

Introduction

The prophecy of Obadiah is directed against Edom because of her shameful treatment of Israel. However, contained within the prophecy is a 'long-future' hope for Israel.

The power of the Lord is a main theme, and how his judgment and the imposition of His will comes to prevail in the end. Even while each nation must answer to the Lord for their sins, and as Israel is being punished for her sins, that punishment will extend to the surrounding nations as well.

It is the punishment of the nations which is at the forefront of Obadiah's statements about the "day of the Lord". Israel will find that she will have hope for the future and will occupy the land of her current oppressors.

Outline of Obadiah.

1-The prediction of disaster for Edom 1-2

[1] The instrument of this disaster is the Lord as He uses the nations to rouse them for battle against Edom.

2 – It is her pride that has caused this downfall 3-4

[1] The fact that Edom dwells in a fortress of rock cliffs has become an occasion for her pride. The Lord makes clear that He will bring her down from there.

3- The destruction will not be partial, but total 5-7

[1] This will not be a matter of people coming to steal just what they want to take and leaving the rest; nor is it a matter like grape-pickers moving through and yet leaving a few grapes behind them

[2] It will be a total destruction, Edom will be ransacked at the hands of her own allies and her friends. Edom will not see it coming.

4 – Wise men and warriors will be destroyed 8-9

[1] The capital of Teman will be subject to the defeat of her warriors within her; but the also the learned men among her will also perish. This is not just a military battle that will be lost by soldiers; it will take in the civilian heads as well.

5 – The reason for this destruction is Edom's shameful treatment of Judah 10-14

[1] The mention of Edom as the place where Esau, Jacob's brother from of old dwelt brings the connection between Jacob and Esau to the fore. So this treatment of Judah by Edom is a matter of a brother rising up against a brother.

[2] The occasion when this took place was at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon..

[3] Not only did Edom look down on her brother and despised them, they even rejoiced at their destruction. They went further, they marched into Jerusalem and seized booty at that time. They also cut down fugitives who were escaping from Nebuchadnezzar's troops.

6 – The Day of the Lord 15-21

[1] Returning to the mention of 'that day' in verse 8, we see that the destruction which is scheduled for Edom takes place on the "day of the Lord"; it is part of that 'long-future' perspective that we have seen so much of in the prophets.

[2] That day will be a day of returning upon the heads of the nations what they have done to Israel and Judah – so it will be done for them.

[3] By contrast, on Mt. Zion at that time, there will be deliverance for the house of Jacob and they will come into their long-promised inheritance on that day.

[4] Both Jacob and Joseph will be a consuming fire of Edom and there will be no survivors of the house of Esau.

[5] Edom's land will be taken over and occupied by the people of the

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Disaster for Edom

The reason for the disaster which is coming for Edom

The day of the Lord

Negev, in the same way as the people from the foothills will occupy the Philistine area, Ephraim and Samaraia as well.

[6] Benjamin will possess Gilead [in the Transjordan].

[7] The exiles who are in Canaan will possess the land as far as Zarephath, while the exiles from Jerusalem in Shephalah [the western foothills] will be in the towns of the Negev.

[8] Government of Esau will fall into the hands of those who delivered Jerusalem.

[9] The kingdom will be the Lord's at that time.