

**Series "Fixed On 66"**  
**"Obadiah"**  
**Book 31**

**Key Passage: Obadiah 10, 21**

**Minor Prophets Hosea - Malachi**

**In each of these books, you will usually find a three-fold lesson:**

- (1) Historical** — Each of the prophets preached and wrote to meet an immediate need in the lives of the people.
- (2) Prophetic** — Each prophet illustrates or announces something about Israel's future, in judgment or in restoration.
- (3) Practical** — The sins of the nations in that day are with us today, and there are many practical lessons for us to learn from these books.

This obscure prophet addresses his message to the nation of Edom which bordered on the Southeast. Edom (Edomites) were the descendants of Esau.

There was a struggle that began in the womb between twins **Genesis 25:21-27**

**The Author: Obadiah** - His name means "*one who worships God, Servant of Yahweh.*" We know very little about the Prophet Obadiah except that he wrote the prophecy bearing his name (the shortest book in the Old Testament). He probably lived in the Southern kingdom.

**Obadiah 1 The vision of Obadiah.**

**When Written:** It is most likely that Obadiah predicted Edom's overthrow just after the Babylonian invasion of Judah in 586 B.C. **Malachi 1:3-5** This would make the prophet a contemporary of Elisha.

**Where it was Written:** Probably the Southern Kingdom.

**Purpose:** Obadiah is a prophecy of destruction, directed against Edom, a land across the Jordan River from Judah that was populated by descendants of Jacob's brother, Esau (**Genesis 25**). Obadiah said the Edomites collaborated with foreign invaders of Judah and mistreated Jerusalem's survivors.

**Psalm 137:7 Who said, "Raze it, raze it To its very foundation."**

**Theme: Obadiah** – "*Judgment on Edom*"

## Obadiah's Themes:

1. **The Evil Of Long-Standing Family Feuds.**
2. **The Certainty That People Eventually Suffer For The Way They Treat Others.**
3. **The Assurance That Israel's Enemies Will Be Defeated And The Kingdom Established In The Land.**

What is interesting is that there are no pleas to return or for mercy, no hope or consolation. **This is the strongest of the OT books.**

**Key Words – "People" 10 times, "Down" 8 times, "Lord" 7 times, "Against" 6 times, "Destroyed" 6 times.**

**Key Chapter: Obadiah (Only 1)**

**Key Passage: Obadiah 10, 21**

**Outline:**

1. **Obadiah 1 God's Message to Edom's Neighbors**
2. **Obadiah 2-16 God's Message to Edom**
3. **Obadiah 17-21 God's Message To The Jewish People**

### **1. Obadiah 1 God's Message to Edom's Neighbors**

**Obadiah 1 The vision of Obadiah.** Obadiah was not alone in how he received the message of God; like **Isaiah (1:1)**, **Micah (1:1)**, **Nahum (1:1)**, and **Habakkuk (1:1)**, the Prophet Obadiah received his message from the Lord by means of a vision.

**Amos 3:7** Obadiah wrote the vision so it could be shared with others and eventually become a part of the Holy Scriptures.

**Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom** – Descended from Esau the brother of Jacob. Of all human conflicts, the most painful and difficult to resolve are those between blood relatives.

**But if family feuds are tragic, national feuds are even worse.**

**James 4:1 (Fallen Human Nature)**

The Law of Moses commanded the Jews to treat the Edomites like brothers: **Deuteronomy 23:7** In spite of this, the Edomites "harbored an ancient hostility" against Israel and used every opportunity to display it. **Ezekiel 35:5**

**We have heard a report from the LORD,**

**The Lord enabled Obadiah to know what was going on among the nations that were allied with Edom against Judah.**

**And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, "Arise and let us go against her for battle"—** God told His servant that an ambassador from a nation allied with Edom was visiting the other nations to convince their leaders to join forces and attack Edom. **Obadiah 7 "All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border,**

## **2. Obadiah 2-16 God's Message to Edom**

**Obadiah 2-9** The prophet declared that God would judge Edom and take away everything the nation boasted about and depended on for security.

**Obadiah 10-16** Obadiah explained why God was judging Edom and named the ways in which the Edomites had sinned against the Jews and the Lord.

**Obadiah 2-4 Edom's Pride Brought Down: Obadiah 2-4 "**

**Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.**

**"I will bring you down."** Obadiah reminds all of us that **no one is ever beyond the reach of God. Every person is responsible for his actions, and every person is within reach of the disciplining hand of the Lord.**

***Pictures of Jordan, Petra, the "Rose Red City"***

**Obadiah 5-6 Edom's Wealth Plundered: Obadiah 5-6**

Located on several major trade routes, Edom could amass the riches of other nations, and out of their mountains, they could dig copper and other minerals. Because of their isolation, they didn't have to worry about making treaties with the larger nations or helping to finance expensive wars.

**Obadiah 7 Edom's Alliances Broken:**

**"All the men allied with you will send you forth to the border, -** Though protected by their lofty heights, the Edomites were smart enough to know that they needed friends to help them stand against the great empires that frequently threatened the smaller eastern nations. Edom would also want allies to assist them in their constant feud with Israel.

**Psalm 83:5-8**

About 300 B.C., the Nabataean Arabs drove out the Edomites and occupied their key city Petra, the "rose red city" carved out of solid rock.

