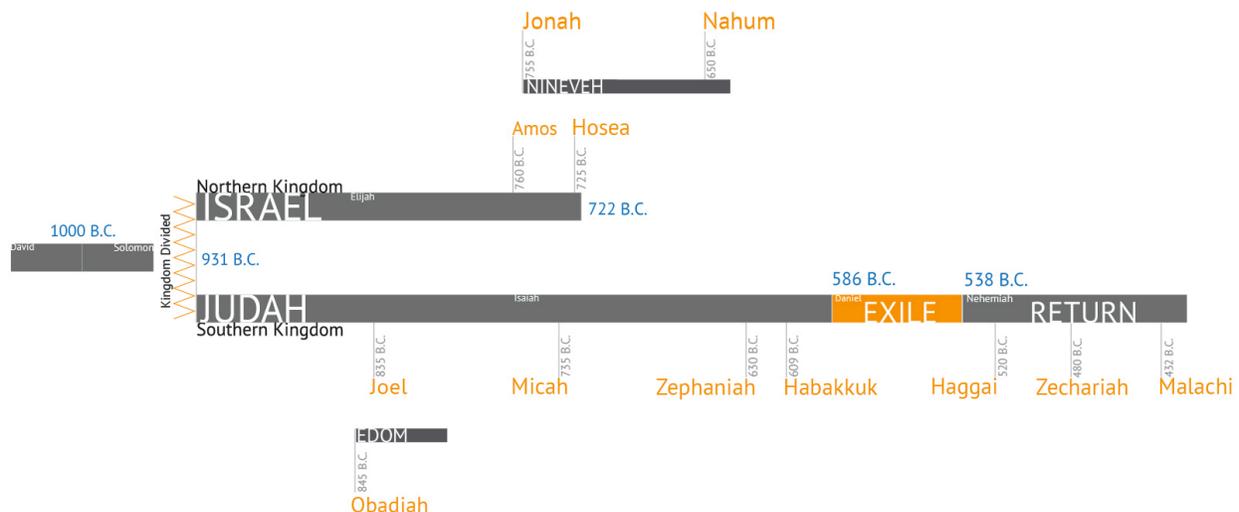


# Obadiah

Edom Mistreated His Brother ([Obadiah 1:10-16](#))

## Introduction

Last week we looked at the introduction to **Obadiah** and the first nine verses. This week, we look at the next seven verses. To quickly review, Obadiah is a (we think) pre-exilic prophet—but the exact dates are disputed.



Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

## Read: Edom Mistreated His Brother (Obadiah 1:10-16)

A helpful structure to think through Obadiah might be this from *The Minor Prophets*, McComiskey (1998), page 507:

- I. Title (1a)
- II. Description of the Scene of Judgment (Nations Arise for Battle) (1b)
- III. Speech by the Judge (2-21)
  - A. Three Sentences (2-9)
    - 1. First Sentence (2-4)
    - 2. Second Sentence (5-7)
    - 3. Third Sentence (8-9)
  - B. Three Pronouncements of Guilt (10-14)
    - 1. First Pronouncement (10)
    - 2. Second Pronouncement (11)
    - 3. Third Pronouncement (12-14)
  - C. Sentence of the Nations (15-16)
  - D. Promise of Restoration (17-21)

As we go through this week's text, look for Jesus. He's there.

**1 The vision of Obadiah.**

**Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom  
(We have heard a report from the LORD,  
And a messenger has been sent among the nations, *saying*,  
"Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle"):**

**2 "Behold, I will make you small among the nations;  
You shall be greatly despised.**

**3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,  
You who dwell in the clefts of the rock,  
Whose habitation is high;  
You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'**

**4 Though you ascend *as* high as the eagle,  
And though you set your nest among the stars,  
From there I will bring you down," says the LORD.**

**5 "If thieves had come to you,  
If robbers by night—  
Oh, how you will be cut off!—  
Would they not have stolen till they had enough?  
If grape-gatherers had come to you,  
Would they not have left *some* gleanings?**

