

OBADIAH

1. Background

A) Who is Obadiah?

B) When did he prophesy?

> After a major invasion of Jerusalem (Obadiah 11)

One possible date is around 850 B.C. when the Philistines and Arabians ransacked Jerusalem during the reign of Jehoram (2 Chronicles 21:8-10a, 16-17)

The other possible date is around 586 B.C. following the Babylonian invasion and destruction of Jerusalem.

C) Who was the recipient of Obadiah's prophecy?

> Edom – the descendents of Esau (Obadiah 1, 6)

The birth of this nation took place around 2,000 B.C. (Genesis 25:21-23)

The relationship between the two brothers was competitive and marked by treachery (Genesis 25:24-34)

The result of Jacob's deception was to steal Isaac's blessing (Genesis 27:27-30)

Isaac also blessed Esau (Genesis 27:38-40)

> Edom – the geography

The glory of Edom was the city of Petra (Obadiah 2-4)

2. Outline of the Book

A) God's Judgment against Edom (Obadiah 1-14)

> Edom's Pride leads to their demise (Obadiah 2-9)

> Edom's Sin that brought God's judgment (Obadiah 10-14)

B) God's Judgment against the Nations (Obadiah 15-16)

C) God's Promise to Deliver Jacob (Obadiah 17-21)

> Israel / Jacob will receive and dwell in the lands of Edom

> The Lord's kingdom will be established forever (Obadiah 21)

3. Significant Lessons from Obadiah

A) The wickedness of Edom's Pride (Obadiah 3)

- > No person or nation should believe that they are beyond the reach of God
- > No person or nation should believe that pride is a good thing
- > Pride is a sin that God hates (Proverbs 6:16-17; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6)

B) The fulfillment of God's Promise is Sure

- > God made a promise to Abraham

Those who bless my people I will bless and those who curse my people I will curse
(Genesis 12:1-3)

- > Jesus made a promise to His disciples

John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-19

How confident can we be that Jesus will fulfill His promise?

C) The sovereignty of God's Plan in Redemptive History

- > Obadiah's prophecies concerning these two nations

Edom / Esau will be cut off or destroyed forever (Obadiah 10, 18)

Israel / Jacob will be restored and blessed (Obadiah 17)

- > As you read through the stories of these two men and nations you cannot help but see God's sovereignty (Romans 9:6-16)

- > Consider the folly and finality of Esau's decisions (Hebrews 12:14-17)

Remember his words in Genesis 25:31-32 - But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"