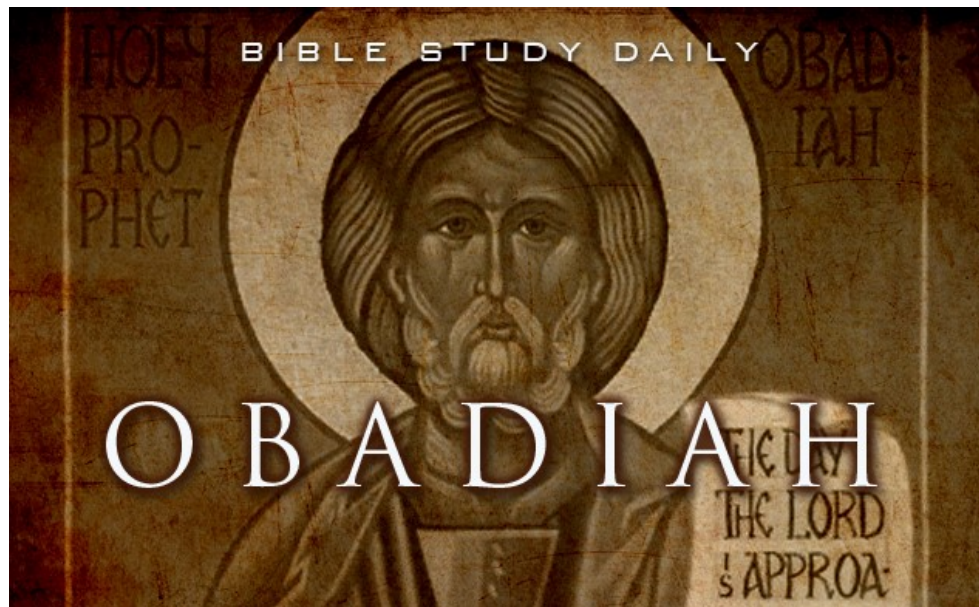




# BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of Obadiah as well as my study notes for the book.

## Name

The book of Obadiah is named for its presumed author. Obadiah means “servant of the Lord.”

## Author

The vision of Obadiah (v. 1), makes Obadiah the presumed author of the book. There are several (perhaps 12 or more) different Obadiah’s mentioned in the Old Testament. Nothing else is known about this Obadiah.

## Genre

Prophecy (fourth of twelve books commonly referred to as the “Minor Prophets”).

## Literary Form

Entirely prophetic poetry.

## Time Frame

Obadiah does not specifically date the book, and since there are no internal clues it is impossible to determine the date of the book with certainty. There are three prominent opinions: 1) during the reign of Jehoram (848-841 B.C.), 2) during the reign of Ahaz (731-715 B.C.), and 3) in 585 B.C. shortly after the destruction of the temple in 586 B.C.

Most scholar’s opinion are based on their interpretation of verse 11 which refers to the destruction of Jerusalem. If they believe the verse is prophetic they believe option 1, if they believe the verse is an historical reference they believe option 3.

## Emphasis

The emphasis of Obadiah is on the judgement to come upon the nation of Edom. The judgement comes both on the historical nation of Edom, and on Edom as a representative of all nations who oppressed Israel. Once judgment has fallen on these nations during the day of the Lord, ISrael will be restored to their land.

## Outline

- 1) The prophecy of judgement against Edom (vv. 1-9)
- 2) Esau’s sin against Jacob (vv. 10-14)
- 3) Judgement: The Day of the Lord (vv. 15-18)
- 4) The restoration of Israel (vv. 19-21)

# What I Noticed Today (Obadiah 1)

## Obadiah 1

In verse 1 the vision of Obadiah came from the Lord saying a messenger had been sent among the nations to rise up and prepare for battle against Edom.

In verses 2-4 Edom was to be made small and despised among nations. Their pride had deceived them into believing that no one could bring them down. Living high in the clefts of the rocks, they felt secure from attack.

In verses 5-7 the Lord described Esau's disaster as being complete. Not like a thief who steals only a little or harvesters who leave some grapes behind for the poor. In Esau's case, nothing would be left. They would be stripped of their treasures by their own allies and they won't even see the deception coming.

In verses 8-9 the Lord says on that day (the day of judgment), He will destroy the wise men of Edom including those who seek refuge on Mount Esau. The warriors of Teman will also be cut off.


**Note:** Teman was Edom's capital. It was named for Esau's grandson (Genesis 36:10-11). The reference here though is to the entire nation.

In verses 10-14 Obadiah describes the reason from the judgment is Edom's violent treatment of Judah (Jacob).

**Note:** The reference to "your brother Jacob" is a reminder that Esau and Jacob were brothers (sons of Isaac).

On the day that Judah fell the Edomites were like those who had destroyed Judah. Obadiah warned them not to treat their brothers in Judah badly with eight "do not's." Do not...

- Gloat over their misfortune.
- Rejoice over their ruin.
- Boast in the day of their distress.
- Enter their gates during their calamity.
- Gloat over this disaster.
- Loot their wealth.
- Cut off their fugitives trying to escape.
- Hand over their survivors to their enemies.



In verses 15-16 Obadiah declares the Day of the Lord (judgment) is near for all nations (not just Edom). What they have done to the people of God will be done to them. Their deeds will be returned upon their heads.

They drank in Jerusalem (my holy mountain) celebrating the fall of Jerusalem. Now all nations will drink the cup of God's judgment. None of those who oppose God's people will escape.

In verses 17-18 in that day, there will be a remnant who survive in Mount Zion (Jerusalem) and it will be holy. The people of Jacob and Joseph will be restored but the house of Esau will be stubble (stubble is what is left after harvesting grain). The stubble will be burned and there will be no survivors in Esau.

In verses 19-21 Obadiah describes the kingdom of the Lord: the people of Negeb will inherit Edom; Shephelah will inherit Philistia, Ephraim, and Samaria; Benjamin will inherit Gilead; exiles will inherit Canaan; and exiles from Jerusalem will inherit Negeb. Saviors will rule over the land of Esau and the Lord will rule over the entire kingdom.