

Main point:

God judged and restored the prideful Esau/Edom for his violence towards his twin brother Jacob/Israel, which led to a feud between their two families, which led to a war between their two nations.

Summary of the Book of Obadiah:

Our fourth minor prophet 'God-theater' presentation of 'Obadiah' is an warning from God against a foreign nation - full of the language of doom! Still, Obadiah's message fits our God-theater pattern of judgment unto restoration, because the doom for foreign nations is at the same time implicitly a message of hope for God's people. This oracle looks forward to a time when the predicted demise of Edom will open the way for the restored, purified Israel to blossom once again. Those who oppose the Lord in their pride, will meet their end, while the righteous - who have been oppressed - will be both preserved and exalted. In this case, the Edomites, who had seized lands of Judah in the wake of Babylon's attacks, are scolded and will die out, allowing the Israelites to re-possess the promised land under the Lord's blessing.

The man Obadiah:

- shortest minor prophet. Shortest book in the OT! Just as important as longest.
- the name Obadiah means Servant of The LORD.
- we have little info on the man. Probably wrote after first attack on Jerusalem, 586BC.
- Obadiah 1:1 "*The vision of Obadiah...*" conveys that he was called by God.

Pre-history of the book of Obadiah – a feud between twin brothers!

Abraham and Sarah

Isaac and Rebekah

Jacob and Esau (a tense relationship of twin brothers. Gen. 25-27)

(Israel) (Edom) (tensions continued into family/nation!)

Gen.32:28 Num. 20:14-20

Significance: the Edomites were related to Israelites, so should have helped them!

Outline of Obadiah:

v.1 God sent a messenger to all the nations.

v.2 - 9 God's warning to Edom: downfall due to the sin of pride.

Boast #1 my safety/strength in a 'fortress.'

Boast #2 my allies, my friends, my people.

Boast #3 my own wisdom, my own cleverness, my own ability.

v.10-14 Edom's pride led to cruel wrongdoings against God's people.

v.15-18 The Day of The LORD – upon all the nations.

a. Vengeance against all the nations and Edom (v.15-16)

b. Deliverance for Jerusalem (v.17-18)

v.19-21 The land to be re-gained by the LORD's people!