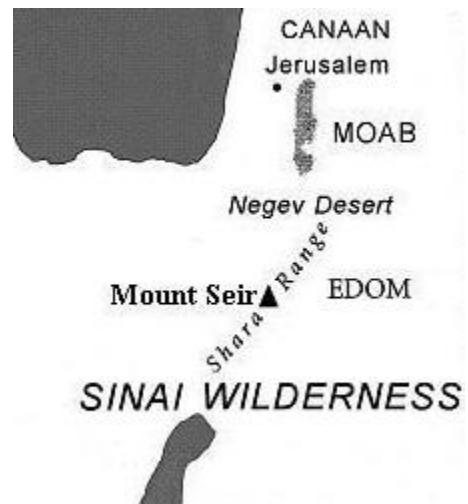


The Book of Obadiah

Introduction

- The shortest book in the Old Testament.
- Obadiah's name means "servant of the Lord".
- There are at least 10 different Obadiahs in the Bible, but it is most likely this Obadiah is not one of the others (such as the one that served Ahab in I Kings 18).
- Reese dates the writing to 585 B.C., contemporary to Ezekiel and Jeremiah.
- The theme of the book is "Judgment against Edom"
- Outline:
 - Destruction of Edom – vs. 1-14
 - Restoration of Israel – vs. 15-21



Edom

- The Edomites were descendants of Esau (Genesis 25:30, 32:3)
- Sometimes referred to as Idumea or by the landmark of Mt. Seir.
- Bozrah and Petra were sites of major cities for the Edomites.
- The enmity between Esau and Jacob continued through their descendants.
 - They opposed Israel during the Exodus – Numbers 20:14-21
 - See Deuteronomy 23:7 to see God's feelings towards them.
 - They were defeated by Saul (I Samuel 14:47) and David (II Samuel 8:13-14)
 - They were enemies of Solomon – I Kings 11:14
 - Under Jehoshaphat they attempted to invade Israel – II Chronicles 20:22
 - They revolted against Judah – II Chronicles 21:8

Chapter 1 – the only chapter!

- vs. 1 – Other people are beginning to see an opportunity to attack and take Edom's territory and riches.
- vs. 2 – this statement is in anticipation of the coming judgment.
- vs. 3-4 – The sin of Edom was that of pride. They felt invincible in their fortified positions in the mountains.
- vs. 5-6 – pictures the completeness of their destruction – nothing left behind.
- vs. 7 – Allies will fail them!
- vs. 8 – Wisdom will fail them!
- vs. 9 – Strength will fail them!

- *Teman* = named for a grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:11), this clan of Edom was known for bravery and courage and lived in the southern part of their territory.
- vs. 10-14 – The final straw for Edom is that they did not aid Judah when it fell to the Babylonians. Rather, they stood by watching and cheering. Afterward they stole any remaining goods from the ruins and hunted down survivors.
- vs. 15 – “the day of the Lord” – this phrase denotes the End Times, specifically the events leading toward Armageddon. See Zechariah 14:1-2.
- vs. 16 – Just as Edom drank the cup of the Lord’s wrath after crimes against Jerusalem and the Jews, so shall all the heathen in due time. See Jeremiah 25:15-38
- vs. 17 – Note the change in tone. As Edom and all enemies of God’s people shall fall, so shall His people be blessed.
- vs. 19-20 – the enlarged borders of restored Israel in the Millennial Kingdom, encompassing the lands of Judah, Israel, Gilead, Philistia, Edom, Sinai, and Syria.
- vs. 21 – A.C. Gaebelien – “The saviours mentioned in the last verse of this prophecy (or deliverers) must mean the chosen instruments which go forth and teach all nations and make known the glory of the King in their midst.”

The Rest of the Story

- From JewishEncyclopa.com: “After the conquest of Judah by the Babylonians, the Edomites were allowed to settle in southern Palestine. At the same time they were driven by the Nabatæans from Idumea. In southern Palestine they prospered for more than four centuries. Judas Maccabeus conquered their territory for a time (B.C. 163). They were again subdued by John Hyrcanus (c. 125 B.C.), by whom they were forced to observe Jewish rites and laws. They were then incorporated with the Jewish nation, and their country was called by the Greeks and Romans ‘Idumea’. With Antipater [father of Herod] began the Idumean dynasty that ruled over Judea till its conquest by the Romans. Immediately before the siege of Jerusalem 20,000 Idumeans, under the leadership of John, Simeon, Phinehas, and Jacob, appeared before Jerusalem to fight in behalf of the Zealots who were besieged in the Temple. From this time the Idumeans ceased to be a separate people, though the name ‘Idumea’ still existed the time of Jerome.”

