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Obadiah

Obadiah
New International Version
Obadiah's Vision
1 The vision of Obadiah.

This is what the Sovereign Lord says about Edom—

We have heard a message from the Lord:
An envoy was sent to the nations to say,
“Rise, let us go against her for battle”—

2 “See, I will make you small among the nations;
you will be utterly despised.

3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,
you who live in the clefts of the rocks[a]
and make your home on the heights,

you who say to yourself,
‘Who can bring me down to the ground?’

4 Though you soar like the eagle
and make your nest among the stars,
from there I will bring you down,”

declares the Lord.

5 “If thieves came to you,
if robbers in the night—

oh, what a disaster awaits you!—

would they not steal only as much as they wanted?

If grape pickers came to you,

would they not leave a few grapes?

6 But how Esau will be ransacked,
his hidden treasures pillaged!
7 All your allies will force you to the border;
your friends will deceive and overpower you;
those who eat your bread will set a trap for you,[b]
but you will not detect it.

8 “In that day,” declares the Lord,
“will I not destroy the wise men of Edom,
those of understanding in the mountains of Esau?”

9 Your warriors, Teman, will be terrified,
and everyone in Esau’s mountains
will be cut down in the slaughter.

10 Because of the violence against your brother Jacob,
you will be covered with shame;
you will be destroyed forever.

11 On the day you stood aloof
while strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.

12 You should not gloat over your brother
in the day of his misfortune,
nor rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their destruction,
nor boast so much
in the day of their trouble.

13 You should not march through the gates of my people
in the day of their disaster,
nor gloat over them in their calamity
in the day of their disaster,
nor seize their wealth
in the day of their disaster.

14 You should not wait at the crossroads
to cut down their fugitives,
nor hand over their survivors
in the day of their trouble.

15 “The day of the Lord is near
for all nations.

As you have done, it will be done to you;
your deeds will return upon your own head.

16 Just as you drank on my holy hill,
so all the nations will drink continually;
they will drink and drink
and be as if they had never been.

17 But on Mount Zion will be deliverance;
it will be holy,
and Jacob will possess his inheritance.
18 Jacob will be a fire
and Joseph a flame;
Esau will be stubble,
and they will set him on fire and destroy him.
There will be no survivors
from Esau.”
The Lord has spoken.

19 People from the Negev will occupy
the mountains of Esau,
and people from the foothills will possess
the land of the Philistines.
They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria,
and Benjamin will possess Gilead.
20 This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan
will possess the land as far as Zarephath;
the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
will possess the towns of the Negev.
21 Deliverers will go up on[c] Mount Zion
to govern the mountains of Esau.
And the kingdom will be the Lord’s.

Footnotes

Obadiah 1:3 Or of Sela

Obadiah 1:7 The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

Obadiah 1:21 Or from

The book of Obadiah is a short prophetic book in the Christian Old Testament. It contains only one chapter, consisting of 21 verses, and is the shortest book in the entire Bible. The book of Obadiah is attributed to a prophet by the same name, whose name means "servant of Yahweh".

The main focus of the book is on the nation of Edom, which was a neighboring nation to Israel. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob (who was renamed Israel). The book of Obadiah prophesies judgment against the nation of Edom for their pride, arrogance, and mistreatment of their Israelite brothers.

The book begins with a proclamation of God's judgment against Edom, which is described as being brought about by a coalition of nations. The prophet then goes on to list a number of sins committed by the Edomites, including their pride, violence, and lack of concern for their brother nation, Israel.

The central message of the book is that God will bring judgment upon those who mistreat His people, and that ultimately, His justice will prevail. The book concludes with a promise of restoration for the people of Israel and a prediction of the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom over all other kingdoms.

In summary, the book of Obadiah is a short prophetic book that focuses on God's judgment against the nation of Edom for their mistreatment of their Israelite brothers. The book emphasizes God's justice and His ultimate triumph over all other kingdoms.

A brief overview of the content of the book:

- Verses 1-9: The prophet Obadiah declares a message from God against the nation of Edom, which had become proud and arrogant towards their neighboring nation of Israel. The Edomites had also participated in the plundering of Jerusalem and mistreated the Israelites when they were in trouble.
- Verses 10-14: The prophet denounces the Edomites for their violence and lack of concern for their Israelite brothers. He predicts that they will be punished by the nations they had oppressed and that their pride and arrogance will lead to their downfall.
- Verses 15-16: The prophet declares that the day of the Lord is near, a time when all nations will be judged, and God's justice will be made known.
- Verses 17-21: The prophet ends the book with a message of hope for the Israelites, declaring that they will be victorious over their enemies and will possess the land promised to them by God. The kingdom will ultimately belong to God, and He will reign over all nations.