The Romans took Petra in A.D. 105, but the decline in the caravan routes eventually led to the nation's demise.

### **Obadiah 8 Edom's Wisdom Destroyed:**

The people of the East were known for their wisdom (**1 Kings 4:30**), and this included the Edomites.

### **Obadiah 9 Edom's Army Defeated:**

Without wisdom, the military leaders wouldn't know how to command their troops, and their mighty men would be defeated. The Greeks and Romans called these Edomites "**Idumeans**" (**Mark 3:8**), and from them came Herod the Great.

### **Obadiah 10-16 Divine Judgment Defended:**

#### **4 Sins which led to God's Judgment:**

#### **Sin #1 Obadiah 10-11 The Sin of Violence Against the Jews:**

##### **Obadiah 10**

**Genesis 12:3** This was the Abrahamic Covenant that God set up regarding Israel. It was true and binding, those who would bless and those who would curse.

When their founder Esau discovered he was deprived of his father's blessing, he determined to kill his brother Jacob (**Genesis 27:41**), and this malicious attitude was passed along to his descendants.

**Obadiah 11 You too were as one of them.** Instead of assisting their brothers in their plight, the Edomites stood "on the other side" and watched the enemy soldiers cast lots for the spoils, including the captive Jews, who would become slaves.

A word from Solomon is appropriate here: **Proverbs 21:11-12**

Also, a word from the Prophet Amos: **Amos 1:11**

#### **Sin #2 Obadiah 12 The Sin of Rejoicing At Your Brothers' Plight:**

For the Jews, this was a day of destruction and distress; but for the Edomites, it was a day of delight and rejoicing. In their pride, Edom looked down on the Jews and gloated over their misfortune. Again, Solomon has counsel for us: **Proverbs 24:17-18**

#### **Sin #3 Obadiah 13-14 The Sin of Assisting The Enemy: Obadiah 13**

It was bad enough for people to do nothing to help their brothers and to stand and rejoice at their brothers' calamities, but when they gave aid to the enemy, that was carrying their ancient "family feud" too far.

**God takes the side of the oppressed.**

**Are you ever tempted to join the crowd that kicks one of life's underdogs? Remember Edom.**

**Obadiah 14 "And do not stand at the fork of the road to cut down their fugitives;**

The Edomites also stood at the forks in the roads, ready to capture the fugitives who were trying to escape, and they turned them over to the enemy to be imprisoned and slain.

What the Prophet Jehu asked King Jehoshaphat is applicable here: **2 Chronicles 19:2** As God's people, we must love our enemies and pray for them (**Matthew 5:44-48**)

### **Sin #4 Obadiah 15-16 The Sin of Ignoring God's Wrath: Obadiah 15**

**"For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations"** - and that included Edom, but Edom was proud and didn't care about what the Lord might do to them.

**"The Day of the Lord"** is a phrase that describes the time when God will pour His wrath out upon a wicked world, judge the nations, and then establish His kingdom, thus fulfilling the promises made to Israel.

**As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.** Or, as Paul expressed it, **Galatians 6:7**

**Obadiah 16** Edom had drunk in joyful celebration at Jerusalem's fall, but all the nations will one day drink of the cup of wrath that God will hand them—a cup they cannot refuse (**Isa. 51:17, 21-23; Jer. 25:15-33**).

### **3. Obadiah 17-21 God's Message To The Jewish People:**

Now that the prophecy about Edom has been delivered.

**Obadiah turns to His own people and announces 3 Divine Promises:**

**Promise #1 Obadiah 17-18 God Will Deliver Them:  
Obadiah 17**

God did deliver His people from Babylonian Captivity, and He will again deliver them in the last days and establish His kingdom. Mount Zion will be consecrated to the Lord, and all defilement removed.

**Obadiah 18** “**Jacob**” refers to the Southern Kingdom, and “**Joseph**” the Northern Kingdom. They will be united into one nation and enter the Messianic Kingdom together, possessing the inheritance promised to them. It appears from **Isaiah 11:10-16**, a parallel passage, that Moab and Edom will be restored as nations in the last days, but the Jews will burn them as stubble.

**Promise #2      Obadiah 19-20 God Will Defeat Their Enemies:  
Obadiah 19-20**

Israel will reclaim the land formerly inhabited by the Edomites (the Negev), the Philistines (the Shephelah), and the Samaritans (Ephraim).

**Promise #3      Obadiah 21 God Will Establish Their Kingdom:  
Obadiah 21**

The Lord will reign from Mount Zion, where His temple will stand, “and all the nations will stream to it” (**Isaiah 2:2**). All of God’s children look forward to the day **Revelation 11:15**

**Application:**

- 1.** Obadiah Reminds All Of Us That No One Is Ever Beyond The Reach Of God. Every Person Is Responsible For His Actions, And Every Person Is Within Reach Of The Disciplining Hand Of The Lord:
- 2.** If We’re Ever Tempted To Join The Crowd That Kicks One Of Life’s Underdogs, Remember Edom. A Victim May Seem Defenseless. But He Or She Has God On Their Side:
- 3.** No Matter How Discouraging The Day May Be For God’s People, There Is A Just God In Heaven Who Pays Sinners Back In Kind: What They Did To Others Is Ultimately Done To Them: