

Obadiah Study Questions

This page has suggested 5W/H Study questions for each verse to facilitate teaching or leading a class verse by verse through Obadiah.

Obadiah 1:1 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”—

HOW WOULD YOU CLASSIFY OBADIAH (TYPE OF LITERATURE)? Prophecy

HOW IS IT RECEIVED (OR GIVEN BY GOD)? Vision (What happens when there is no vision? see Pr 29:18)

WHO IS SPEAKING? Lord God (LORD)

HOW WAS THE MESSAGE CONVEYED? report, envy

WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE (THE COMMAND)? Arise and let us go up... (TO WHOM IS THE COMMAND? Who is "us"? preceding context = nations)

WHO IS "HER" IN CONTEXT? Edom

Obadiah 1:2 “Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised.

WHAT DOES BEHOLD CAUSE (or should cause) READER TO DO? pay close attention

WHO GOES AGAINST EDMOM? WHO IS "COMMANDER"? Yahweh

WHAT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR "NATIONS"? Gentiles (Hebrew "goyim")

Obadiah 1:3 “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’

Petra in Edom Lofty in the Cefts of the Rock

WHAT WAS EDMOM'S ROOT PROBLEM AND WHERE WAS IT CENTERED? arrogance, heart

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT ARROGANCE? - [zadon](#) = insolence, presumptuousness, pride, primarily used in contexts which describe people whose pride causes them to oppose God and exalt themselves. David's brother's accusation against David (1 Sa 17:28)

WHAT IS EMPHASIZED ABOUT EDMOM'S GEOGRAPHY? Clefts, loftiness

WHAT HAD EDMOM'S HEART DONE? deceived her to think she was invulnerable because of her high location

HOW DOES THE LORD RESPOND TO ARROGANCE? See following verses

Jeremiah 48:42 Isaiah 10:12 Jeremiah 50:29-32 Zephaniah 2:8-11

GOOD SUMMARY - Malachi 4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the LORD of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

Ro 1:28-32 And just as they **did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, **arrogant, boastful**, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving,

unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

2 Ti 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, **boastful, arrogant**, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Obadiah 1:4 “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.

WHAT ARE THE TWO FIGURES OF SPEECH TO DESCRIBE EDOM'S "LOFTY" POSITION? high like (simile) eagle, nest among the stars (metaphorical hyperbole)

DESPITE HER GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE, WHAT WILL BE HER REALITY? brought down (**BY WHOM?** Yahweh)

Obadiah 1:5 “If thieves came to you, If robbers by night– O 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?

WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE RHETORICAL QUESTION "WOULD THEY NOT LEAVE SOMETHING?"? yes

WHAT POINT DO THE TWO COMPARISONS MAKE (thieves/robbers and grape gatherers)? both leave something

WHAT IS THE IMPLIED POINT ABOUT GOD'S JUDGMENT ON EDOM? not partial but complete

Obadiah 1:6 “O how Esau will be ransacked, And his hidden treasures searched out!

WHO IS ESAU? Jacob's twin, used here as synonym for Edom

HOW DOES THIS VERSE AMPLIFY OR SUPPORT THE IMPLIED CONCLUSION WE MADE IN V5? they still had hidden treasures

Obadiah 1:7 “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.)

WHAT DOES V7 DESCRIBE AS HAPPENING TO EDOM? betrayed by allies and supposed friends (peaceful relations externally)

WHAT WILL THE BETRAYERS DO TO EDOM? deceive and overpower

WHAT DOES THE PICTURE OF "EAT YOUR BREAD" CONVEY IN CULTURE OF NEAR EAST? fellowship

WHAT WILL THOSE IN FALSE FELLOWSHIP DO TO EDOM? ambush

EXTRA - How is this similar to what happened to Jesus? read Ps 41:9 ~ Judas' betrayal

Principle - Deepest treachery comes not from obvious enemy but from one with whom you shared bread/fellowshipped

Obadiah 1:8 “Will I not on that day,” declares the LORD, “Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau?

WHO WILL DESTROY EDOM? Yahweh

WHAT DID YAHWEH PROPHECY IN V1 AND V4?