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The important verses in the book of Obadiah, along with brief explanations and their locations in the Bible:

1. Verse 3 - "The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'" (NIV)

This verse speaks to the pride and arrogance of the Edomites, who lived in a mountainous region and felt secure in their position. The prophet warns that their pride will ultimately lead to their downfall.

2. Verse 4 - "Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the Lord. (NIV)

This verse continues the theme of God's judgment against the Edomites. The prophet uses imagery to illustrate that no matter how high the Edomites feel they have climbed, God will bring them down.

3. Verse 10 - "Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever." (NIV)

This verse speaks to the mistreatment of the Israelites by the Edomites. The prophet declares that God will bring shame upon the Edomites and they will be destroyed forever because of their violence against their brother nation.

4. Verse 15 - "The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head." (NIV)

This verse speaks to the idea of the day of the Lord, which is a day of judgment when God's justice will be made known. The prophet declares that all nations will be judged, and their deeds will be returned upon them.

5. Verse 21 - "Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's." (NIV)

This verse speaks to the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom over all other kingdoms. The prophet declares that the kingdom will ultimately belong to the Lord, and deliverers will come to govern the mountains of Esau, signifying the restoration of Israel and the downfall of their enemies.

The Book of Obadiah is one of the shorter books in the Old Testament, consisting of only one chapter. It contains a prophecy attributed to the prophet Obadiah. While the book is relatively brief, it still offers some theological thoughts and influences.

Theological Thoughts in Obadiah:

Divine Justice: One of the primary theological themes in Obadiah is the concept of divine justice. The book begins with a message about Edom's impending judgment and destruction due to their pride and mistreatment of Israel. It underscores the idea that God is just and will hold nations accountable for their actions.

The Sovereignty of God: The book also emphasizes the sovereignty of God. It conveys the message that God is in control of the nations and their destinies. Even though Edom may have acted against Israel, God ultimately determines their fate.

The Importance of Humility: Obadiah criticizes Edom for its pride and arrogance. This highlights the importance of humility before God. The downfall of Edom serves as a warning against the dangers of pride and self-reliance.

Theological Influence:

The Book of Obadiah has had several theological influences throughout history:

Eschatological Interpretations: Some theologians and scholars have interpreted Obadiah eschatologically, seeing it as a prophecy that extends beyond the historical context. They connect it to end-times events and the final judgment, where the prideful and wicked will be judged by God.

Justice and Ethics: Obadiah's emphasis on divine justice and the consequences of mistreatment of others has influenced discussions on ethics and social justice within Christianity and other religious traditions. It highlights the importance of treating others with fairness and compassion.

Theology of the Nations: The book's portrayal of God's involvement in the destinies of nations has contributed to theological discussions about the role of nations in God's plan and the idea that God is not just the God of Israel but the God of all nations.

Humility and Pride: The critique of Edom's pride in Obadiah has been used in sermons and teachings to emphasize the value of humility and the dangers of arrogance in the Christian life.

It's important to note that the theological interpretations and influences of Obadiah can vary among different Christian denominations and theological traditions. Some may focus more on its historical context and message to Edom, while others may see it as having broader theological implications for today.

Notes:

In the Christian Bible, the book of Obadiah does not contain many difficult questions without answers. However, there are a few verses that may be difficult to interpret, leading to some debate among scholars. Some of these verses include:

1. The identity of Obadiah mentioned in verse 1 is not clear. Some scholars believe that he may have been a prophet, while others suggest that he could have been a scribe or an editor. However, his message to the nations of Edom and Israel is still valuable regardless of his identity.
2. Verses 10-14 contain some phrases and descriptions that may be difficult to understand. For example, "You stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth," "You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune," and "You should not march through the gates of my people." The background and meaning of these phrases and descriptions may require further explanation.
3. The meaning of the term "Day of the Lord" in verse 15 is somewhat ambiguous. This term appears in several other books of the Bible, and its meaning can vary depending on the context in which it is used. In Obadiah, the "Day of the Lord" may refer to a time of judgment and reckoning for the nations of Edom and Israel.

Overall, while there are some verses in Obadiah that may be difficult to interpret, there are no questions in the book that have no answer. Scholars continue to debate the meaning of certain phrases and descriptions, but the overall message of the book is clear: God will judge those who mistreat his people, and he will restore his people to their rightful place.