

**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*.

20 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.

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

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