WHAT WAS THE REPUTATION OF EDOM (HOW CONTRADICTED IN V7)? wise men, understanding

Obadiah 1:9 "Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman, So that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

WHAT DOES "THEN" USUALLY SIGNIFY IN SCRIPTURE? progression in the narrative

WHO/WHAT IS TEMAN? WHO IS ESAU? stand for Edom

Teman, like Sela, was a prominent city of Edom. The name Teman is derived from the name of a grandson of Esau (cf. Gen 36:11). Here it is a [synecdoche](#) (a part of something stands for the whole) standing for all of Edom.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THIS DAY?

HOW COMPLETE WOULD BE THE DESTRUCTION? everyone cut off by slaughter

Obadiah 1:10 "Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever.

BECAUSE = TERM OF EXPLANATION - WHAT IS OBADIAH EXPLAINING? telling them why the preceding judgment would happen

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS JUDGMENT? violence to your brother Jacob (Violence is a strong word - NET renders it "you violently slaughtered your relatives.")

WHAT HAD GOD PROMISED ABRAM, JACOB'S ANCESTOR IN GENESIS 12?

Ge 12:2-3 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; 3 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."

WHAT ARE THE TWO PROPHECIES REGARDING EDOM? shame, cut off

WHAT IS THE IDEA OF CUT OFF? Edom would cease to exist

EXTRA CREDIT - WHERE DID THIS "VIOLENCE" (STRUGGLE) BEGIN? the womb!

Ge 25:22 But **the children struggled together within her**; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

Obadiah 1:11 "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.

WHAT/HOW IS EDOM'S "VIOLENCE" TO JACOB DESCRIBED? stood aloof -- were with the perpetrators = **You too were as one of them**.

WHAT 3 EVILS PERPETRATED AGAINST JERUSALEM?

Obadiah 1:12 "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.

WHAT WAS EDOM GUILT OF? gloat, rejoice, boast. The **NLT** helps see this (also the NET version)...

12 "You **should not have gloated** when they exiled your relatives to distant lands. You **should not have rejoiced** when the people of Judah suffered such misfortune. You should not have spoken arrogantly in that

terrible time of trouble.

HOW WAS EDMOM'S BROTHER'S DAY IDENTIFIED? misfortune, destruction, distress

Obadiah 1:13 “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.

13 You **should not have plundered** the land of Israel when they were suffering such calamity. You **should not have gloated** over their destruction when they were suffering such calamity. You **should not have seized** their wealth when they were suffering such calamity.

WHAT WAS EDMOM DOING? entering the gate, gloating, looting --

HOW DOES GLOATING CORRELATE WITH EDMOM'S BASIC HEART PROBLEM? **Gloating** = feel or display smug or malicious satisfaction. Commonly associated with feelings of pride, arrogance, or joy over a rival's failure

WHAT DOES THE PHRASE "MY PEOPLE" CONVEY? God's chosen people whom He loves - **"MY"** depicts ownership and relationship. The UPHOST is that Edom was not just dealing with Jacob, **but with Yahweh!** (already alluded to with Ge 12:3)

WHAT WOULD BE THE DAY OF THEIR DISASTER (IF WRITTEN IN 840 BC)? destruction of city of Jerusalem

Obadiah 1:14 “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.

14 You **should not have stood at the crossroads**, killing those who tried to escape. You **should not have captured** the survivors and handed them over in their terrible time of trouble. (NLT)

WHAT ARE THE PROHIBITIONS? WHAT WAS EDMOM DOING? the inhabitants of Edom would station themselves at strategic locations, whether at a breached wall, a mountain pass or a fork in the road, to cut down their fugitives

SUMMARY - Edom stood aloof, watching the enemy ravish the nation of Israel. She plundered the leftovers of the people after the invasion forces had departed. By guarding the escape routes, she betrayed, intercepted, and handed over to the enemy those who were fleeing the travesties of war.

Obadiah 1:15 “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.

