

## **1835 - Book of Obadiah - JUDGMENT & RESTORATION**

PRELIMS. The **shortest** book in OT - only 21 verses. As a child I always wanted to know ‘What was so important about such a little book that it warranted being in the Bible?’ So I searched! **Answer** is: *Thus says the Lord...* **Everything** in it, is from the Lord - and has some message/application for **today!** We do **not know** who **wrote** it! Apart from **an** Obadiah who was a **prophet**, not same as met Elijah!

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY (We need to know this)**

Many writers today are **freelance**, ie, not employed by a newspaper but just send in articles with **no** particular **agenda**. Freelance mean you are your own boss. **Not so** Obad! He **has** an agenda! As his name is, so he is: a ‘**servant** of God’! This book **is** a message **from God** through Obad! He is an instrument **commissioned** by God to deliver messages to the nation of **Edom**, and other **like-minded** nations! And also, at the same time with a message for God’s people **Judah!** The book has a message for **both** Edom and God’s covenant people. **Both** these messages are just a **fulfillment** of promises already made. **APP** God’s servants today, are equally commissioned with a message from God! It is **not** the messenger that is important, but the **message!**

*Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom* [1] Who is **Edom?** They are the **descendants** of **Esau** the twin-brother of Jacob! Even when they were in the **womb** we read *The children struggled together within her, and she said ‘...why is this happening to me?’*. So she went to inquire of the Lord... ‘**Two nations** are in your womb and **two peoples...the older shall serve the younger** [Gen 25:22] **Unorthodox** to say the least - but it was a prophecy - and God is never wrong!

Esau was brought up in the faith of Abraham and Isaac (the **true** faith of the true God) - but he **rejected** that faith! Esau had a **very, very, bad experience** in the family home! Esau’s mother ‘**coached**’ his twin brother Jacob, to **double-cross** Esau, to **rob him** of his **birthright** - a **big thing** in these days! Granted, his **own choice**, his own **lust** was in it, but he nevertheless was **double-crossed!** And Esau ultimately became **sexually immoral and unholy** [Heb 12:16]

Esau **never, ever forgot** this treachery, and harboured more and more **bitterness!** Most tragic of all - he saw to it, that it would become part of the **family identity** to **hate** Jacob and one day to get **their own back!** So the descendants of Esau (Edomites) **'carried on'** the **feud!** And that one day came, several times, and Edom got their own back! 400 or so years later when Israel (Jacob's family) travelled to Canaan to the land God had promised them, the king of Edom **refused** to allow them to take a short cut through his territory even although they would do good business in paying for supplies of water! In fact the king of Edom threatened to **kill** them if they set a foot in it, so he sent a **large army and with a strong force** [Num 20:14-21]

There was something else - Edom **grew very proud!** They settled on a high mount and lived securely with the **rocks** as a **fortress** thinking they were safe. \*So God says thru Obad *The **pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock in your lofty dwelling who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground? [3] Well, God will! Thus ...from there I will bring you down declares the Lord! [4] ...you shall be utterly despised [2]***

Edom had a **second** opportunity for revenge - which they took! It was when God sent the **Babylonians** to **punish** Israel - 800 years after Esau's double-crossing! Edom **joined-in** with the Babylonians to destroy Israel! So Obad has to say *Because of the **violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you...on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates... you were like one of them!![10,11] Also Do not gloat over the day of your brother on the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress...do not gloat over his disaster [12,13]*** But they did!

One other thing re Esau. He **did not repent!** *he found no place of repentance [Heb12:17AV]* ie, no **suitable** place/position/opportunity for **him** to repent! His pride would **not let him!** The Bible warns us *See to it...that no one is...like Esau who sold his birthright...when he desired to inherit the **blessing** (not the repentance) he was **rejected!!*** Edom also did **not repent!** Gareth Crossley: 'Edom was full of pride.'

Like their forefather Esau they had **no interest** in the **promises** and **purposes** of God. They were an independent people, arrogant, so independent that they thought they could do without God...For 1,300 years Edom has flaunted itself in God's face and time and again persecuted His chosen people...Now it was as if God said 'Enough is enough'. Edom had every opportunity to turn from its wickedness, throw in its lot with God's people...and share in the blessings of the faithful, but it **chose not to**.

**APP** Now here are **four huge lessons** for us. (1) The way we **live out** our faith **in the home** has a tremendous **impact** on those around us! the deceitfulness Esau experienced in the family home had an enormous influence in his life! Double standards in the home has been the reason many children of Christian parents abandon the faith!! People around you **do notice** our **inconsistencies** and our **hypocrisies!** Of course, there is **no perfection** in us, but.....!

(2) Are you **harbouring a great grudge** if long ago! Do you **pass on** the 'tales' of what happened to you? See where such telling landed Esau! See how **future generations** can be affected! Thus: Arabs/Israel; Irish conflicts; Rwanda's Tutsis/Hutus! Etc, etc! The **unbroken chain of hatred and getting even!**

(3) **Pride in self-security** will ultimately fail us. Our trust in human friends will let us down. Edom's **allies** formed a **buffer-zone** around them - and Edom put his **trust** in **them** - but *All your allies have driven you to your border, those at peace with you have deceived you, they have prevailed against you* [7] Thus: *...every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter* [9]

(4) God's **retributive justice corresponds exactly** to our misdeeds! Just as the Edomites punished their enemies, so God punished Edom! Jesus said: *The measure you use it will be measured to you* [Mat 7:2] So Obad: *As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head* [15]

## **OBADIAH'S OTHER MESSAGE**

We have looked at Obad's message to **Esau/Edom!** But he had

things to say to Judah also! **Lovely** things. *Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will **speak peace** to His people, to His **saints**; but let them not turn back to folly* [Psa 85:8] He told them **where** there was **safety** and **security** from God's coming judgment! *But **in Mount Zion** there shall be those who **escape** and it shall be **holy** and the house of Jacob shall **possess their possessions*** [17]!!

**In mount Zion!!! What's the significance?** Zion is the City of King David! *the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob* [Psa 87:2] Listen: *And the **ransomed** of the LORD shall **return** and **come to Zion** with **singing**; **everlasting joy** shall be upon their heads; they shall **obtain gladness** and **joy**, and **sorrow** and **sighing** shall **flee away*** [Isa 35:10]

The term '**in Zion**' is the OT equivalent of '**in Christ**'! **Get to Zion, get to Christ!** In Him there is **safety** and **security**! Zion is the **stronghold!** *The name of the LORD is a **strong tower**; the righteous man **runs** into it and is **sa fe*** Look: *thus says the Lord GOD, **Behold**, I am the One who has laid as a **foundation IN ZION**, a **stone**, a **tested stone**, a **precious** cornerstone, of a **sure foundation**: '**Whoever believes** will not be in haste'* [Isa 28:16] Paul tells us that *Christ Jesus himself being the **cornerstone*** [Eph 2:20]

Apostle **Peter**: *For it stands **in Scripture**: He **refers** us to the OT: '**Behold**, I am laying **in Zion** a **stone**, a **cornerstone** chosen and **precious**, and **whoever believes in Him** will not be put to **shame**'* [1Pet 2:6]. Peter also informs us about the Stone (Christ)! He **makes** you or **breaks** you! Some **stumble** because they **disobey the Word** [1Pet 2:8] Some believe - some disbelieve!

Obad = someone said the **first** and the **last** verses tell the story! *Thus says the Lord* [1], and *the Kingdom shall be the Lord's* [21] Israel will take **possession** of the land for the NT King David - the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. As we have it in the last book of Scripture *the kingdoms of the world **has become** the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ* [Rev 11:15] **\*\*The Day of the Lord** will reveal all![15] We all need to remember it will be a Day of Judgment for the wicked - but a Day of Blessing for the righteous!