

# Obadiah

## Edom Will Be Punished

This is the vision\* of Obadiah. The Lord my Master says this about Edom:\*

We heard a report from the Lord God.  
A messenger was sent to the nations.  
He said,  
“Let’s go fight against Edom.”

## The Lord Speaks to Edom

- 2 “Edom,\* I will make you the smallest nation.  
Everyone will hate you very much.  
3 Your pride has fooled you.  
You live in those caves high on the cliff.  
Your home is high in the hills.  
So you say to yourself,  
‘No one can bring me to the ground.’”

## Edom Will Be Brought Low

- 4 The Lord God says this:  
“Even though you fly high like the eagle  
and put your nest among the stars,  
I will bring you down from there.”  
5 You really will be ruined!  
Thieves will come to you!  
Robbers will come in the night!  
And those thieves will take all they want!  
When workers gather grapes in your fields,  
they leave a few grapes behind.  
6 But the enemy will search hard  
for Esau’s hidden treasures.  
And they will find them all!  
7 All the people that are your friends  
will force you out of the land.

**vision** Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

**Edom** A country southeast of Judah. The people of Edom are descendants of Esau, Jacob’s twin brother. They were enemies of the Israelites.

Your allies (*good friends*) will trick you  
and convince you to do the wrong thing.  
Your war buddies,  
are planning a trap for you.  
[They say,]  
‘He doesn’t expect a thing!’”

- 8 The Lord says,  
“On that day,  
I will destroy the wise people  
from Edom.\*  
I will destroy the intelligent people  
from Esau’s Mountain.\*  
9 Teman,\* your mighty men will be scared.  
Every person will be destroyed  
from the mountain of Esau.\*  
Many, many people will be killed.  
10 You will be covered with shame,  
and you will be destroyed forever.  
Why? Because you were very cruel  
to your brother Jacob.\*  
11 You joined the enemies of Israel.  
Strangers carried Israel’s treasures away.  
Foreigners entered Israel’s [city] gate.  
Those foreigners threw lots\* [to decide  
what part of] Jerusalem [they would get].  
And you were right there with them  
[waiting to get your share].  
12 You laughed at\* your brother’s trouble.  
You should not have done that.

**Esau’s Mountain** That is, Mount Seir.

**Teman** One of Edom’s important cities in the south, maybe its capital.

**mountain of Esau** That is, Mount Seir.

**Jacob** Israel was Jacob’s other name. (See Genesis 32:28.) Jacob is often used to mean Israel, the nation that descended from him.

**lots** Sticks, stones, or pieces of bone used like dice for making decisions. See Prov. 16:33.

**laughed at** Literally, “looked at.”

- You were happy when they destroyed  
Judah.  
You should not have done that.  
You bragged\* at the time of their trouble.  
You should not have done that.
- 13 You entered the city gate of my people,  
and laughed at\* their problems.  
You should not have done that.  
At the time of their trouble,  
you took their treasures.  
You should not have done that.
- 14 You stood where the roads cross,  
and destroyed the people  
that were trying to escape.  
You should not have done that.  
You captured the people that escaped alive.  
You should not have done that.
- 15 The Day of the Lord is soon coming  
to all the nations.  
And the bad things you did to other people  
will happen to you.  
Those same bad things  
will come falling onto your own head.
- 16 Why? Because you spilled\* blood  
on my holy mountain.\*  
So other nations will spill your blood.\*  
You will be finished.  
It will be like you never existed.
- 17 But there will be survivors on Mount Zion.\*  
They will be my special people.

- The nation of Jacob\* will take back  
the things that belong to it.
- 18 The family of Jacob will be like a fire.  
The nation of Joseph will be like a flame.  
But the nation of Esau\* will be like ashes.  
The people of Judah will burn Edom.  
The people of Judah will destroy Edom.  
Then there will be no survivors  
in the nation of Esau.”  
Why? Because the Lord God has said it.
- 19 Then people from the Negev\*  
will live on the mountain of Esau.  
And people from the foothills  
will take the Philistine lands.  
Those people will live  
in the land of Ephraim and Samaria.  
Gilead will belong to Benjamin.
- 20 People from Israel were forced  
to leave their homes.  
But those people will take the land  
of Canaan  
all the way to Zarephath.  
People from Judah were forced  
to leave Jerusalem  
and go to live in Sepharad.  
But they will take the cities of the Negev.\*
- 21 The Winners\* will go up onto Mount Zion\*  
to rule the people living on  
Esau’s mountain.  
And the kingdom will belong to the Lord.

**bragged** Literally, “made your mouth big.”

**laughed at** Literally, “looked at.”

**spilled** Literally, “drank.”

**holy mountain, Mount Zion** One of the mountains Jerusalem  
was built on. Sometimes Zion is used to mean Jerusalem itself.

**spill your blood** Literally, “drink and swallow.”

**nation of Jacob** Literally, “the house of Jacob.” This could  
mean the people of Israel, or the leaders.

**nation of Esau** Literally, “the house of Esau.”

**Negev** The desert area south of Judah.

**Winners** Or “Saviors.” People that led their people to victory  
in war.

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P.O. Box 820648

Fort Worth, Texas 76182, USA

Telephone: 1-817-595-1664

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