

OBADIAH

Why Nations Fail and Fall...



Introduction...

- As we embark on the study of the Prophets, I would like to give you some key points to help you handle the language, spirit and essence within the small and large books.
- The character and nature of God is in full display within the pages of the Prophets. They impart to us two sides of a relationship coin that creates mature and balanced Believers:
 - A) – The LOVE of God
 - B) – The FEAR of God
- Both of these elements are contained within the revelation of God to Moses in Exodus 34:7
- *⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him, and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth (faithfulness);*
- *⁷ keeping mercy and lovingkindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin; but He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting (avenging) the iniquity (sin, guilt) of the fathers upon the children and the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations [that is, calling the children to account for the sins of their fathers].”*

Introduction...

- The prophets spoke into three time dimensions a lot:
 - 1. The past or present
 - 2. The immediate future
 - 3. The distant future
- Also the prophets spoke into three parallel dimensions
 - 1. The Domain of God
 - 2. The domain of Man
 - 3. The domain of spirit beings
- So the language can overlap and address different audiences at the same time.
- Very much like a modern speaker addressing those in the auditorium, those online and those who will listen to the recording after.



Introducing Obadiah...

- We start with the Book of Obadiah followed by Joel intentionally.
- We are going chronologically according to the timeline we believe the Prophets lived in.
- The dating of Obadiah is not certain and it could have been written later but we go in this direction also for the flow of one into the other along certain themes which we shall address shortly.
- Please read and meditate on these books prayerfully along with fasting if need be. They will change your heart and life irreversibly!!
- Let us begin...



Chapter 1...

- Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom (We have heard a report from the LORD, And a messenger has been sent among the nations, *saying*, “Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle”):
- The prophets have unique gifts that enables them to hear, see and perceive reality beyond our Earthly reality.
- Here the first word is that we have heard a report from the Lord. This is like saying the ‘News blast from God’s media channel’ went out today concerning Edom.
- Obadiah would not have been the only genuine prophet to have got this ‘report’ or revelation.
- In every Nation, God has His seers and prophets many of whom are not known but they receive emails from Heaven and share them as God gave them a platform to share.



Chapter 1...

- Messenger among the nations..
- This means that the prophetic word will be proclaimed or declared among the nations to whom it has been sent.
- Mankind generally throughout history have resisted God's True Word and rejected the truth.
- *³⁷ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Matthew 23:37"*



The Case of Edom...

- The first part of Obadiah (1-14) is about Edom whilst the second part (15-21) addresses the nations.
- The verses concerning Edom show us the principles behind the Rise or Fall of a Nation.
- Edom means red or red mountain. Edom are the descendants of Esau; Jacob's twin brother.
- "arise, let us rise up against her for battle" – it appears the Prophet overheard a conversation from the spiritual dimension concerning Edom.
- It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of God in judgement!
- *³⁰ For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," ³¹ says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:30-31*



Edom's Fall

- ² *“Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You shall be greatly despised.*
³ *The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high;*
- *You who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to the ground?’ ⁴ Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” says the LORD.*
- *There are 4 reasons why Edom falls and these can be applied to any nation, empire or people throughout history. This is not an exhaustive list but we glean four principles here.*



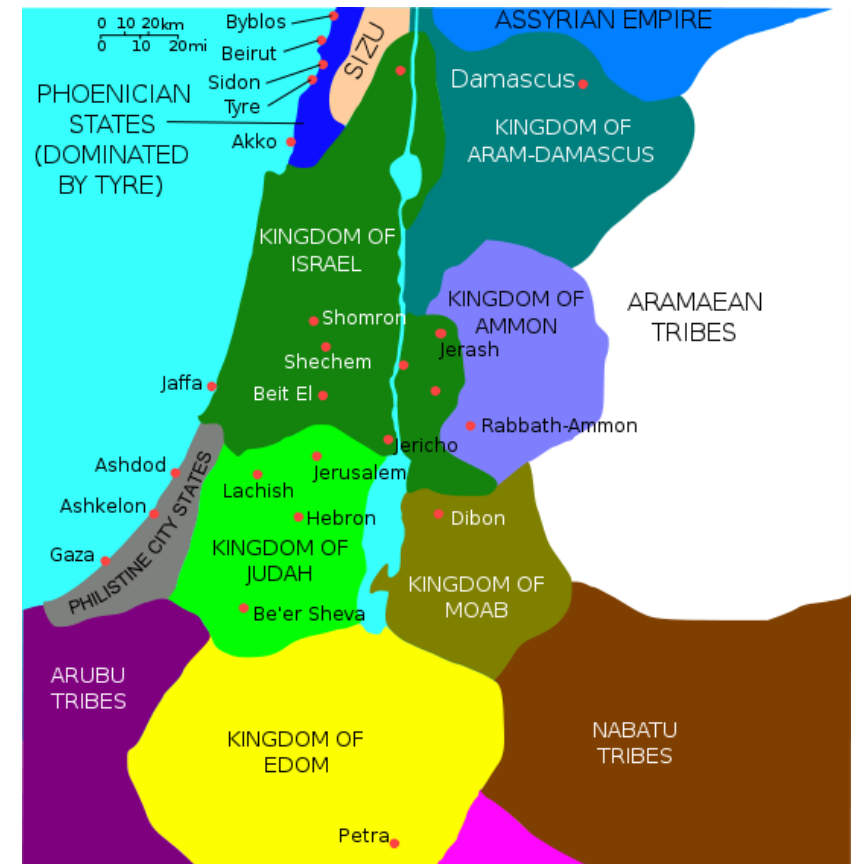
Edom's Fall...

