

An Overview of Obadiah

Background Information

1. We know _____ about Obadiah's background.
2. The E_____ are the descendants of E_____ and his grandson T_____ (verse 9 – Genesis 36:15).
3. God's g_____ d_____ with Edom is made clear by the frequent pronouncements of its c_____ d_____ throughout the p_____ books (Psalm 108:10-13; Isaiah 11:14, 63:1-6; Jeremiah 9:23-26, 25:15-21; Lamentations 4:21-22; Ezekiel 25:12-14, 35:1-15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11-12, 9:11-12; Malachi 1:2-5).
4. B_____ and Mt. S_____ were in Edom.

An Outline of the Book

- I. Introduction (1a)
- II. The Certainty of God's Destruction of Edom (1b-9 and 15-16)
 - A. In Spite of Its G_____ (verses 3-4)
 - B. In Spite of Its W_____ (verses 5-6)
 - C. In Spite of Its A_____ (verse 7)
 - D. In Spite of Its W_____ (verse 8)
 - E. In Spite of Its M_____ (verse 9)
- III. The Reason for God's Destruction of Edom: M_____ of G_____ P_____ Especially During the I_____ of B_____ (verses 10-16 – Psalm 137:7-8, Ezekiel 35:5-7, Lamentations 4:21-22)
 - A. S_____ A_____
 - B. R_____ and G_____
 - C. P_____
 - D. K_____
- IV. The Glory of God's Kingdom
 - A. Mount Zion Will Be a H_____ R_____ (verses 17-18, Hebrews 12:22-24)
 - B. The Kingdom Will Expand (verses 19-20)
 1. E_____ and N_____ in the S_____
 2. P_____ in the W_____ (Acts 8:40)
 3. S_____ and Z_____ (part of Phoenicia) in the N_____ (Acts 8:4-8 and 11:19)
 4. G_____ in the E_____ (see also Genesis 28:14)

- C. M_____ Saviors Include the S_____ (verse 21 – I Timothy 4:16, II Corinthians 5:18-20, II Peter 1:1)
- D. The K_____ Will Be the L_____ (Luke 1:30-33 and Philippians 2:9-11)

The Fulfillment of Obadiah's Prophecy Regarding Edom's Destruction

The Babylonians turned against Edom in 580 BC. When the Babylonians were destroyed, the Nabataeans overtook Edom and forced many exiles to abandon their land.

A large remnant of Edomites then overtook southern Judah or the Negev (Negeb). This land became known as Idumaea. After Judas Maccabaeus led the successful Jewish revolt against Syria, he fought against the Idumaeans and killed up to 20,000 in 180 BC. His grandson, John Hyrcanus, Judaized them about 50 years later and forced them to be circumcised.

Antipater, an Idumaeen, overtook Judea with the blessing of Julius Caesar in 47 BC. His son, with the approval of the Roman Senate, captured Jerusalem in 37 BC and began a bloody reign that ended only with his death. We know him as Herod the Great.

By the late 60's AD, there was a great power struggle for control of the Jewish nation. Simon of Gerasa (a town east of the Sea of Galilee) gained a following among many Jews. He then attacked Idumaea. According to Josephus, "Simon did not only ravage the cities and villages, but laid waste the whole country... so that there was nothing left behind Simon's army but a desert." Simon then forced 5,000 defeated Idumaeans to join him in an attempt to gain control over Jerusalem.

The Roman general Titus came to the region to take control. At the beginning of his siege of Jerusalem, five Idumaeen delegates asked Titus if he would spare the Idumaeans if they surrendered. Although Titus agreed, Simon killed the delegates, imprisoned the Idumaeen commanders, and forced the rest to fight on. Titus then slaughtered the majority of those who remained, and the few survivors took refuge among nearby desert tribes and were absorbed in their communities. Edom, indeed, "Drank and swallowed as if they had never been" (Obadiah 16).