

OBADIAH

INTRODUCTION

1. AUTHOR – Obadiah whose name means "servant or worshiper of Yahweh." Nothing else is known about him.
2. DATE – It is difficult to be certain because of the shortness of the book and the fact that it contains so little historical information. Estimates range from 850-550 BC. Preference would be given to the range of 580-550 BC.
3. READERS – The book is written to the Edomites, descendants of Esau and cousins of the Israelites.
4. THEME – When Jerusalem was destroyed and Israel captured, the Edomites celebrated and helped Israel's enemies. God will punish them for this.
5. KEY VERSE – V15 "Your deeds will return upon your own head."

OUTLINE

1. God promised that Edom would be destroyed. V1-9
2. Edom will be destroyed for helping Israel's enemies. V10-14
3. The day of the Lord will be frightful for God's enemies. V15-21

IMPORTANCE OF OBADIAH

1. The main lesson is that God will judge those who oppose Him and His people. Even though Israel was being punished, the Edomites should have helped Israel, not her enemies.
2. The book is an Old Testament illustration of the truth from Matthew 25:31-46. God regards treatment of His people as treatment of Himself. We should be very careful how we treat other Christians at work or school even though we may not like the way they act or are.
3. No matter how highly a person may think of himself, God is ultimately the Sovereign. See V4 and relate it both to those you know and to Satan and his forces.
4. When the Day of the Lord comes, all kingdoms of the earth will belong to God. See V15, and 21. Though at the time, Israel was in captivity and Edom seemed on top of the world, things will be quite different in the Day of the Lord. So it will be for the nations of our world.

DEVOTIONAL NOTES

1 – This prophecy is spoken against the nation of Edom. The historical setting was that during one of the invasions against Judah, God's people, Edom not only did not mourn for what happened to her brother, but she actually rejoiced and assisted the invaders against God's people. Edom should realize that one day God will judge all the nations since he is the God over all the earth. V15 "For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head."

God does watch over his own people and even when he judges or punishes them, those who are around must be careful not to celebrate the downfall of God's people because one day God will judge them, not only for their own sins but also for the sin of being against the people of God. V13 "Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity." We need to continue to work at treating others the way we would want them to react when God deals with us.