

Obadiah 1-14

Judgment Pronounced on Edom, The Ruin and Sack of Edom, Nations Destroy Edom, Destruction of Edom (v1-9)

v1 The Nations gather against Edom for Battle

¹ The vision of Obadiah.

Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom –

We have heard a report from the LORD,
And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying,
“Arise and let us go against her for battle” –

Nations Conspire Against Edom
Edom Greatly Despised by the Nations

v2-9 The Lord’s Decrees against Edom

² “Behold, I will make you small among the nations;

You are greatly despised.

³ The arrogance of your heart has deceived you,

You who live in the clefts of the rock,
In the loftiness of your dwelling place,

Edom’s
Dwelling Place

Who say in your heart,

“Who will bring me down to earth?”

The Sins of Edom
Arrogance, Pride in the Heart

⁴ 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.

⁵ “If thieves came to you,
If robbers by night –

Illustration #1

The Certainty of God’s Judgment

How you will be ruined! –

Would they not steal *only* until they had enough?

If grape gatherers came to you,

Would they not leave *some* gleanings?

O how Esau will be ransacked,

The Prophet’s Lament for Edom

Illustration #2

The Blindness of Edom
Deceived, Lacking Understanding

⁶ And his hidden treasures searched out!

⁷ All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border,
And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you.
They who eat your bread Will set an ambush for you.

(There is no understanding in him.)

⁸ Will I not on that day,” declares the LORD,

“Destroy wise men from Edom

And understanding from the mountain of Esau?

⁹ Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman,

In order that

everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

The Extent of God’s Judgment

Reasons for Judgment, Warnings for Edom, Edom Despises Israel, Destruction of Israel (10-14)

v10-11 Edom's Past Dealings with Israel

10 "Because of violence to your brother Jacob,
You will be covered *with* shame,
And you will be cut off forever. **The Lord's Recompense**

11 On the day that you stood aloof,
On the day that strangers carried off his wealth,
And foreigners entered his gate
And cast lots for Jerusalem –
You too were as one of them.

Incidents in the Day of the Lord for Israel

- violence done
- brothers stood aloof
- strangers carried off wealth
- foreigners entered gate
- foreigners cast lots for Jerusalem

v12-14 Edom's Future Dealings with Israel (Forewarned)

12 Do not gloat over your brother's day,
The day of his misfortune.
And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah
In the day of their destruction;
Yes, do not boast
In the day of *their* distress.

13 Do not enter the gate of My people
In the day of their disaster.

Yes, you,
do not gloat over their calamity
In the day of their disaster.

And do not loot their wealth
In the day of their disaster.

14 And do not stand at the fork of the road
To cut down their fugitives;
And do not imprison their survivors
In the day of their distress.

The Day of the Lord for Israel

- your brother's day
- the day of misfortune
- the day of destruction
- the day of distress (2x)
- the day of disaster (3x)

What Edom Will Do Despite Being Forewarned

- gloat over Jacob's day, his calamity (2x)
- rejoice over Judah's destruction
- boast in their distress
- enter Jerusalem
- loot their wealth
- stand at the fork of road to cut down fugitives
- imprison their survivors

v15-21 The Day of the Lord for The Nations, Edom Dispossessed by Israel, Dispossessions of Edom & the Nations, The Lord Punishes All the Nations

v15-16 The Fate of the Nations in the Day of the Lord

15 "For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations.

As you have done,
it will be done to you.
Your dealings will return on your own head.

The Principle of Retribution
in the Day of the Lord

The Day of the Lord for the Nations
• will become as if they never existed
• the Philistine plain will be dispossessed

16 Because
just as you drank on My holy mountain,
All the nations will drink continually.
They will drink and swallow,
And become as if they had never existed.

The Day of the Lord for Edom
• will become as if he never existed
• will be consumed
• no survivor left of the house of Esau
• dispossessed of the mountain of Esau
• judged on Mt Zion by deliverers

17 But on Mount Zion
there will be those who escape,
And it will be holy.

18 And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.
Then the house of Jacob will be a fire
And the house of Joseph a flame;
But the house of Esau will be as stubble.
And they will set them on fire and consume them,

Negev, pastoral land of sparse & scanty springs & small rainfall but with plentiful grazing for camels & goats; land of the nomad. Great routes pass along the coast to the West or up the Arabah to the East. It formed an additional secure barrier for Judah in the South

So that
there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,
For the LORD has spoken.