WHAT IS THE INDICATION THAT THERE IS A MAJOR SHIFT IN OBADIAH'S EMPHASIS? (1) Day of the LORD on all the nations (worldwide, global)(not just Edom)

HOW IS THIS DAY DESCRIBED DIFFERENTLY COMPARED TO ALL OTHER "THE DAY'S"? This one is "of the LORD"

WHAT RESPONSE SHOULD THE PHRASE "DRAWS NEAR" ELICIT? be ready, be alert, be watching

WHAT PATTERN DO WE OFTEN SEE WITH DAY OF THE LORD? near and far fulfillment

WHERE HAVE WE JUST SEEN A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEAR FULFILLMENT ON EDMOM? Oba 1:2-9

WHERE DO YOU THINK THE FAR FULFILLMENT WILL BE (not from text but from Bible in general)? Revelation

WHO IS "YOU" IN THIS VERSE? WHAT IS PROMISED? WHAT PRINCIPLE DO YOU SEE? Edom, pay back - done to you, on your head, law of sowing/reaping

Obadiah 1:16 “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.

WHAT DOES THE PHRASE "JUST AS" INTRODUCE? introduces a comparison or analogy. It means “in the same way as” or “in the same manner as.”

WHAT IS THE PICTURE OF DRINKING THAT LEADS TO NON-EXISTENCE? cup of God's wrath

Obadiah 1:17 “But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.

WHAT IS THE CONTRAST INTRODUCED BY "BUT"? v16 not existed versus v17 escape

WHEN WILL THIS TAKE PLACE? in the Day of the LORD

WHAT IS MOUNT ZION? Jerusalem

WHAT WILL MOUNT ZION BE AT THIS TIME? holy, set apart

WHAT IS THE PROMISE TO JACOB? possess their possessions

Obadiah 1:18 “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, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,” For the LORD has spoken.

WHEN IS THEN IN CONTEXT? Day of the LORD

WHAT IS THE METAPHOR OF ISRAEL DESCRIBING? fire > destroys

WHAT IS THE SIMILE OF EDOM? stubble

WHAT'S THE RESULT OF THEIR INTERACTION? consumed, no survivor

HOW CAN WE BE SURE? LORD has spoken

Obadiah 1:19 Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain; Also, possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin will possess Gilead.

WHAT VERB IS REPEATED IN V17, 19, 20? possess

WHERE IS NEGEV? southern Israel

WHERE IS SHEPHELAH? west

WHERE IS EPHRAIM/SAMARIA? north

WHERE IS GILEAD? east

IN SUMMARY WHAT WILL SONS OF JACOB POSSESS? all the land of Israel

HOW DOES THIS FIT WITH GOD'S PROMISE IN Genesis 15:18? Israel finally possesses the full promised land

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land,
From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates

Obadiah 1:20 And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel, Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Will possess the cities of the Negev.

WHO POSSESSES THE NEGEV? the exiles of Israel (the saved Jewish remnant) who return to the land promised to their

forefathers

[Zarephath](#), located along the Phoenician coast between Tyre and Sidon, was a part of the original settlement plan under Joshua (Josh 19:28). The location of Sepharad is unknown.

Obadiah 1:21 The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD'S.

WHO WILL ASCEND AND JUDGE? deliverers

The Hebrew **deliverers** ([yasha'](#)) emphasizes what they do (they save) while the Greek LXX ([sozo](#) in perfect tense = enduring effect) emphasizes what they are (permanently saved ones). Both are true, and together they yield the whole that the saved become saviors. Deliverers who once needed delivering. The LORD will raise up **deliverers** who will **rule** and execute justice in the Millennial Kingdom, (SEE 1 Cor 6:2) exercising delegated authority under Messiah, King of kings.

NET Obadiah 1:21 Those who have been delivered will go up on Mount Zion in order to rule over Esau's mountain. Then the LORD will reign as King!

NLT Obadiah 1:21 Those who have been rescued will go up to Mount Zion in Jerusalem to rule over the mountains of Edom. And the LORD himself will be king!"

WHY MIGHT OBADIAH USE "MOUNTAIN OF ESAU" (4X TOTAL AND NO WHERE ELSE IN OT)? what might he be setting up as a contrast? Mountain of Esau vs Mt Zion

WHO ASCENDS TO MT ZION? better translation = NET = "Those who have been delivered (NLT = rescued)"

WHEN DOES THIS OCCUR? Day of the LORD - When gentile nation because as if they never existed

IS THERE YET A FUTURE JUDGMENT ON EDM? No!

SUMMARY OF DAY OF THE LORD FROM OBADIAH - Deliverance of Zion > Israel Restored > Israel Possesses Promised Land > Finally we have the answer to "Thy kingdom come" and the Kingdom will have a King, Messiah, King of kings.