

Obadiah

LESSON TWO

850-840 B.C

Introduction-Ryrie

- 12 men listed in the Old Testament have the name “Obadiah.”
- Historically, we know very little about Obadiah except his name means “servant of the Lord.”
- Two probable time periods characterize Obadiah’s ministry:
 - 848 B.C. before Israel’s captivity in 722 B.C.
 - Or sometime after Judah’s captivity in 586 B.C.
- God judged the Edomites for their participation against Israel (1:11-14).



Edom

- The confusion about Obadiah's ministry comes from which battle vs. 11-14 references.
- The Edomites assisted the Philistines and the Arabians against Israel during the reign of Jehoram, from 848-841 (2 Chronicles 21:16-17).
- The Edomites also assisted Babylon during the three Babylonian invasions of Judah in 605 B.C.; 597 B.C.; and 586 B.C. (Jeremiah 49:7-22).



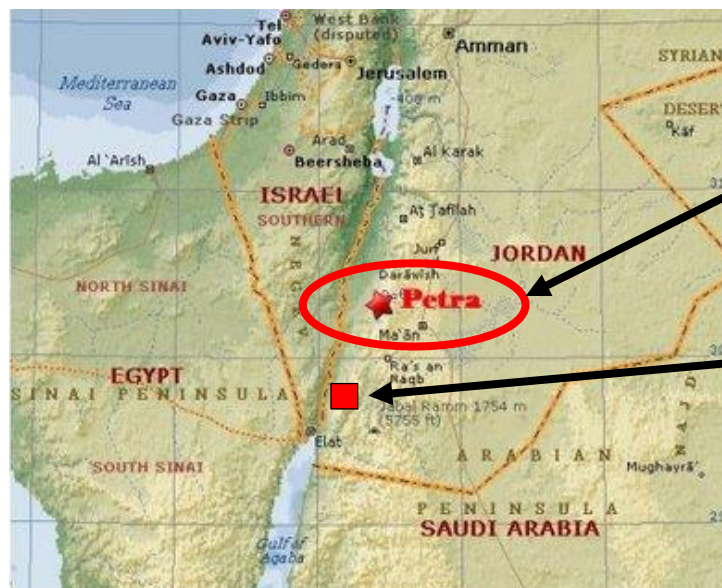
<http://rectorscorner.blogspot.com/2010/04/babylonian-exile.html>

- In either case, God judged Edom and destroyed it.
- The Edomites descended from Esau, Jacob's twin.
- The Edomites lived South and East of the Dead Sea below the land of Moab.
- The Edomites battled Israel, the who descendants of Jacob.
- The following verses reference Edom's opposition toward Israel:
 - They rejected Moses' request to pass through their land (Numbers 20:14-20).
 - They opposed King Saul (1 Kings 11:14-17).

- The Edomites opposed King Solomon (1 Kings 11:14-25) and Jehoram (2 Chronicles 21:8).
- From the 13th to the 6th centuries B.C., the Edomites settled in Mount Seir. Mount Seir contained rugged mountains south of the dead Sea. Sela (Petra) was the capital. An army could only reach this rugged area through a narrow canyon with mountain walls 200-250 feet high (Obadiah 1:3-4)
- During the fifth century B.C., the Nabataeans dislodged the Edomites from their territory, causing them to withdraw to Southern Palestine.
- Herod the Great was an Edomite.



<https://www.insidehook.com/article/tech/massive-structure-found-hiding-in-plain-sight-at-petra-ruins>



Petra

Teman

<https://middlegroundtopfive.weebly.com/five-cool-ancient-places.html>

The Doom of Edom-Chapter 1

Verses 1-4-The Certainty of Destruction

- Obadiah has only one chapter.
- Even though Edom's capital was in the natural fortress of Petra, God promised to destroy it.



<https://chongsoonkim.blogspot.com/2014/06/edom-is-doomed-for-destruction.html?sref=pi>

Verses 5-9-The Completeness of Destruction

- God referenced Edom's complete destruction in verses 5-6.
- As opposed to a robber taking only items of value and a grape gatherer harvesting only good grapes, God totally destroyed Edom.
- Even Edom's allies turned against it (vs. 7).
- **Teman** (see map above) was known for its wise men (vs. 9; Job 2:11; and Jeremiah 49:7).
- God completely destroyed Teman.

The Denunciation of Edom for:

(vs. 10)-Unbrotherliness

- Edom had a history of violence toward Israel (Genesis 25:33; 27:36; 33:4; Deuteronomy 2:4-5; 23:7).

(vs. 11-12)-Aloofness

- Edom stood by and watched during Jerusalem's invasion.
- Edom rejoiced over the captivity of Judah

(vs. 13-14)-Aggressiveness

- Edom actively participated in attacking Jerusalem.
- Edom helped set up roadblocks to prevent the escape of the Jewish people.

The Destruction of Edom

(vs. 15)-The Time of the Destruction

- The Day of the Lord has three aspects:
 - A reference to a specific current historical event
 - A future event that represents a partial fulfillment of the eschatological (end times) Day of the Lord
 - A purely eschatological event characterizing the time of the Great Tribulation, the Second Coming of Christ, and the Millennial Period.

Day of The Lord (Skipping Stone Theory-Mervinism)

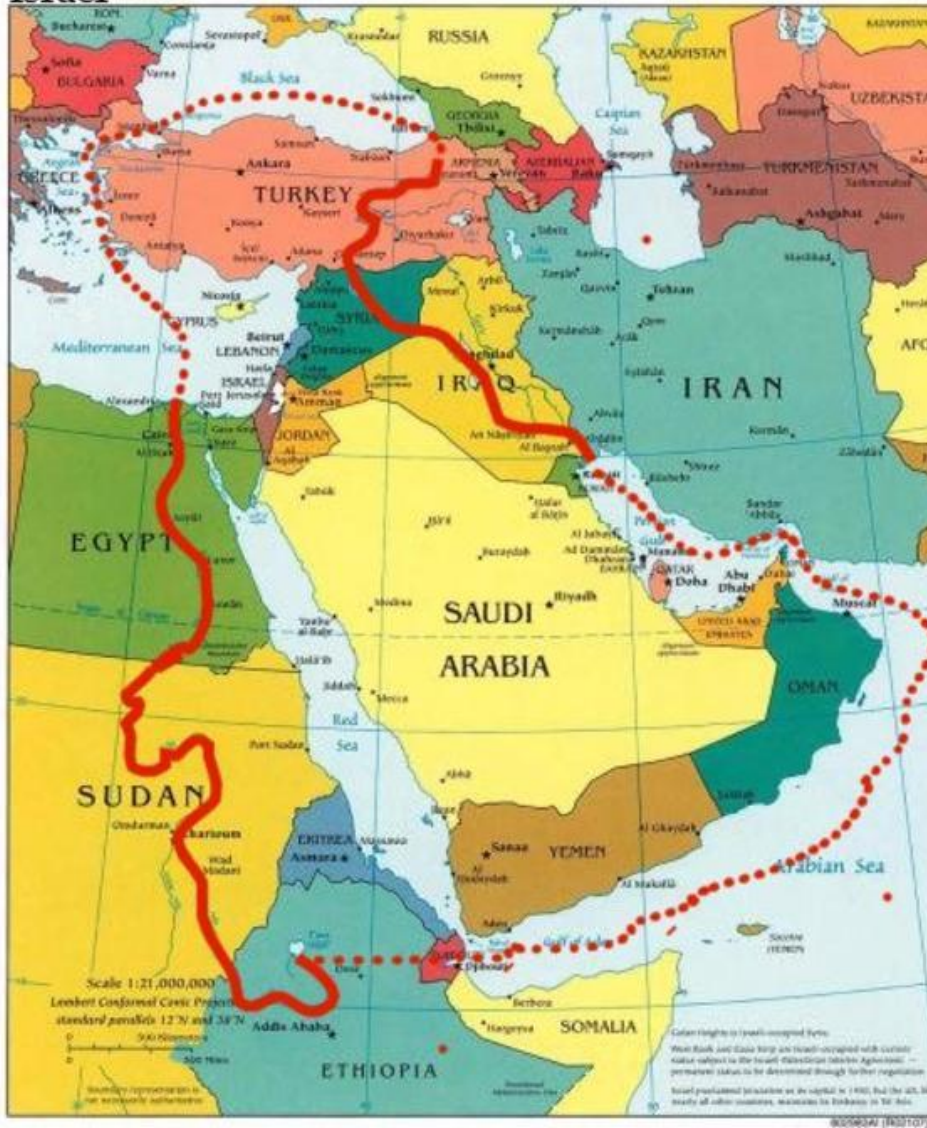
The Day of the Lord can refer to God's judgment or action at any point of time.

- Judgment or action in the present
 - Judgment or action in the near or far future
 - Judgment or action during the "end times" (judgments in the book of Revelation and Christ's second coming)
- Verse 15 refers to Christ's second coming and His judgments on heathen nations (Joel 3:2).
 - Edom's judgment, however, would come much sooner than the eschatological Day of the Lord.

(Vs. 16-21)-The Nature of the Destruction

- God promised Israel would endure but Edom would be reduced to rubble (vs. 18).
- In the future, God will give the land of Edom to Israel (19-21).

Israel



<http://www.hebrewisraelitenation.com/the-promised-land.html>

Summary

- God's promises and judgments always come true despite how ill-logical or impossible they may appear.
- Israel, Judah, and Edom never believed their demise would come-yet it did.
- God promised to Destroy Edom and to restore Israel during the Millennial Kingdom.
- Prophecy gives us glimpses into God's character of judgment and grace.
- The Bible consistently tells us not to fear but to trust God.
- God's promise of help stands as sure as any prophetic word given against Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Rome, Edom, Moab, or Canaan.
- God does have our best interests at heart-we must trust Him for everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson Two

1. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother. Approximately 600 years had passed from the time of Esau to the Israelites journey past Moab. Read Genesis 27:34-37.
 - A. Why did the Edomites treat the Israelites so badly?
 - B. Do you find it difficult to forgive a wrong? Explain.
 - C. Have you known someone who had a long-held grudge? Why was it difficult for them to forgive?

2. God promised a complete destruction of Edom.
 - A. Why did God decide to destroy Edom?
 - B. Read Luke 6:35 Why is it difficult to forgive? What promise does God give if we forgive a wrong.
 - C. Why does God expect us to forgive those who do wrong, and yet he did not forgive the Edomites?

3. Why did God denounce Edom?
 - A. List the reasons for God's denunciation?
 - B. Can you see any similarities between the Edomites behavior toward the Israelites and a contemporary world view toward Christians? Explain.
 - C. What promises does God give to strengthen us in times of opposition? Read Psalm 27:1.