

Obadiah

Israel's Final Triumph ([Obadiah 1:17-21](#))

Introduction

Two weeks ago, we looked at the introduction to **Obadiah** and the first nine verses. Last week, we look at the next seven verses. Today, we finish Obadiah by examining the last five verses.

Our approach each week has been to REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Read: Israel's Final Triumph (Obadiah 1:17-21)

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)
 - 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)
- III. Speech by the Judge (2-21)

During today's reading of Obadiah, listen for the emotional change points.

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: Israel's Final Triumph (Obadiah 1:17-21)

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

Are there any literary/structural observations?

This section is looking forward to a day when Edom's behavior will be dealt with.

What do the words mean?

17 "But on Mount [same word used in **Obadiah 1:16**; mountain, range of hills, hill] **Zion** [a mountain of Jerusalem] **there shall be deliverance** [deliverance, an escaped portion, remnant],

And there shall be holiness [same word used in **Obadiah 1:16**; sacred place or thing, sanctify, consecrated, dedicated, hallowed, holiness, holy, saint, sanctuary];

The house of Jacob [same word used in **Obadiah 1:10**; heel catcher, supplanter] **shall possess** [qal perfect; occupy, driving out previous tenants and possessing in their place, to seize, rob, inherit, to expel, to impoverish, to ruin, cast out, consume, destroy, disinherit, dispossess, drive out, enjoy, expel, without fail, magistrate, be poor, come to poverty, possess, get in possession, seize upon, succeed] **their possessions** [possession, delight, thought].

18 The house of Jacob [same word used in **Obadiah 1:10, 17**; heel catcher, supplanter] **shall be a fire** [fire, burning, fiery, flaming, hot],

And the house of Joseph [let him add] **a flame** [flame, head of a spear];

But the house of Esau [*esav*; hairy] **shall be stubble** [straw, stubble];

They shall kindle [qal perfect; to flame, burning, chase, inflame, kindle, persecute, pursue hotly] **them and devour** [qal perfect; eat, burn up, consume, devour, dine, feed, food, meat] **them,**

And no survivor [same word used in **Obadiah 1:14**; survivor, alive, left, remain, remnant, rest] **shall remain of the house of Esau** [*esav*; hairy]."

For the LORD [*yehovah*] **has spoken.** [In the Bible fire is viewed closely with the judgment of God. *The Minor Prophets, McComiskey (1998), page 539: Because the Edomites handed over Judah's survivors to their conquerors, Edom will now be left without survivors. Obadiah faithfully represents the irony in God's judgment.*]

19 The South [**south**, specifically the *negeb* or southern district of Judah] **shall possess** [qal perfect; same word used in **Obadiah 1:17**; occupy, driving out previous tenants and possessing in their place, to seize, rob, inherit, to expel, to impoverish, to ruin, cast out, consume, destroy, disinherit, dispossess, drive out, enjoy, expel, without fail, magistrate, be poor, come to poverty, possess, get in possession, seize upon, succeed] **the mountains** [same word used in **Obadiah**

1:16, 17; mountain, range of hills, hill] **of Esau** [*esav*; hairy],

And the Lowland [lowland, the maritime slope of Palestine, low country, plain, vale] **shall possess** [qal perfect; not present in the original] **Philistia** [a Pelishtite or inhabitant of Pelesheth; **west**].

They shall possess [same word used in **Obadiah 1:17** and earlier in **Obadiah 1:19**; occupy, driving out previous tenants and possessing in their place, to seize, rob, inherit, to expel, to impoverish, to ruin, cast out, consume, destroy, disinherit, dispossess, drive out, enjoy, expel, without fail, magistrate, be poor, come to poverty, possess, get in possession, seize upon, succeed] **the fields** [to spread out, field, country, ground, land, soil, wild] **of Ephraim** [double fruit; a son of Joseph and the tribe that descended from him, and its territory; **center**]

And the fields [same word used earlier in **Obadiah 1:19**; to spread out, field, country, ground, land, soil, wild] **of Samaria** [watch station; a place in Palestine; **northeast**].

