

Introduction to Obadiah

Obadiah writes in the 6th Century BCE, during or shortly after Jerusalem's destruction by the Babylonians in 587 BCE.

The prophet denounces the Edomites, a nation living south and west of present-day Israel. The Edomites were descended from Esau, Jacob's brother, Isaac and Rebekah's oldest son. Their stories may be read in Genesis.

Despite this tie of kinship, the two nations had an often intense sibling rivalry. For long periods of time, Israel, then Judah, dominated Edom. During the era of high-stakes politics surrounding Nebuchadnezzar's conflict with Egypt, the Edomites sided against their Jewish siblings.

Through the prophet, the Lord warns Edom not to be too happy at Judah's downfall. What happened to Judah will happen to Edom, God tells them. Given the era's fatal

The Book of Obadiah

Translated from The Vulgate

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politics, such an outcome would not have been hard to anticipate.

The Book of Obadiah

Obadiah 1:1 *visio Abdiae
haec dicit Dominus Deus ad
Edom auditum audivimus a
Domino et legatum ad gentes
misit surgite et consurgamus
adversum eum in proelium*

Obadiah's vision.
The Lord God says this to
Edom: We have heard *a*
rumor from *the* Lord God,
and He has sent *a*
representative to nations, *who*
says, 'Rise and rise up
against him in battle!'

1:2 *ecce parvulum te dedi in
gentibus contemptibilis tu es
valde*

Look, I have made you small
among nations. You are very
contemptible.

1:3 *superbia cordis tui
extulit te habitantem in
scissuris petrae exaltantem
solium suum qui dicit in
corde suo quis detrahet me in
terram*

Your hearts' pride took you,

living in rock's fissures,
lifting up your throne – who
say, 'Who will drag me down
to the land?'

1:4 *si exaltatus fueris ut
aquila et si inter sidera
posueris nidum tuum inde
deraham te dicit Dominus*

If you were lifted up like an
eagle, and if you placed your
nest among stars, I will pull
you down from there, *the*
Lord says.

1:5 *si fures introissent ad te
si latrones per noctem
quomodo conticuisses nonne
furati essent sufficientia sibi
si vindemiares introissent
ad te numquid saltim
racemos reliquissent tibi*

If thieves had entered into
you, if robbers by night, how
would you have kept silent?
Wouldn't they have stolen
enough for them? If grape-
pickers had come to you,
wouldn't they at least have
left a cluster for you?

1:6 *quomodo scrutati sunt
Esau investigaverunt*

abscondita eius

How they have picked over
Esau! They have probed his
hidden *places*.

1:7 *usque ad terminum
emiserunt te omnes viri
foederis tui inluserunt tibi
invaluerunt adversum te viri
pacis tuae qui comedunt
tecum ponent insidias subter
te non est prudentia in eo*

They have forced you out,
even to *the* end. All your
pact's men have mocked you.
Your peace's men were
strengthened against you.
Those who eat with you,
place traps beneath you.
Prudence is not in him.

1:8 *numquid non in die illa
dicit Dominus perdam
sapientes de Idumea et
prudentiam de monte Esau*

Will I not in that day, *the*
Lord says, destroy wise men
from Edom, and prudence
from Esau's mountain?

1:9 *et timebunt fortes tui a
meridie ut intereat vir de*

monte Esau

And your mighty ones will
fear at midday, that man may
perish from Esau's mountain.

1:10 *propter interfectionem
et propter iniquitatem in
fratrem tuum Iacob operiet te
confusio et peribis in
aeternum*

Because of killing and
because of treachery against
your brother, Jacob,
confusion will cover you, and
you will perish in eternity.

1:11 *in die cum stares
adversus quando capiebant
alieni exercitum eius et
extranei ingrediebantur
portas eius et super
Hierusalem mittebant sortem
tu quoque eras quasi unus ex
eis*

In *the* day when you stood
opposed, when foreigners
captured its army, and
strangers went in its gates,
and they cast lots over
Jerusalem, you, likewise,
were like one of them.

1:12 *et non despicias in die
fratris tui in die
peregrinationis eius et non
laetaberis super filios Iuda in
die perditionis eorum et non
magnificabis os tuum in die
angustiae*

And you will not despise in
your brother's day, on his
exile's day – and you will
not be happy over Judah's
children, on their
destruction's day. And you
will not make your mouth
big, on anguish's day.

1:13 *neque ingredieris
portam populi mei in die
ruinae eorum neque
despicias et tu in malis eius
in die vastitatis illius et non
emitteris adversum exercitum
eius in die vastitatis illius*

Nor will you go through my
people's gates on their ruin's
day, nor despise his harm –
even you – on their
devastation's day. And you
will not be sent out against
his army on his devastation's
day.

1:14 *neque stabis in exitibus*

*ut interficias eos qui fugerint
et non concludes reliquos
eius in die tribulationis*

Nor will you stand in his exits, that you may kill those who are fleeing. And you will not imprison his survivors in tribulation's day.

1:15 *quoniam iuxta est dies
Domini super omnes gentes
sicut fecisti fiet tibi
retributionem tuam convertet
in caput tuum*

For *the* Lord's day is alongside, over all nations. As you have done, *it* will be done to you. Your retribution will turn back on your head.

1:16 *quomodo enim bibisti
super montem sanctum meum
bibent omnes gentes iugiter
et bibent et absorbent et
erunt quasi non sint*

For as you drank over My holy mountain, all nations will drink continually. And they will drink and swallow up, and *it* will be as if they never existed.

1:17 *et in monte Sion erit
salvatio et erit sanctus et
possidebit domus Iacob eos
qui se possederant*

Yet security will be on Mount Sion, and *it* will be holy. And Jacob's house will possess those who possessed him.

1:18 *et erit domus Iacob
ignis et domus Ioseph flamma
et domus Esau stipula et
succendentur in eis et
devorabunt eos et non erunt
reliquiae domus Esau quia
Dominus locutus est*

And Jacob's house will be fire, and Joseph's house flames, and Esau's house stubble. And they will burn among them and devour them. And no remnants of Esau's house will exist, because *the* Lord has spoken.

1:19 *et hereditabunt hii qui
ad austrum montem Esau et
qui in campestribus
Philisthim et possidebunt
regionem Ephraim et
regionem Samariae et
Beniamin possidebit Galaad*

will be *the* Lord's.

And those who are in *the* south will inherit Esau's mountain, and *those* who were in *the* plains, *the* Philistines. And they will possess Ephraim's land and Samaria's surroundings. And Benjamin will possess Gilead.

1:20 *et transmigratio exercitus huius filiorum Israhel omnia Chananeorum usque ad Sarapham et transmigratio Hierusalem quae in Bosforo est possidebit civitates austri*

And *the* captivity of Israel's children's army, of all Canaan even to Saraphem, and Jerusalem's captivity, which is in *the* Bosphorus, will possess *the* south's cities.

1:21 *et ascendent salvatores in montem Sion iudicare montem Esau et erit Domino regnum*

And saviors will rise up on Mount Sion to judge Esau's mountain, and *the* kingdom

