

Obadiah

a message of

judgment and *hope*

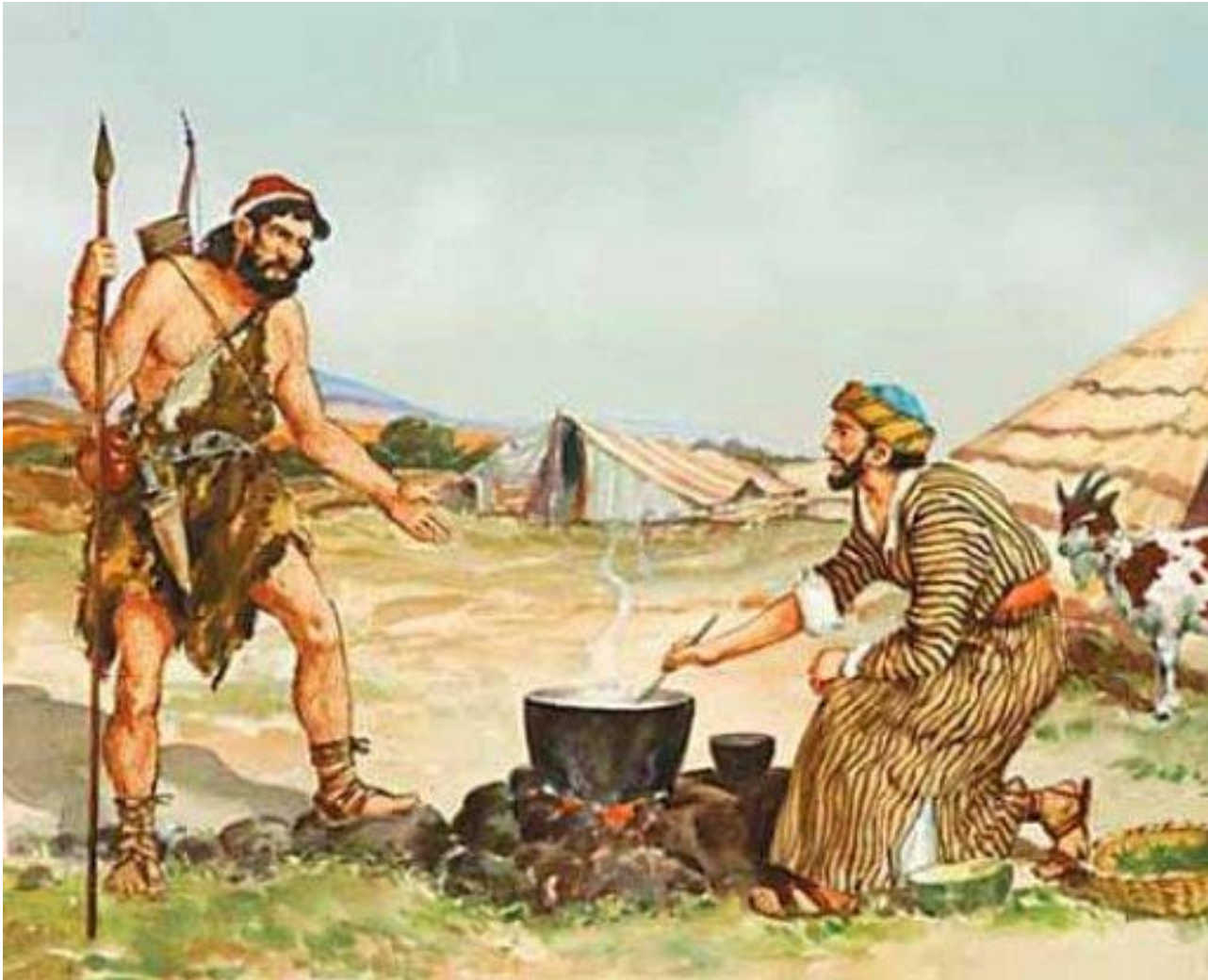
OBADIAH: Theme

EDOM, the ancient brother of Israel, proud of her security, and gloating over Israel's destruction at the hand of foreign armies, will be destroyed...

But Mount Zion and the House of Jacob will be delivered and restored to its inheritance once again...

The Sovereign LORD is KING forever!

Who were the EDOMITES?



