

C. Esau/Edom will be pillaged by its deceitful ex-allies (5-9)

D. Edom will be ashamed and devastated because of its evil done to its 'brother' nation Judah (10)

III. Review of what Edom did (11-14)

A. Edom was not compassionate, but stood aloof (11)

B. Edom was prideful (12)

C. Edom ransacked Judah in its most vulnerable moment (12-14)

IV. The Day of the LORD on Edom and Judah (15-18)

A. Edom will be destroyed (15-16, 18)

B. Judah will be restored and will conquer Edom (17-18)

V. Judah will possess the land, to the glory of the LORD (19-21)

A. As far South as Edom (19)

B. As far North as Zarephath (20)

C. The nation will be fully restored (21)

Themes:

1. The LORD will preserve a Remnant

- Even though Judah lies in waste, the LORD provides hope that they would once again enjoy great national success and even possess Edom's land (17-21).

2. Brother vs. Brother

- A nation full of Esau's descendants ransacks a nation full of Jacob's descendants.

3. The Day of the LORD

- Positive for Judah, but horrible for Edom!

- The LORD brings destruction on the oppressors, then blessing on His people.

4. A Proper Response...

- A proper response to another's calamity is compassion, not a desire to take advantage of his weakness (10-14).

- Pride goes before a fall (Thematic)!

Theological Observations:

1 – The LORD is Sovereign.

3-4 – The LORD loves humility and despises pride (cf. James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:6, and in Jesus' example of humility, Philippians 2, Hebrews 1-2).

4 – The LORD is bigger than geographic shelter.

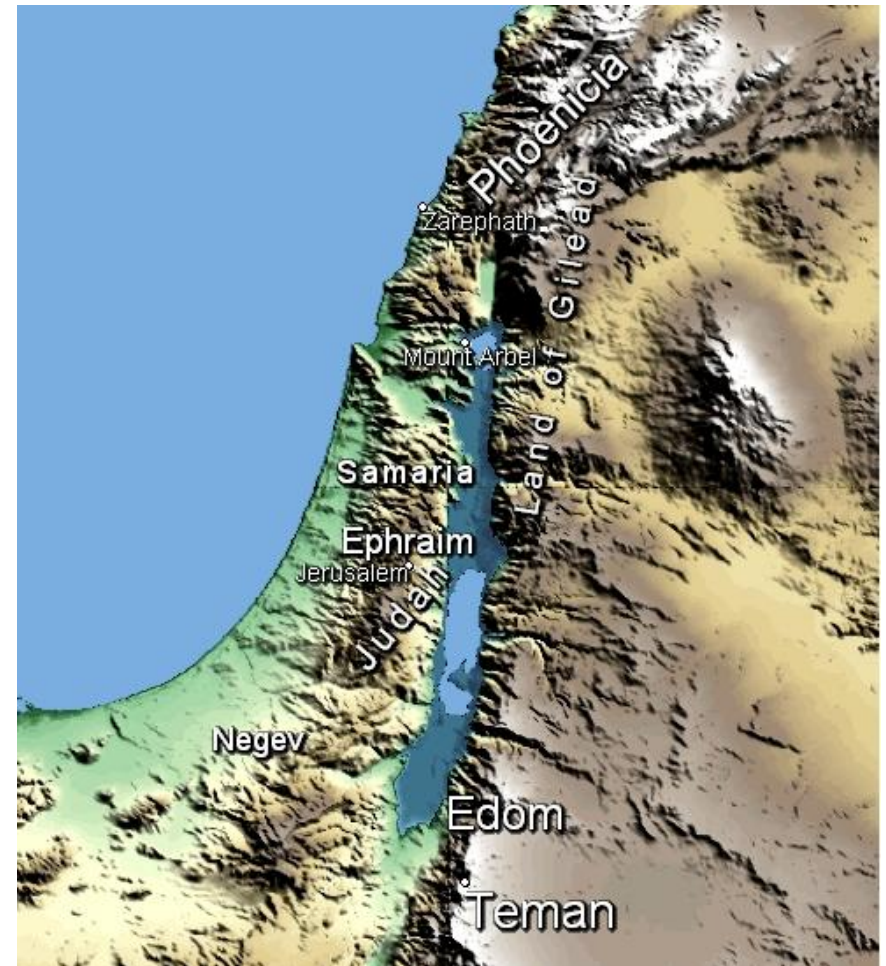
10-14 – The LORD desires a compassionate response.