- **1. Pride In Defence System**
- “who will bring us down...” The Edomites had a very strong natural barrier- the rocks and hills.
- It was called the land, or "the mountain of Seir," the rough hills on the east side of the Arabah. It extended from the head of the Gulf of Akabah, the Elanitic gulf, to the foot of the Dead Sea (1Ki 9:26),
- and contained, among other cities, the rock-hewn Sela (q.v.), generally known by the Greek name Petra (2Ki 14:7).
- It is a wild and rugged region, traversed by fruitful valleys. Its old capital was Bozrah (Isa 63:1). The early inhabitants of the land were Horites.
- They were destroyed by the Edomites (Deu 2:12), between whom and the kings of Israel and Judah there was frequent war (2Ki 8:20; 2Ch 28:17).



Edom's Fall

- **2. Trusted in Their Allies**
- *All the men in your confederacy
Shall force you to the border;
The men at peace with you
Shall deceive you and prevail against you.
Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you.
No one is aware of it.*
- When any nation becomes over dependent or trusting of another nation, they can become vulnerable or open to betrayal.



Edom's Fall...

- **3. Too Much Trust in Experts**
- *“Will I not in that day,” says the LORD, “Even destroy the wise men from Edom, And understanding from the mountains of Esau?
9 Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau May be cut off by slaughter*
- The Bible teaches that we should not put our trust in man and his ability. Many times the so called experts get things spiritually wrong even though they are pragmatically right.



Edom's Betrayal of Israel...

- 4 – Violence and Betrayal towards Israel
- “For violence against your brother Jacob,
Shame shall cover you,
And you shall be cut off forever.
¹¹ In the day that you stood on the other side—
In the day that strangers carried captive his forces,
When foreigners entered his gates
And cast lots for Jerusalem—
Even you *were* as one of them.
- A – violence against Israel
- B – Did not fight against the enemies of their brother
- C. – Gloated and rejoiced at Israel's downfall
- D. – Colluded with the enemy to attack Jerusalem
- E – Looted Jerusalem along with the invaders
- F- Attacked and stopped Israelite refugees fleeing from the war



Edom's Fall...

- There are many prophecies concerning Edom
- (Isa 34:5,6; Jer 49:7-18; Eze 25:13; 35:1-15; Joe 3:19; Amo 1:11; Obad.; Mal 1:3,4)
- which have been remarkably fulfilled. The present desolate condition of that land is a standing testimony to the inspiration of these prophecies.
- After an existence as a people for above seventeen hundred years, they have utterly disappeared, and their language even is forgotten for ever.
- In Petra, "where kings kept their court, and where nobles assembled, there no man dwells; it is given by lot to birds, and beasts, and reptiles."



THE DAY OF THE LORD...

- *“For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. Verse 15*
- This is the beginning of a phrase we will hear more of as we delve into the Books of the Prophets.
- This verse marks the beginning of the second part of Obadiah
- This is a phrase you need to understand to have a grasp of what the Prophets are saying.
- The focus shifts from (or through) Edom to The Nations (all).
- What is the Day of the LORD?



The DAY of the LORD...

- The Day of the Lord is a season when God comes into the dimension of man to execute His Will and Justice.
- The Day of the LORD can be described on 4 timelines:
 1. The past or immediate season in the lifetime of the Prophets when what they declare comes to pass as an act of Judgement – eg plagues in Egypt, The plague of Locusts etc
 2. Overlapping events that went beyond the immediate timeline of the Prophets eg The First Coming of Christ and the Church Age
 3. The Second Coming of Christ to rule and reign on the Earth
 4. The End of all things and the New Earth and New Heavens



There Shall Be Deliverance...

- “But on Mount Zion there shall be [li](#)deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.
¹⁸The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame;
Verse 17-18
- The Prophet is seeing beyond the captivity and exile unto when Israel returns and Salvation flows out.
- This could be the Age of Christ and the Church
- The return of the Jewish Nation in 1948 marked the beginning of the End of the End times.
- The remaining verses actually specify the Land areas Israel will occupy which are all in dispute as of today. Every one of these prophecies will be fulfilled.
- The Book ends with the important phrase – and the Kingdom shall be the LORD’s. This points to the End when the Kingdoms of this world shall all become the Kingdoms of the Lord and His Christ



In Summary

- Obadiah's prophecy focuses on the destructive power of pride. It reminds us of the consequences of living in a self-serving manner, of following through on our own feelings and desires without considering their impact on those around us.
- Do you struggle to set aside your own wants and desires for those of God and others? Though such pride has been part of the lives of fallen human beings since the tragedy of the fall in Eden,
- Obadiah offers us a stark reminder to place ourselves under God's authority, to subject our appetites to His purposes, and to find our hope in being His people when the restoration of all things comes. C. Swindoll

