

INTRO REMARKS:

Obadiah

1. Who is Obadiah?

Obadiah means “servant of the Lord” in Hebrew

1 Kings 18:3-4 Ahab called Obadiah who *was* over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly; <sup>4</sup> for when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.)

2. When did Obadiah write?

3. The Rich History Behind Edom & Israel

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<sup>1</sup> Notes prepared with help of The Master’s Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord said.. "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup> And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup> And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Genesis 25:23 "Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger."

Genesis 25:29-34 "When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; <sup>30</sup> and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom. <sup>31</sup> But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." <sup>32</sup> Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright."

Numbers 20:14–21 From Kadesh Moses then sent messengers to the king of Edom: “Thus **your brother Israel** has said, ‘You know all the hardship that has befallen us; <sup>15</sup> that our fathers went down to Egypt, and we stayed in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our fathers badly. <sup>16</sup> ‘But when we cried out to the Lord, He heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out from Egypt; now behold, we are at Kadesh, a town **on the edge of your territory**. <sup>17</sup> ‘Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through field or through vineyard; we will not even drink water from a well. We will go along **the king’s highway**, not turning to the right or left, until we pass through your territory.’ ” <sup>18</sup> Edom, however, said to him, “You shall not pass through us, or I will come out with the sword against you.” <sup>19</sup> Again, the sons of Israel said to him, “We will go up by the highway, and if I and my livestock do drink any of your water, then I will pay its price. Let me only pass through on my feet, nothing else.” <sup>20</sup> But he said, “You shall not pass through.” And Edom came out against him with a heavy force and with a strong hand. <sup>21</sup> Thus Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; so Israel turned away from him.

4. Outline

1. God's Judgment on Edom (1-14)
2. God's Judgment on the Nations (15-16)
3. God's Restoration of Israel (17-21)

5. Major Themes

1) The Sin & Pride of Edom/Esau

1-4 The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom...<sup>2</sup>  
"Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised. <sup>3</sup>"The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?' <sup>4</sup>"Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

2) The Sovereignty of God

Genesis 25:23 – “the older will serve the younger.”

Romans 9:13 “Jacob I loved, Esau I hated.” (also in Malachi 1).

Romans 9:11 for though *the twins* (1) **were not yet born** and (2) **had not done anything good or bad**, so that (3) **God's purpose according to His choice would stand**, (4) **not because of works** but (5) **because of Him who calls**

3) God Will Ensure That All Wrongs Are Made Right

Obad. 1:10-16

4) The Future Kingdom (1:17-21)

1. God's people will be spared the future judgment (17)
2. God's people will be permanently lifted up (18)
3. God will fulfill all his promises to Israel (19-20)
4. Christ will return to establish his global theocratic kingdom (21)

5) Purpose: The judgment of Yahweh would fall upon Edom because of her lack of brotherly kindness, but Israel would be restored.

6) Bibliography

- 1) Busenitz, *Joel & Obadiah*.
- 2) Baker, Alexander & Walke, *Obadiah, Jonah, & Micah* (TOTC).