15 – The LORD is Just and will execute proper judgment.

17 – The LORD always preserves a remnant of the faithful.

17-21 – The LORD has a plan to deliver and to bless His people.

Obadiah



Obadiah was a prophet who proclaimed judgment against the nation of Edom, who had ransacked Judah in a time of vulnerability, as Judah was being attacked and devastated by other nations. Obadiah had a very similar vision to that of the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 49, so it is quite likely that they were contemporaries and that Obadiah was a prophet during the exile of Judah and beyond. Though Judah was ransacked and ruined, the LORD promised that the nation of Judah would be back, and that Judah would not only hold land in the South, but that they would also possess Edom's land as well as the land in the North as far as Zarephath. Though Obadiah is only a page or two long in our Bibles, there is much to take from this prophetic vision from the LORD.

Time of Writing: Two views, of which I find the second to be much more likely:

(1) Mid-800s BC: If Obadiah the prophet was the same as the God-fearing Obadiah during the reign of King Ahab. This Obadiah hid away the prophets during Jezebel's persecution of the LORD's prophets:

1 Kings 18:3-4

³ And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly, ⁴ and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.)

(2) Around 586 BC (just after the exile of Judah): If the Obadiah of this prophetic vision were different from the Obadiah during King Ahab's name. Obadiah is a very general name meaning, "Servant of the LORD." This would be backed by the fact that Obadiah had much of the same vision as Jeremiah, and Jeremiah's ministry took place from around 626 BC until just after the exile of Judah. Compare Obadiah with Jeremiah 49:

Obadiah	Jeremiah 49
^{1b} We have heard a report from the LORD, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!"	¹⁴ I have heard a message from the LORD, and an envoy has been sent among the nations: "Gather yourselves together and come against her, and rise up for battle!"
² Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.	¹⁵ For behold, I will make you small among the nations, despised among mankind.
³ The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me down to the ground?" ⁴ Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I	¹⁶ The horror you inspire has deceived you, and the pride of your heart, you who live in the clefts of the rock, who hold the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as the eagle's, I will bring you down from there, declares the LORD

will bring you down, declares the LORD.	
⁵ If thieves came to you, if plunderers came by night-how you have been destroyed!- would they not steal only enough for themselves? If grape gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings?	⁹ If grape-gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings? If thieves came by night, would they not destroy only enough for themselves?

Given the similarity of oracle, we can take a few things from the relationship between Obadiah and Jeremiah:

(1) Jeremiah's oracle possibly came slightly after Obadiah's since Jeremiah's seems to focus more on what the LORD *has done* than Obadiah's, though both have a focus on what the LORD has done and will do.

(2) The unity of the LORD's message. The LORD does not have disunity within His Word. He knows what He is doing, and this oracle/vision in particular shows that He is just and will preserve His people in the end.

(3) Jeremiah and Obadiah may have been contemporaries, but this is not fully certain. It is interesting how Jeremiah says, "I have heard a message" and Obadiah says, "We have heard a report." This would entail that both heard the message from the LORD, and perhaps Obadiah was bolstering his vision with the fact that Jeremiah also had heard the same message in confirmation.

(4) Given (1) and (3) together, there is strong evidence that these two prophets were around at nearly the exact same time to give the judgment proclamation on Edom.

Good reading: Jeremiah 49:7-22. This section covers what the LORD revealed to Jeremiah about Edom (also referred to as *Esau* in the text).

Obadiah: A Brief Outline

Oops, Edom!

- I. Introduction: A Vision of the LORD to Obadiah (1)
- II. Proclamation of the LORD's future judgment on Edom (1-10)
 - A. A messenger to the nations will incite battle (1)
 - B. The prideful heart of Edom will be brought low (2-4)