Sanaria, designation of Northern Israel under Jeroboam

19 The Negev will possess the mountain of Esau,

And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain;
Also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim
and the territory of Samaria,

Shephelah, foothills or lowlands between the sea & the highlands, district of rolling hills, very fruitful; crossed by 5 wide valleys furnishing easy access from the plain to Judah & Jerusalem. Point of contention between Israel & the Philistines

20 And Benjamin will possess Gilead.
And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel,
Who are among the Canaanites
as far as Zarephath,

Gilead, mountainous region East of Jordan

And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
Will possess the cities of the Negev.

Sepharad, either Spain or Media or Hesperides in Libya or Sardis in Asia Minor

21 The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion
To judge the mountain of Esau,
And the kingdom will be the LORD's.

The Future Day of the Lord for Israel
• those on Mt Zion will escape
• Mt Zion will be holy
• house of Jacob will possess their possessions
• house of Jacob & house of Joseph will consume the house of Esau
• the land of Israel will be repossessed by the exiles of the sons of Israel
• deliverers will ascent Mt Zion to judge Esau
• the Kingdom will be the Lord's

Edom's Future The Land of Edom

- streams turned to pitch & earth to brimstone, land become burning pitch – not quenched night or day, smoke go up forever (Isa 34:9-10)
- desolate from generation to generation (Isa 34:10,11; Jer 49:20) everlasting desolation, cities uninhabited (Ezek 35:9,13,14); desolate wilderness (Joel 3:19), mountains made desolate (Mal 1:3)
- none pass thro' forever; no nobles or princes, no inhabitants (Isa 34:10,12; Jer 49:18)
- only thorns, nettles & thistles in its fortified towers & cities (Isa 34:13)
- possessed by pelican, hedgehog, owl & raven, haunt of jackels & ostriches, desert creatures, wolves, hairy goat, night monster, tree snake, hawks (Isa 34:11,13-15; Mal 1:3)
- Bozrah/Edom will be an object of horror, a reproach, a ruin & a curse, & all its cities perpetual ruins (Jer 49:13,17), laid waste (Ezek 35:4,7)
- mountains, hills, valleys & ravines filled with the slain by the sword (Ezek 35:8)

The Edomites

- exalted themselves, conspired with her allies to wipe out Israel (Ps 83:2-8), to possess the pastures of God (Ps 83:12)
- incurred guilt by taking vengeance against Judah (Ezek 25:12)
- rejoiced at the destruction of Jerusalem (Ps 137:7)
- to be ashamed, dismayed forever, humiliated & perish (Ps 83:18)
- short-term deliverance from Assyria but followed quickly by Babylonian domination (Isa 21:11-12)
- the people devoted to destruction & slaughter (Isa 34:5-7); total destruction (Jer 49:9-13,17-18,20)
- man & beast cut off by sword (Ezek 25:13-14); loved bloodshed, therefore given over to bloodshed (Ezek 35:6); their lifeblood sprinkled on the Lord's garments, trodden down in His anger, made drunk in His wrath (Is 63:2-5; Lam 4:21)
- iniquity will be punished & sins exposed (Lam 4:22)
- consumed by fire (Am 1:12)

The Place of God in Their Midst

- God's enemies, hate God, against God (Ps 83:2,3,5)
- do not know God, but will know He is the Most High over all the earth in the day of their judgment (Ps 83:18; Ezek 35:4)
- to be judged by the Lord in anger & wrath (Isa 63:1-6)
- "hated" by God, i.e., not chosen for intimate fellowship with Him (Mal 1:3)
- called "the wicked territory, the people toward whom the Lord is indignant forever" (Mal 1:4)

Israel's Future The Land of Israel

- breaches walled up, ruins raised, rebuilt as of old (Am 9:11)
- mountains drip with sweet wine, hills flow with milk, & all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; & a spring will go out from the house of the Lord to water the valley of Shittim (Joel 3:18)

The Israelites

- A star/scepter shall rise from Jacob/Israel to crush Edom/Seir (Num 24:17-18)
- carried off to exile by Babylon & taunted (Ps 137:1-3)
- punished for their iniquity (Lam 4:22)
- One shall have dominion & destroy the remnant of Edom (Num 24:19)
- her dispersed recovered from all over the world (Isa 11:11-12)
- peace established between Ephraim & Judah (Isa 11:13) – no more jealousy or harrassment
- they will swoop down & possess Edom (Isa 11:14)
- fallen booth of David will be rebuilt & they will possess the remnant of Edom & all the nations (Am 9:11-12)

The Place of God in Their Midst

- dependent on God to vindicate them (Ps 83)
- God's people, His treasured ones (Ps 83:3)
- The Lord is their avenger (Isa 34:8; 63:4; Ezek 25:12,14)
- loved by God (Mal 1:2)