

Directions:

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Introduction:

The book of Obadiah has generally been given two probable dates for its writing: 845 BC or 586 BC. The choice of dates depends largely on identifying the attack on Jerusalem mentioned in verse 12 of the book. If Obadiah is referring to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, the later date would be accepted. However, since there is no mention of a complete desolation or the carrying away of captives, Obadiah probably is referring to a destruction brought about by the Philistines and Arabians (2 Chronicles 21:8-18). Also, the language of Obadiah is much different than that of the time of Jeremiah.

1. What was the origin of the Edomites?

Revealing Fact:

Hailey describes the fall of Edom: "During their later history the Edomites were eventually overcome by the Nabataeans, a people who pushed in from the desert and drove the Edomites from their land. Pushed out of their own land at the south end of the Dead Sea, the Edomites were forced to occupy a territory just south of the land of Judah. Toward the close of the second century B.C. they were conquered by John Hyrcanus of the Maccabees, who forced many of them to be circumcised and accept the law. Thus, they became nominal Jewish proselytes. By 100 A.D. they had become lost to history." Malachi speaks of Edom's final destruction in Malachi 1:1-5.

2. Read through the book and write down the theme you see in the book.

OBADIAH

1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom: We have heard a report from the LORD, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!" 2 Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised. 3 The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me down to the ground?" 4 Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the LORD.

5 If thieves came to you, if plunderers came by night— how you have been destroyed!— would they not steal only enough for themselves? If grape gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings? 6 How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures sought out! 7 All your allies have driven you to your border; those at peace with you have deceived you; they have prevailed against you; those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you— you have no understanding.

8 Will I not on that day, declares the LORD, destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau? 9 And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman, so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

10 Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. 11 On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them. 12 But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress. 13 Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity. 14 Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress.

15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. 16 For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been. 17 But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape, and it shall be holy, and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions. 18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau, for the LORD has spoken.

19 Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines; they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. 20 The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negeb. 21 Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's. (ESV)

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Why did Edom think that they could not be conquered?
2. According to verse 5, how will Edom's attackers treat them differently than what a thief does when he breaks into a home or what grape-gatherers would do when harvesting a grape crop?
3. Referring to verse 7, how will Edom be "deceived" when the attack begins?

4. Teman was the southernmost of Edom's two chief cities. What were the men of this city known for? (See Jeremiah 49:7). Check a Bible dictionary or your Bible's cross-references to discover where the name "Teman" came from. What man of the Bible who counted himself a wise friend was a Temanite?

5. List at least three things God says the Edomite should not have done when Jerusalem was attacked:

6. Explain verse 16 thoroughly:

7. By comparing Amos 9:11-14 and Acts 15:15-18, show how the complete fulfillment of this text is found in the days of the kingdom/church:

Main points to remember from this lesson:

1. The principle of Proverbs 24:17-18: "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him."
2. God rules among the nations and has the power to tear them down or build them up. Jeremiah 1:10, "See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant."
3. God has shown His mercy to all nations by sending "saviors" to Mount Zion who would preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

OBADIAH



A SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville