

Obadiah

I. Introduction.

- A. What's the worst feud that comes to mind and how long did it last?
- B. What is a terrible sibling rivalry that comes to mind?
- C. What is the only 1-chapter Book in OT, 1 of only 5 in whole Bible?

II. Scripture.

A. Overview.

1. **General.** Chapters=1, Paragraphs=4-5, Verses=21, Words=669.
2. **Outline.** Edom's judgment is coming (**1:1-9**), Edom's cause of judgment—Israel persecution (**1:10-14**), The Day of the LORD—God will restore Israel to judge heathen (**1:15-18**), and the Kingdom of the LORD with saving judges will come (**1:19-21**).
3. **Divisions:** Judgment Coming—Israel's Enemies (**1:1-9**), Judgment Cause—Israel's Persecution (**1:10-14**), and Judgment Culmination—Israel's Restoration (**1:15-21**).
4. **Authorship.** Obadiah (**1:1**), means “*servant or worshiper of the LORD.*” The name appears 20 times in Bible, all in OT, but it is only certain the one in **1:1** is this Obadiah, but it says nothing about him except that he received this vision.
5. **Date.** 848-840, or 585 BC, the year after Jerusalem exiled by Babylon.
6. **Recipients.** Edom, Israel, and the heathen nations.
7. **Occasion.** A prophetic vision of God's judgment on Edom and all heathen for their continued persecution of Israel.
8. **Tone.** Judging and warning to Edom and the heathen nations, but encouraging to Israel and all those who trust in God's promises, plan, and sovereign rule. The LORD provides reasons for the coming complete destruction of Edom. He also warns other heathen nations joining Edom of His coming judgment. He encourages Israel that they will be established and vindicated, and part of God's coming Kingdom.
9. **Theme.** Edom's Fall. **Sub-theme:** Israel's Restoration.
10. **Background.** 31st Book of Bible, 4th of 12 minor prophetic Books of Scripture. Esau (died ~1,500 BC) lived in the country Edom (means “*red*” in Hebrew), Idumea (**Isa. 34:5-6; 35:15; 36:5**), the region of Temon (**1:9**), or mount Seir (**Gen. 36:8-9**), referred to over 200 times in Scripture. The descendants of Esau, Jacob's/Israel's brother (**1:18**), were called Edomites (**Gen. 36:9**). Esau (Edomite) and Jacob (Israelite) started this

international struggle while in the womb (**Gen. 25:21-28**), which continued well past their deaths. Jacob took advantage of his older twin brother Esau when Esau was very hungry by buying Esau's birthright with "red" pottage (**Gen. 25:30**), and by deceiving his father Isaac (working with his mother, Rebekah, cf. **Gen. 27**) to get Esau's blessing. This infuriated Esau so he sought to kill Jacob, but did not. However, his bitterness caused Esau and his descendants for about a millennium to attack and side with Israel's enemies during many battles. Esau's descendants built their capital city in Petra (in Jordan south of the Dead Sea ~1,200 BC), which was carved out in the clefts of "red" colored rocks in a strategic trade route, with a good water source, which caused Edomites to further depend on themselves, the natural world, and their riches. If Esau had not been as much earthly minded as he was with God's promised blessing, we might have been reading Abraham, Isaac, and Esau (not Jacob), and Esau's name may have been renamed to Israel, with the Messiah, and all the Kingdom blessings through him. Ultimately, our just God promised judgment for Edom's continued violent persecution and pride-filled murder of God's people (Israel), as found in Obadiah's vision.

11. **Key Verses.** **1:10, 15, 18, 21**; as many commentators differ on the key verse. "10—***For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever.***" 15—***For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee...***" 18—***...there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.***" 21—***And saviors shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the Kingdom shall be the LORD'S.***"

B. 1:1-9—Title:

1. **Scripture:** 1—***The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumor from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.***" 2—***Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.***" 3—***The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, 'Who shall bring me down to the ground?'***" 4—***Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down,' saith the LORD.***" 5—***If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut***

off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave some grapes?" 6—"How are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!" 7—"All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him." 8—"Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?" 9—"And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter."

2. **Commentary:**

C. **1:10-14—Title:**

1. **Scripture:** 10—"For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever." 11—"In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them." 12—"But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress." 13—"Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity;" 14—"Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress."

2. **Commentary:**

D. **1:15-18—Title:**

1. **Scripture:** 15—"*For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.*" 16—"*For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.*" 17—"*But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.*" 18—"*And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.*"
2. **Commentary:**

E. **1:19-21—Title:**

1. **Scripture:** 19—"*And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.*" 20—"*And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.*" 21—"*And saviors shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.*"
2. **Commentary:**

III. Application.

- A. Why does God judge the wicked unsaved (now and eternally)?

- B. How can you keep your squabble from becoming bitterness defiling many?

- C. How concerned are you with God's spiritual, not just physical blessings?

- D. How does it encourage you (as one of God's people) that God will ultimately justly avenge and vindicate Israel and the Church?

For additional Study, see [Obadiah Overview Book Chart](#).