

# *Obadiah*

## *"Israel's Enemies will be Judged"*

### **Background Information**

There are at least 20 men in the Old Testament named Obadiah. The name simply means "servant of the Lord."

Obadiah is one of a very few books that are never quoted in the New Testament. It is also the shortest Old Testament book, and the only that does not have chapter divisions.

### **Time Covered and Outline**

Scholars are divided as to when this book was written. It deals with an invasion of Judah, but that happened several times, and the book does not specify which is in view. The one that seems more logical is when Babylon invaded in 586 BC, but this is nowhere near for certain.

This very short book can be outlined in three major points:

- I. Judgment on Edom (verses 1-14)
  - A. Punishment is coming (verses 1-9)
  - B. Edom's sins (verses 10-14)
- II. God's Judgment on the Nations (verses 15-16)
- III. God will Restore Israel (verses 17-21)

### **Major Themes**

God's Judgment

God's Sovereignty of All Nations

Mercy

Sin Will be Punished

Compassion of Nations (or Lack Thereof)

#### **No Chapters?**

Obadiah stands alone as the only book of the Old Testament that does not have chapter divisions, due to its brevity. There are, however, four such books in the New Testament: Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude.

## God's Character in Obadiah

Judging (verses 1-16)

Restoring (verses 17-21)

## Jesus in Obadiah

There are no direct references to Christ in this book, but each time we see God judge a foreign nation in the Old Testament it reminds us that Christ is Judge over all today, while also the Savior of all.

## Key Words in Obadiah

Pride (Hebrew *zadon*); "to act proudly." verse 3

## Elsewhere in the World...

If Obadiah was written around when Babylon was invading Judah, it would be around the time when Homer was composing the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* in Greece.

## Elsewhere in Scripture...

If Obadiah is meant to be a vision concerning the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon, then the prophecy would fit in the latter chapters of 2 Kings (chapters 21-22) and 2 Chronicles (chapters 18-21).

### Edom: Judged by God

In the Old Testament, no other nation is mentioned as being a specific recipient of God's wrath than is Edom (other than Israel and Judah, of course). This is mentioned—besides the book of Obadiah—in at least nine other books of the Old Testament: Psalms 83 and 137; Isaiah 11, 21, 34, and 63; Jeremiah 49; Lamentations 4; Ezekiel 25 and 35; Joel 3; Amos 1 and 9; and Malachi 1