**6 "Oh, how Esau shall be searched out!  
*How* his hidden treasures shall be sought after!**

**7 All the men in your confederacy  
Shall force you to the border;  
The men at peace with you  
Shall deceive you *and* prevail against you.  
*Those who eat* your bread shall lay a trap for you.  
No one is aware of it.**

**8 "Will I not in that day," says the LORD,  
"Even destroy the wise *men* from Edom,  
And understanding from the mountains of Esau?**

**9 Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed,  
To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau  
May be cut off by slaughter.**

**10 "For violence against your brother Jacob,  
Shame shall cover you,**

**And you shall be cut off forever.**

**11 In the day that you stood on the other side—  
In the day that strangers carried captive his forces,  
When foreigners entered his gates  
And cast lots for Jerusalem—  
Even you *were* as one of them.**

**12 “But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother  
In the day of his captivity;  
Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah  
In the day of their destruction;  
Nor should you have spoken proudly  
In the day of distress.**

**13 You should not have entered the gate of My people  
In the day of their calamity.  
Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction  
In the day of their calamity,  
Nor laid *hands* on their substance  
In the day of their calamity.**

**14 You should not have stood at the crossroads  
To cut off those among them who escaped;  
Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained  
In the day of distress.**

**15 “For the day of the LORD upon all the nations *is* near;  
As you have done, it shall be done to you;  
Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.**

**16 For as you drank on My holy mountain,  
So shall all the nations drink continually;  
Yes, they shall drink, and swallow,  
And they shall be as though they had never been.**

**17 “But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance,  
And there shall be holiness;  
The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.**

**18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire,  
And the house of Joseph a flame;  
But the house of Esau *shall be* stubble;  
They shall kindle them and devour them,  
And no survivor shall *remain* of the house of Esau,”  
For the LORD has spoken.**

**19 The South shall possess the mountains of Esau,**

**And the Lowland shall possess Philistia.**

**They shall possess the fields of Ephraim**

**And the fields of Samaria.**

**Benjamin shall possess Gilead.**

**20 And the captives of this host of the children of Israel**

**Shall possess the land of the Canaanites**

**As far as Zarephath.**

**The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad**

**Shall possess the cities of the South.**

**21 Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion**

**To judge the mountains of Esau,**

**And the kingdom shall be the LORD's.**

## Explain: Edom Mistreated His Brother (Obadiah 1:10-16)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some.

### Are there any literary/structural observations?

Today's text is all poetry and a wide variety of Hebrew poetical devices are in use.

- Synonymous **parallelism** in **Obadiah 1:12-14** (repeating the same concept).
- A **pun** in **Obadiah 1:13** (disaster (*edam*) and Edom (*edom*) are similar sounds in Hebrew)
- **Irony** in **Obadiah 1:16** (*The Minor Prophets, McComiskey (1998), page 536: Edom drank there in triumph, but the nations will drink the cup of divine wrath*).

### What do the words mean?

**10 "For violence** [wrong, unjust gain, cruelty, damage, false, injustice, oppressor, unrighteous, violence, violent dealing] **against your brother Jacob** [heel catcher, supplanter],

**Shame shall cover** [plump, fill up hollows, cover (for clothing or secrecy), clad, close, clothe, conceal, hide, overwhelm] **you,**

**And you shall be cut off** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:9**; cut off, cut down, destroy, consume, covenant, be chewed, fail, hewn down, lose, perish] **forever.**

**11 In the day that you stood on the other side** [front, counterpart, over against, before]—

**In the day that strangers** [turn aside for lodging, be a foreigner, strange, profane, come from another place, go away, stranger, stranger thing] **carried captive** [transport into captivity, bring away, carry away, lead, lead away, take, captive, drive

away] **his forces** [forces, army, wealth, virtue, valor, strength],

**When foreigners** [strange, foreign, non-relative, adulterous, different, wonderful, alien, foreigner, outlandish, stranger] **entered his gates** [openings, doors, gates, city]