Abraham:
→ Ishmael
→ Isaac

Isaac:
→ Esau
→ Jacob

Jacob => Israel
→ 12 tribes...
Israelites (10)
and Judah (2)

Esau => Edom
“Edomites”

OBADIAH: Theme



**Jacob => Israel
→ 12 tribes...
Israelites (10)
and Judah (2)**

**Esau => Edom
“Edomites”**

OBADIAH: The Prophet



Which Obadiah ? !

There are 10 Obadiah's in the Bible...
We are not sure which is the author.

(a) The Rabbinic tradition says he was an Edomite who converted to Judaism, a descendant of Eliphaz, the friend of Job. He was servant to King Ahab (reigned 885 to 874 BC). Perhaps God chose him to prophesy against Edom because he was also an Edomite. He was the same Obadiah who hid 100 prophets in two caves from the persecution of Jezebel (1 Kings 18:3-4).

(b) Some Traditions say he was born in Shechem, and was the third captain sent out by Ahaziah (son of Ahab, had a 2 year reign) to call Elijah to himself (2 Kings 1:13-15).

→ Bottom line is we're not sure, and it doesn't matter...



OBADIAH: Date – 840 or 600 B.C. ?

The book itself gives no dates...

(a) Based on previous traditions, his ministry would be during the reign of King Jehoram (a son of Ahab, reigned 12 years), at the time of Judah & Jerusalem's invasion by the Philistines and Arabs (about **840BC**); Thus Obadiah would be contemporary with **Elijah** and **Elisha**...



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(b) Others propose that the invasion referred to is the one by Babylon, thus dating Obadiah's ministry **600 to 580BC**. Thus he would be contemporary with **Jeremiah**.

This view is strengthened by the similarities between Obadiah v.1-9 and Jeremiah 49:7-22...

➔ **Either way, not knowing the date does not detract from the message, whose application is still valid today!**

OUTLINE OF OBADIAH

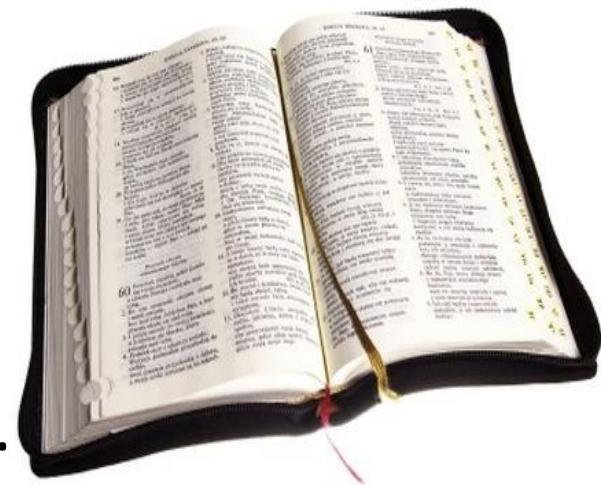
v.1 Introduction to Obadiah's vision from the Lord

v.2-4 God will Humble Edom's Pride:
Their Pride leads to their Fall

v.5-9 The Utter Destruction of Edom is Prophesied

v.10-16 Crimes of Edom against Israel
and their Consequences

v.17-21 Israel will be Delivered,
The Kingdom will be the Lord's.



v.1 Introduction to Obadiah's vision

- ➔ It is God Himself who speaks to Edom...
And He speaks to us also! ➔ Listen & Obey!
- ➔ God speaks through envoys, prophets, messengers...
He continues to do the same today!
Don't "shoot the messenger" ...



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- It is God Himself who speaks to Edom...
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Don't "shoot the messenger" ...
- Hebrews 1:1-2 "Long ago in many ways and at many times God's prophets spoke his message to our ancestors. But now at last, God sent his Son to bring his message to us..."
Do I listen to God's Message to me?

v.2-4 God will Humble Edom's Pride

- Edom, the great nation ... → Small & despised
- Edom's Pride ... → Deceived him
- Secure in the "Rocks" = "Sela" = "Petra" & Heights ...
→ destroyed and vanished in the sands of history



PRIDE



- ➔ Secure in the “Rocks” = “Sela” = “Petra” & Heights ...
 - ➔ destroyed and vanished in the sands of history (Petra is 80 kms south of the Dead Sea. It remained lost for many centuries after its destruction, until it was rediscovered by a Swiss explorer in 1812)

- ➔ Soaring like an Eagle... Nest among the Stars ...
 - ➔ The Lord will bring him down

v.2-4 Edom destroyed = Petra, today...



