

# Short Books of the Bible

## Lesson Three | The Book of Obadiah

### Background

Obadiah, one of "The Twelve" (sometimes called "minor prophets" because of their short length) is the shortest Old Testament book. There are at least 12 Obadiah's in the Bible, but nothing of the prophet is known except what is in his book. His name means "worshiper of Yahweh." Although debated, the book was likely written in the reign of Jehoram (848-841 BC).

### Occasion

The Edomites are the lineage of Esau and their animosity with the Jews began with the struggle between Jacob and Esau in the womb of Rebekah (Gen. 25). Jehoram was a wicked king (2 Kings 8:16-22 and 2 Chron. 21) who killed the entire royal family to solidify his position as king. During his reign, the nation of Edom revolted and set up its own king. Then the Philistines and Arabs attacked and looted Jerusalem, which is the occasion for this book.

### Bible Study Tip

Context is critical. We must interpret in context *before* we apply it to our context.

### *God is Watching You*

A basic outline of the epistle is the following:

- I. Pronouncement of doom on Edom (1-9)
- II. The reason for Edom's doom (10-14)
- III. The coming Day of the Lord (15-21)

1. Obadiah received God's Word by a \_\_\_\_\_, which is common of the prophets. (Isaiah 1:1; Daniel 8:1; Habakkuk 2:2)
2. The Edomites lived in the mountainous regions of Seir south of the Dead Sea (modern Jordan), and they felt safe if not invincible in the high peaks of this area, including the site now known as Petra.
3. The Edomites were self-deceived with \_\_\_\_\_ and believed no one could defeat them. (v. 3)
4. God says He will defeat them. (v. 4)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Edom will be complete. (vv. 5-6)
6. Their allies and friends will turn on them. (v. 7) Notably the Nabataeans, originally nomadic merchants, broke their treaty with Edom and then dispossessed Edom of its home. The Nabataeans likely carved what we now see in the ruins of Petra.
7. Edom's wise leaders and military men would not be able to rescue the nation. (vv. 8-9)
8. The capitol city of Teman is representative of the nation, and the city's warriors will fear. (v. 9)
9. God will destroy Edom because of its long history of \_\_\_\_\_ toward its brother nation of Judah. (v. 10)
10. Edom did not help when Jerusalem was attacked (v. 11) but instead sought to profit from its destruction, rejoiced and mocked (v. 12), and even prevented Jews from escaping and turned them over to the attackers (v. 14).
11. Edom's root sin was pride (v. 3), and the nation ignored the reality that *God is watching what you do*.
12. Just as Judah had experienced a "day of the Lord" so shall all the nations. (v. 15) [see Genesis 12:3]
13. The future Day of the Lord will include judgment on the nations while Judah will be delivered and exalted. (vv. 16-21)
14. The new \_\_\_\_\_ will be the Lord's. (v. 21)