

**This book contains the account  
of God telling Obadiah that  
Edom would be destroyed  
because of the evil they did to  
Israel. We call this book  
Obadiah**

*Yahweh will punish the Edomites*

<sup>1</sup> This is a message that Yahweh our God gave to me, Obadiah, about the Edom *people-group*.

Yahweh our God has told me this about *the people of Edom*:

“I, Yahweh, have sent a messenger to other nations,  
telling them to prepare to go and attack Edom.”

<sup>2</sup> And Yahweh says this to the people of Edom:  
“I will soon cause you to become the weakest and most despised nation *on the earth*.”

<sup>3</sup> Your *capital city* is high in the rocky cliffs,  
and you are very proud;  
you think that you are safe from being attacked  
by your enemies [RHQ],  
but you [IDM] have deceived yourselves.

<sup>4</sup> And I tell you that even if *you had wings and*  
*could fly higher than eagles fly,*  
and if you could make your homes among  
the stars,  
I would bring you *crashing* down from there.

<sup>5</sup> When thieves break into someone's house during the night, they certainly [RHQ] steal only the things that they want.

And people who pick grapes always [RHQ] leave a few grapes on the vines.

But your country will be completely destroyed!

<sup>6</sup> Everything that is valuable will be taken away. *Your enemies* will find and take away even the valuable things that you have hidden.

<sup>7</sup> All ◀your allies/nations who promised to help you▶ will turn against you, and they will force you to leave your country/land.

Those with whom you have peace now will trick/deceive you and defeat you.

Those who eat meals with you now are planning to trap you,

and *then they will say to you*, 'You are not [RHQ] as clever as you thought you were!'

<sup>8</sup> I, Yahweh, declare that at the time that I destroy Edom,

I will punish the men who live in those cliffs who *thought that they* were wise.

<sup>9</sup> The soldiers from Teman *town* will become terrified;

all you people who are descendants of Esau will be ◀wiped out/killed▶.

*The reasons for Edom's punishment*

- 10 You acted cruel in a cruel way toward your relatives who are descendants of Jacob, *the twin brother of your ancestor Esau*.  
So now you will be disgraced forever; you will be completely destroyed.
- 11 Foreigners entered the gates of Jerusalem and ◀cast lots/threw small stones that were marked▶ to decide what valuable things they would take away;  
but you were as bad as those foreigners, because you just stood there *and did not help the Israelis*.
- 12 You should not have ◀gloated/been happy▶ about the disaster that the Israelis were experiencing.  
You should not have been happy when their towns were ruined.  
You should not have made fun *of them* when they were suffering.
- 13 They are my people,  
so you should not have entered their *city* gates when they were experiencing those disasters  
and you should not have laughed at them.  
And you should not have taken away their *valuable* possessions.
- 14 You should not have stood at crossroads to catch those who were *trying to* escape.  
You should not have *captured them and* put them into the hands of *their enemies* when they were experiencing those disasters.”

*God will punish all the nearby nations*

15 “There will soon be the time when I, Yahweh, will judge *and punish* all the nations. And you *people of Edom* will experience the same *disasters* that you caused *others to experience*.

The same evil things that you have done to others will happen to you.

16 *My people in Jerusalem have been punished* because I was very angry with them. *It is as though* [MET] they drank *a cup of very bitter liquid* on Zion, my sacred hill.

But *I* will punish [MET] all the other nations even more severely, and cause them to disappear completely.

17 But some *people in Jerusalem will escape*, and Jerusalem will become a very holy/sacred place.

Then the descendants of Jacob will *conquer and* possess again the land that truly belongs to them.

18 The descendants [MTY] of Jacob and his son Joseph will be like [MET] a fire, and the people [MTY] of Edom will be like [MET] stubble that will be completely burned in that fire. Not one person will remain alive.

*That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it.”*

19 The Israeli people *who live* in the southern desert are the ones who will capture Edom.

And those *who live in* the western foothills will capture the Phoenicia *region* and the areas of Ephraim and Samaria.

And people of the tribe of Benjamin will conquer the Gilead *region*.

<sup>20</sup> Those who were ◀exiled in/forced to go to▶ *Babylon will return to their land* and capture the Phoenicia *region* as far north as Zarephath *on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea*.

People of Jerusalem who were captured and taken to Sardis, *the capital city of the Lydia region*, will capture the towns in the southern desert.

<sup>21</sup> The army of Jerusalem will attack Edom and conquer it, and Yahweh will be their king.

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Language: English

Dialect: American

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2024-02-21

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PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 22 Feb 2024 from source files dated 21 Feb 2024

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