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v.2-4 God will Humble Edom's Pride



What does God have to say about **Pride**?

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom...

Proverbs 29:23 One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor...

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall...

Galatians 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself...

Proverbs 26:12 There is more hope for a fool than for a man who is wise in his own eyes...

James 4:6 God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble...

What does God have to say about **Pride**?

Jeremiah 9:23 This is what the Lord says:
“Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom,
let not the mighty man boast in his might,
let not the rich man boast in his riches...”

Philippians 2:3 Don't put yourself first.
In humility count others more significant
than yourselves. Follow Christ's example...

Romans 12:16 Do not be haughty,
but associate with the lowly.
Never be wise in your own sight.

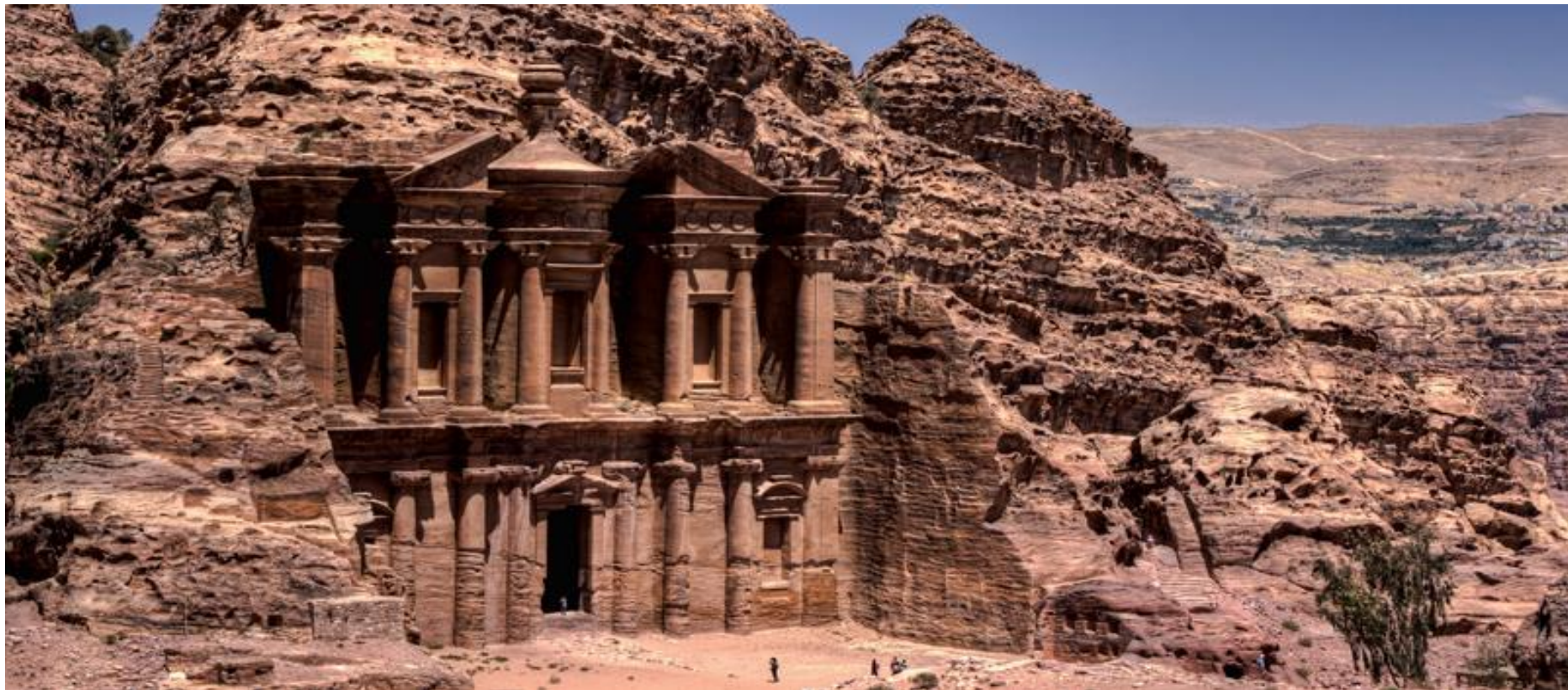
**And what
about me?
Hmm ...**

v.5-9 The Utter Destruction of Edom

- **POSSESSIONS:** Robbers in the night & Grape pickers in the day // Both would take some but not all...
But Edom's ransack would be total destruction!
Even the hidden treasures would be pillaged.
- **FRIENDS:** ALL your Allies / Friends / Partners = expel you till your borders; deceive, overpower, trap you...
- **WISDOM:** Wise men & Understanding men = destroyed on the mountains of Edom...
- **POWER:** Warriors & Edom's Mountain Strongholds = Terrified & cut down in slaughter...