**And cast** [handle, throw, cast] **lots** [rough, pebble, lot, portion, destiny] **for Jerusalem** [the capital of Palestine]—

**Even you were as one of them.**

**12 “But you should not have gazed** [seen, etc.] **on the day of your brother in the day of his captivity** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:11**; strange, foreign, non-relative, adulterous, different, wonderful, alien, foreigner, outlandish, stranger];

**Nor should you have rejoiced** [brightened up, be blithe, gleesome, cheer up, be glad, joy, be merry, rejoice] **over the children of Judah** [celebrated; a tribe of Israel]

**In the day of their destruction** [wander away, lose oneself, perish, destroy, break, not escape, fail, lose, perish, spend, take, be undone, utterly, be void of, have no way to flee];

**Nor should you have spoken proudly** [twist, be large, advance, boast, bring up, exceed, excellent, great, grow, increase, lift up, magnify, be much set by, nourish, pass, promote, proudly spoken, tower]

**In the day of distress** [tightness, trouble, female rival, adversary, adversity, affliction, anguish, distress, tribulation, trouble; used of a rival wife].

**13 You should not have entered the gate** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:11**; openings, doors, gates, city] **of My people** [people, unit, tribe, troops, attendants, flocks, folks, men, nation]

**In the day of their calamity** [bending, oppression, misfortune, ruin, calamity, destruction].

**Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction** [bad, evil, adversity, affliction, calamity, displeasure, distress, exceedingly, great, grief, harm, heavy, hurt, ill, mark, mischief, misery, naught, noisome, not please, sad, sore, sorrow, trouble, vex, wicked, worse, wretchedness, wrong]

**In the day of their calamity** [same word used earlier in **Obadiah 1:13**; bending, oppression, misfortune, ruin, calamity, destruction],

**Nor laid hands on** [send away, any wise, appoint, bring, cast away, cast out, conduct, earnestly, forsake, give up, grow long, lay, leave, let depart, push away, put away, reach forth, send away, set, shoot forth, sow, spread, stretch forth] **their substance** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:11**; forces, army, wealth, virtue, valor, strength]

**In the day of their calamity** [same word used twice earlier in **Obadiah 1:13**; bending, oppression, misfortune, ruin, calamity, destruction].

**Who are the Edomites behaving like?** Babylonians!

**14 You should not have stood at the crossroads** [rapine, fork, crossway, robbery]

**To cut off** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:9, 10**; cut off, cut down, destroy, consume, covenant, be chewed, fail, hewn down, lose, perish] **those among them who escaped** [refugee, escape, fugitive];

**Nor should you have delivered up** [shut up, surrender, close up, deliver, give over, inclose, pure, repair, shut, stop, straitly] **those among them who remained** [survivor, alive, left, remain, remnant, rest]

**In the day of distress** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:12**; tightness, trouble, female rival, adversary, adversity, affliction, anguish, distress, tribulation, trouble; used of a rival wife].

**15 “For the day of the LORD** [*yehovah*] **upon all the nations** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:1, 2**; foreign nation, Gentile, troop of animals, flight of locusts, heathen, people] **is near** [near, allied, approach, at hand, kinsfolk, neighbor, next, nigh, more ready, short]; [The ‘day’ mentioned before **Obadiah 1:15** are prophecies of what Edom would do in the future (if you **Obadiah** is pre-exilic). The day mentioned in **Obadiah 1:15** is a prophecy of what God will do in His judgment of all nations.]

