



Book of Obadiah

Old Testament Workshop
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
March 22, 2020

Historical Context

Death of Nebuchadnezzar

Fall of Babylon

Death of Cyrus

562

539

530

W
O
R
L
D

Babylonian Empire

Persian Empire

Reign of Darius: 522-486

600

500

J
U
D
A
H

Daniel

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Obadiah

H
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i

Zechariah

587

Babylonian Exile

538

515

Fall of Jerusalem

Edict of Cyrus

Temple Rebuilt

Biographical Data

The Book of Obadiah is 21 verses, the shortest Old Testament book. It provides NO personal information about the prophet other than his name.

Obadiah means “Servant of the Lord.” The Old Testament mentions a dozen.

No Information Available

“Unlike other prophetic books, the title of Obadiah’s oracle contains no information about the time or place of its origin, nor does it include any autobiographical data about the prophet and author. Obadiah was probably a Judahite.”

Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*

Biographical Data

Speculations

① Ministry Location

reference to Judah (12, 20)

reference to Jerusalem (11)

Zion and holy mountain—names for Jerusalem (16-17, 21)

② Ministry Time Period

Historical Clues within the Book

a. Babylonian Conquest of Judah (10-14)

b. Exiles (20)

“exiles of this host of the sons of Israel”

(Fall of the Northern Kingdom: 721 BC)

“exiles of Jerusalem”

(Fall of the Southern Kingdom: 587 BC)



Fall of Jerusalem

Contents of the Book

Addressee: Edom

descendants of Esau (**Gen. 25:27-30; Ob. 6, 8-9, 18-19, 21**),
therefore, cousins of the Israelites
modern-day JORDAN

Jacob and Esau may have reconciled (**Gen. 33**),
but their descendants did not fare as well.

Short History: Israel and Edom

- Journey to the Promised Land (**Num. 20:14-21**)
*Edom threatened Israel, not allowing them
to pass through Edomite territory.*
- Reign of King Saul (**1 Sam. 14:47**)
Edom: Defeated



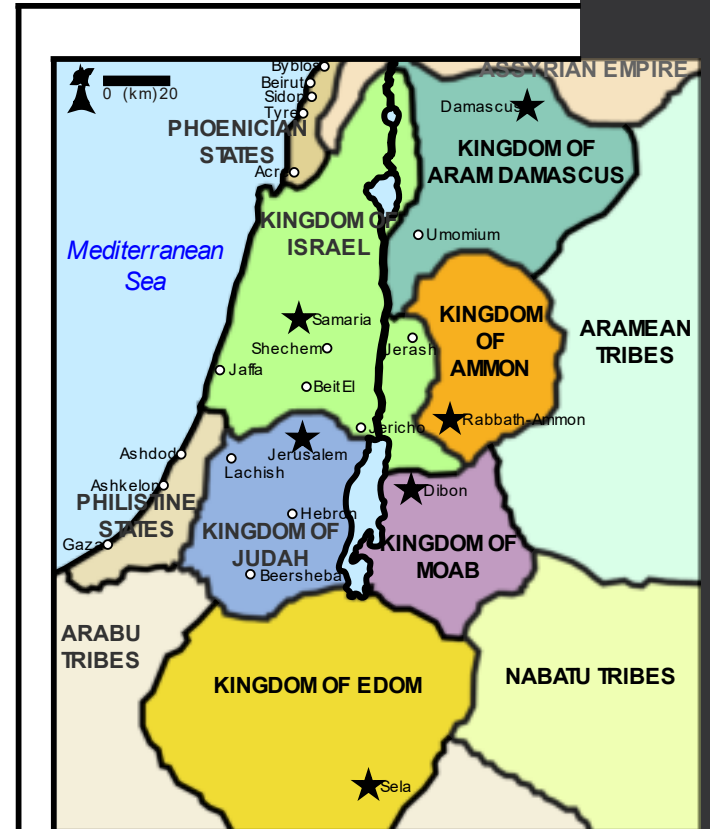
*“You who live in the clefts
of the rock, in the loftiness
of your dwelling place, who
say in your heart, ‘Who will
bring me down to earth?’”*

(3)

Contents of the Book

Short History: Israel and Edom

- Reign of King David (**2 Sam. 8:14; 1 Kg. 11:15-16**)
Edom: Defeated and Subjugated
- Reign of King Jehoram (**2 Kg. 8:20-22**)
Edom rebelled.
- Reign of King Jehoshaphat (**2 Chr. 20:1-29**)
Edom: Defeated
- Reign of King Amaziah (**2 Kg. 14:7-10; 2 Chr. 25:11-12**)
Edom: Defeated
- Reign of King Ahaz (**2 Chr. 28:16-17**)
Edom attacked.



Contents of the Book

Fall of Jerusalem

After Babylon defeated Judah, destroying Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple, Edom seized the opportunity to attack Judah's refugees, to plunder the vulnerable.



“Because of violence to your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame, and you will be cut off forever. 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.” (10-11)

SEE also Psalm 137:7; Lamentations 4:21-22; Ezekiel 25:12; 35:5-6, 10-15; Joel 3:19; and Amos 1:11.

Contents of the Book

Edomite Wisdom

“Will I not on that day,’ declares the Lord, ‘Destroy wise men from Edom and understanding from the mountain of Esau?’” (8)

Edom enjoyed a reputation as a scholarly place. Job and his friend Eliphaz were Edomites. SEE also 1 Kings 4:30 and Jeremiah 49:7.

Day of the Lord

Obadiah 15-21

Message of Hope

“On Mount Zion there will be those who escape, and it will be holy, and the house of Jacob will possess their possessions. The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the Lord’s.” (17, 21)