v.5-9 The Utter Destruction of Edom

- ❑ Eventually, there is a total & utter destruction decreed against all God's enemies!
- ❑ If you are not "with the Lord" you are "against Him"...
 - ➔ Therefore get right with God while you can!



v.10-16 Crimes of Edom & Consequences

- ❑ Edom showed **VIOLENCE** against his brother nation...
→ Covered with shame & destroyed forever
- ❑ When Israel was attacked, Edom did **NOT HELP** them:
Instead they despised them...
Rejoiced over their downfall...
Boasted in their day of trouble...
Looked down on them in their calamity...
- ❑ Worse - Edom **BETRAYED AND HURT** his brother:
They seized Israel's wealth...
Waited at the crossroads to cut down their fugitives...
Handed over their survivors in the day of trouble...

v.10-16 Crimes of Edom & Consequences

→ **v.15** “The Day of the LORD is near for ALL Nations.

→ As you have done, it will be done to you;

→ Your deeds will return upon your own head”...

Galatians 6:7-8 You reap what you sow: good or bad



→ **v.16** “You drank on my holy hill...”

→ ALL the Nations will “drink continually”

... The Cup of God’s Wrath!

v.17-21 Israel will be Delivered, God reigns

- ❑ On Mount Zion will be **(1)** Deliverance (salvation) ...
(2) It will be Holy (sanctification) ...
(3) Possess Inheritance (future rewards & heaven)...

- ➔ The Messiah came to bring us these 3 things too:
Salvation, Holiness, and Eternal Reward.

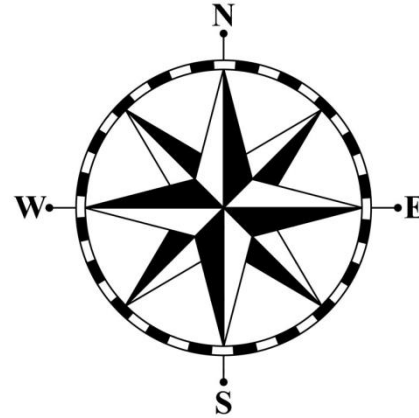
- ❑ The House of Jacob and Joseph // “a flame”...
and the House of Esau // “stubble”...

- ➔ The Gospel is **light & life** for those who believe,
but **burning & death** for those who refuse or ignore it.
You are either For or Against, there is no Neutrality!

v.17-21 Israel will be Delivered, God reigns

- v.19-12 describes Israel expanding its borders and taking over the territory of its neighbours:

^ **North** (Zarephath),
v **South** (Negev & Edom),
> **East** (Gilead),
< **West** (Philistia)...



- // Christ's Church expanding
"unto the ends of the earth..." (Acts 1:8)
 - // God's Kingdom eventually covering the world.
-
- **THE END:** "And the Kingdom will be the LORD's."
 - The **Sovereign God** will eventually rule over **ALL!**

SO HOW DOES THIS SPEAK TO US?!

- v.1...** Am I **Listening** and **Responding** to God's Word?
- v.2...** How much does **Pride** influence my life and relationships? Do others see me as **stubborn** and **inflexible**? Do I always insist on my way?
- v.5...** Do I take seriously God's warnings about the **Final Destruction** of unrepentant sinners? Am I forgiven?
- v.10...** How do I treat my **brothers** and **sisters**? Am I violent, or do I ignore them, or neglect them, or betray them, or hurt them? I will reap what I sow!
- v.17...** Do I joyfully submit to **God's Lordship** in my life? Is He truly the **King** of my desires and decisions?

A photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple interior. A person is riding a horse through a narrow passage between large, dark stone blocks. In the background, there is a large, ornate column and a relief carving on the wall. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The word "Obadiah" is written in a white, cursive font across the bottom left of the image.

Obadiah