron, copper, and in trade by caravan.
- Even Edom's allies would turn against her —v. 7

-4. Another source of their pride —vv. 8–9

- "wise men" —v. 8
  Cf. Jer. 49:7, "their wisdom is vanished"

"Salting the Oats"

Obadiah 1–9 — What does God prophesy for Edom here?

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"Salting the Oats"

Obadiah 10–14 — Why does God make this prophecy of their destruciton?

Obadiah 15–21 — How does Israel fit into this prophecy?

- **Note:** The judgment of Edom took place 5 years after the destruction of Jerusalem (see vv. 3–4, 10).
  - They lost their existence as a nation about 150 B.C.
  - Herod was an Edomite (Greek: Idumean).

2. The Principal Reason for This Destruction —Oba. 10–14

- Why this judgment is to fall upon them — For violence against Jacob. Shame would cover them for that —v. 10

-1. They stood by while Jerusalem was destroyed —v. 11

-2. They rejoiced at her calamity, and boasted against her —v. 12

-3. They shared in her spoiling —v. 13

-4. They prevented the escape of some of her people —v. 14

- What had God told Israel in Deut. 23:7? "Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother …"
- Yet, what did Edom do? Ps. 137:7, "Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof."

  ["Rase" is British for *raze*, to tear down completely; to level to the ground; to demolish.]

3. The Day of the LORD: Judgment and Restoration —Oba. 15–21

–1. The Day of the LORD —v. 15

- When? See Joel 1:15; 2:1; and 2:31 for a time
- It is "near upon all the heathen"

-2. The nature of the Destruction —vv. 16–21

- Upon Mount Zion: deliverance, holiness —v. 17
- The nation Edom does not exist today. One day all Edomites will also be gone —v. 18
- Who will possess "the mount of Esau" —v. 19–20
- Future deliverance for Mount Zion and judges to judge the mount of Esau —v. 21

END OF OBADIAH

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