

"THE SHORTEST BOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT"
(OBADIAH)

There are some who seem to delight in seeing others suffer hardship and difficulties. Such was the country of Edom, as Jerusalem was being invaded and plundered.

I. THE BACKGROUND:

1. Edom's people were descendants of Esau, the twin brother of Jacob.
2. Edom was well defensible and thus made raids on neighboring countries often.
3. The city of Petra was carved out of solid pink stone and still stands today as one of the wonders of the world.
4. When the Israelites were on their way to the promised land, the Edomites refused to allow them to pass through their territory.
5. The Edomites and Israel had been on bad terms since Jacob tricked Esau out of his birthright.
6. No mention is made of the Edomites ever having any gods.

II. THE MAN:

1. Very little is known about Obadiah.
2. His name meant "worshiper of Yaweh".
3. He was a patriotic, pious, and sensitive Jew.
4. In hard terms and biting words, he denounced the Edomites who deserved all the punishment God could give them.
5. He was patient and was willing to wait for God to destroy their strongholds.
6. He had faith in God that He would cause right to win over wrong.

IV. THE BOOK: The theme is the utter destruction of Edom.

1. While Judah was being plundered and destroyed by other powers, Edom displayed an unhuman spirit toward their own kinsmen, the Judeans.
2. At least five attacks came upon Jerusalem: Egyptians, Philistines, Arabians, Israel, Babylonians, and Assyrians.
3. "Obadiah" was written while Jerusalem was being attacked by the Arabians and the Philistines around 848-844 B.C.
4. The Outline:
 - 1 - 9 : Edom must be destroyed.
 - 10 - 14 : Cruelty, treachery and unbrotherly conduct were the reasons Edom needed to be destroyed.
 - 15 - 21 : In God's hour of judgment, Edom will be ruined while Judah will be restored and blessed.

V. LESSONS OF VALUE:

1. Human defenses are utterly useless against the power of God.
2. Mockery and ridicule are always in bad taste, for it reveals a low human pride and a lack of brotherly love.
3. One can always depend upon God to reveal His purpose when He gets ready.
4. God's justice will prevail.
5. "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall."
6. The person who never loved God cannot expect to find favor at the hand of God when he stands before Him.
7. It is criminal for one to rejoice in the calamity of another and to gloat over his misfortunes.
8. Hate silences the voice of compassion, blinds the eyes of the soul, corrupts society, inflicts needless grief and dismay on the innocent.