Benjamin [son of the right hand; youngest son of Jacob and the tribe that descended from him, and its territory] **shall possess** [not present in the original]

Gilead [a region **east** of the Jordan].

20 And the captives [captivity, exiles, captives] **of this host** [army, entrenchment, bulwark, host, poor, rampart, trench, wall] **of the children of Israel** [he will rule as God; name of Jacob and his posterity]

Shall possess [not present in the original] **the land of the Canaanites** [a peddler, merchant, trafficker]

As far as Zarephath [refinement; a place in Palestine].

The captives [same word used earlier in **Obadiah 1:20**; captivity, exiles, captives] **of Jerusalem** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:11**; capital of Palestine] **who are in Sepharad** [a region of Assyria (meaning even those not in the land at the time of the return and judgment will be included in the victory)]

Shall possess [same word used in **Obadiah 1:17** and twice in **Obadiah 1:19**; occupy, driving out previous tenants and possessing in their place, to seize, rob, inherit, to expel, to impoverish, to ruin, cast out, consume, destroy, disinherit, dispossess, drive out, enjoy, expel, without fail, magistrate, be poor, come to poverty, possess, get in possession, seize upon, succeed] **the cities of the South** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:19**; south, specifically the *negeb* or southern district of Judah].

21 Then saviors [hiphil participle; *yasha*; to be open, wide or free, to be safe, to free or succor, avenging, defend, deliver(-er), help, preserve, rescue, be safe, bring (having) salvation, save(-ior), get victory] **shall come** [qal perfect; ascend, break, bring, burn, carry, cast, climb, come, cut off, dawn, depart, exalt, excel, fail, fetch up, get up, go, grow, increase, lay, leap, levy, lift up, light up, mention, mount up, offer,

make to pay, perfect, prefer, put, raise, recover, restore, rise, scale, set, shoot forth, spring, stir up, take away, work] **to Mount** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:16, 17, 19**; mountain, range of hills, hill] **Zion** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:17**; a mountain of Jerusalem]

To judge [qal infinitive; to judge, pronounce sentence, vindicate, punish, govern, litigate, avenge, condemn, contend, defend, execute judgment, be a judge, needs, plead, reason, rule] **the mountains** [same word used in **Obadiah 1:16, 17, 19**, earlier in **Obadiah 1:21**; mountain, range of hills, hill] **of Esau** [*esav*; hairy], **And the kingdom** [something ruled, realm, kingdom, king's royal] **shall be the LORD's** [*yehovah*].

Do you see why (when the Messiah showed up) that the Israelites were looking for a political and military solution? *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*, Allen (1976), page 172: The land had a sacramental significance: spiritual restoration to divine favor is inextricably linked with material restoration to Palestine.

But while Obadiah foresaw the restoration of the kingdom, we're not fully sure he foresaw **Revelation 11:15: Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"**

Remember the mountains:



Don't assume the prophets knew everything about the future. Many times, God was just telling the prophets the next step . . . or two—sometimes just like us.

Are there any repeated words?

Shall (15), possess (7), house (5), Esau (4), mount/mountains (4), captives (2), fields (2), Jacob (2), South (2), Zion (2),

Apply (What is the point?)

1. God uses **beautiful** things (like poetry and poets)
2. Judgment shall come to **Edom** and deliverance shall come to **God's** people

The Minor Prophets, McComiskey (1998), page 538: God's people will now receive what was once theirs. It was lost through disobedience, but regained through grace. This follows the archetypal pattern of salvation history: what was lost through Adam is regained through Christ.

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. **Engage** with beautiful things
2. **Choose** wisely (choose your side and choose your behaviors on that side)

Next week: Acts 10-11

Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week's text (multiple times in multiple ways) (**Acts 10-11**)
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

Share your insights and observations of **Obadiah** with someone outside of our Sunday school class.

Quotes & Observations

N/A