**As you have done** [done, make], **it shall be done** [done, make] **to you;**

**Your reprisal** [treatment, act, service, requital, benefit, desert, deserving, that which he hath given, recompense, reward] **shall return** [turn back, retreat] **upon your own head.** [*The Minor Prophets, McComiskey (1998), page 535: Edom has judged Israel and found it worthy of destruction. Because of this presumptuous verdict on Edom’s part, God will cause the same judgment on Edom. Who does this sound like?* Jesus in **Matthew 7** and Paul in **Romans 2.**]

**16 For as you drank** [imbibe, banquet, drink, drunk] **on My holy** [sacred place or thing, sanctify, consecrated, dedicated, hallowed, holiness, holy, saint, sanctuary] **mountain** [mountain, range of hills, hill],

**So shall all the nations** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:1, 2, 15**; foreign nation, Gentile, troop of animals, flight of locusts, heathen, people] **drink** [same word used earlier in **Obadiah 1:16**; imbibe, banquet, drink, drunk] **continually** [to stretch, continuance, constant, regular sacrifice, always, continual, daily, evermore, perpetual]; [In **Isaiah** and **Psalms** wine is viewed closely with the judgment of God and His wrath poured out or drunk.]

**Yes, they shall drink** [same word used twice earlier in **Obadiah 1:16**; imbibe, banquet, drink, drunk], **and swallow** [gulp, be rash, swallow down],

**And they shall be as though they had never been.**

## Are there any repeated words?

You/your (18), **day** (*yom*) (11), **nor** (4) (no gazing, rejoicing, priding, entering, gazing, laying hands, standing, delivering), calamity (3), brother (2), cut (2), distress (2), drink (2), entered (2), gate/gates (2), gazed (2), nations (2), stood (2)

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. The Day is **coming** (judgment, accountability, punishment—the Day I'm referring to here is the day in **Obadiah 1:15**—not those before)
2. All should **fear** (at some point in our lives)
3. Some should **not** (currently, those protected by Jesus' sacrifice have no reason to fear)

## Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. **Prepare**
2. **Share**
3. **Rejoice** (in case you're wondering where Jesus is, He is the sacrifice who was judged in our place so we would not be judged one day as Edom is. Even **Obadiah** is about God.)

Final comment: all of the commentators I read this week made mention of the parable of the Good Samaritan. The similarities they drew compared Edom with the priest and the Levite who both saw the need, but passed on by on the other side. Let us pay attention and understand that nations can commit similar sins as individuals in ignoring the needs of those we are near to.

## Next week: Israel's Final Triumph (1:17-21)

**17 "But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance,  
And there shall be holiness;  
The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.**

**18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire,  
And the house of Joseph a flame;  
But the house of Esau shall be stubble;  
They shall kindle them and devour them,  
And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau,"  
For the LORD has spoken.**

**19 The South shall possess the mountains of Esau,  
And the Lowland shall possess Philistia.  
They shall possess the fields of Ephraim**

**And the fields of Samaria.**

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**21 Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion**

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**And the kingdom shall be the LORD's.**

## Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week's text (multiple times in multiple ways) (**Obadiah 1:17-21**)
3. Talk to someone about the text ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool) or in person)
4. Share ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool)) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member

## Extra Credit

Thank God for the judgment **Jesus** saves God's children from

## Quotes & Observations

**Josh Landers:** Until watching the video project I had not caught on that the narrative changed from Edom to All Nations and that Edom is really an example of pride that we and all nations show. . . . I am trying to understand what all security encompasses. Finance, employment, family, lifestyle, friends. Reminds of the Chinese proverb about trying to squeeze and hold water in your hands just results in more of it leaking out.

**Darla Skinner:** "**You should not have made big your mouth**"—guilty.

**Jay Arnold:** Thoughts of self-application: Rejoicing over someone's calamity, does not please God v. 12 and v. 8. **Proverbs 24:17: Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumble.** I really think God is concerned that we guard our hearts and not let wrong attitudes, even toward evil, corrupt our testimony before God. Laughing/mockng when "judgement"/misfortune falls on someone is not appropriate behavior for someone who has be redeemed by Christ's blood and forgiven their sins. That whole; "but for the grace of God go I".