



IN &
OUT[®]

English Standard Version

*Spare Your
People,
Lord*

A STUDY OF
OBADIAH AND JOEL

IN AND OUT®
English Standard Version
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 4
SPARE YOUR PEOPLE, LORD
A STUDY OF OBADIAH AND JOEL

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THE PROPHETS TO THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

God knows our frame; we are but dust. Yet He promises us that we won't be tempted beyond our ability. He has given us His Word—of power, life, and blessing to those who trust and obey.

Before Israel had a king, God set the standards and He warned what would happen if His people did not listen. In Deuteronomy 17, kings were warned not to acquire many wives so that their hearts would not turn away from God.

Solomon did not listen and the consequences were disastrous. His many wives from other countries brought idols with them and “Solomon clung to these in love.” The one called “beloved of the Lord, the builder of God's holy temple,” turned away from God and toward the gods of his wives. His heart was no longer totally devoted to the Lord his God as the heart of David his father had been. As prophesied, the Lord tore the kingdom in two, giving ten tribes into the hands of Jeroboam, Solomon's servant.

Solomon's death marked the end of an era (the monarchy). The stage for Israel's division and moral decline was set. Jeroboam took the throne of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) while Rehoboam, Solomon's son, became the king of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) with Jerusalem as its capital.

To secure the loyalty of his people and keep them from going to Jerusalem three times a year to celebrate the seven annual feasts, Jeroboam fashioned two golden calves (putting them in Dan and Bethel), instituted new feasts, and consecrated priests not from the tribe of Levi.

From there it was all downhill for Israel. The people played the harlot with their many idols. Eventually Judah followed her sister's ways.

God could not remain silent. He raised up prophets to warn His people of the dire consequences of abandoning His ways. Among them were Obadiah and Joel. Each had a unique message for a particular audience at a particular time that would reach into the millennia.

As you will learn when you study Amos, God does nothing without revealing His secret counsel to His servants, the prophets.

His message to the kings and nations of old is no less relevant today. He still calls out to us—to nations and to individuals. Let His Word illumine your circumstances, pierce your heart, shape your thinking, and impel you toward a life of true worship.

If you have wandered from His love, strayed from the path of obedience, been wooed away from worshiping God in spirit and truth, then hear His call to return to Him. Your heavenly Father waits with open arms. May His message find its mark in your heart.

Obadiah



OBADIAH

No One Will Bring Me Down!

Have you ever watched arrogant people who say in their heart, “No one will ever bring me down”?

Can individuals or nations say that, live as they want, and not be brought down?

It’s a question we need to answer, because there are many today who are arrogant of heart.

TAKING IT IN

Obadiah is only one chapter, yet because of its significance, we are going to devote an entire week to study it. Enjoy the leisure! By the way, if you didn’t read the introduction to this course, “The Prophets to the Kings of Israel and Judah,” please take a moment to read it. It will put you into context.

Since you are about to sit at the feet of your Creator and treasure His every word, you’ll want to begin with prayer, asking Him to do His cleansing work in you through the washing of the water of His Word. *“Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways”* (Psalm 119:37).

1. Let’s begin by observing Obadiah.
 - a. Read Obadiah using the Observation Worksheet in the Appendix and mark references to *Edom* in red (Genesis 25:25, 30). Include synonyms used for Edom such as *Esau* and *Temán* (a city in Edom) and pronouns.
 - b. Now let’s see what Obadiah tells us about Edom. List what you learn about Edom.



- c. What other individuals and groups did you observe?
- d. Now, read Obadiah again and mark the following. For marking suggestions, see the back cover of your workbook.
- 1) *the nations* (including synonyms and pronouns)
 - 2) *Jacob* (including *Judah, Israel*, synonyms and pronouns)
 - 3) *the day of the Lord*
 - 4) other references to time
 - 5) geographical locations (don't miss references to God's holy mountain)



e. Now list what you learned from the text about:

The Nations	Jacob

f. You marked *Jacob (Israel, Judah)* and the *nations*. “The nations” refers to Gentiles, nations other than Israel. Now let’s locate Edom and Israel on the map at the end of this lesson.

2. Through careful observation, you saw that Edom was to be judged because of its violence to its brother, Jacob.

Before we go on in Obadiah, we want to make sure you understand who Edom is and its relationship to Israel. Read the following passages and summarize what you learn about Edom. While this might be a review for you, remember, review is part of the learning process, so approach the Scriptures with a humble spirit, asking God to teach you what He wants you to learn from examples of how He deals with people.

a. Genesis 25:20-34



h. Romans 9:10-13

i. Hebrews 12:15-17

3. Let's look at Obadiah 1-14 in more detail.

a. According to verses 8 and 9, what is going to happen on "that day"?

b. Verses 10-11 tell you why this is going to happen. What reason is given?

c. Now, what is happening in verses 12-14? Reason through the text from verses 8 through 14.

d. God tells Edom that his pride of heart has deceived him. According to Obadiah, how did Edom behave pridefully?

e. In light of what you observed in this short prophecy, what do you think the central theme or message is? Record it on the "Obadiah at a Glance" chart, located in the Appendix.



You'll see on the chart a place to record the themes of the six paragraphs of Obadiah. Determining the main idea in each paragraph and recording it on the chart will help you crystallize the content of the book and recall its message.

If you have an *NISB*, there is an *At a Glance* chart for each of the sixty-six books of the Bible. If you complete each one, you'll have a summary table for quick reference in the future.

4. Obadiah verse 15 states that "the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations."

We have provided a chart in the Appendix, "The Day of the Lord," on which you can record what you learn from Obadiah about the day of the Lord.

5. What does God promise Israel in verses 17-21? How does "but" connect verses 17-21 to 15-16?

6. Now, think through what you observed from the text. Does it seem there is still a future judgment for Esau/Edom?

LIVING
IT OUT

1. You've seen the arrogance of Edom. Now let's think about application for today.



a. What do you learn from the following about pride and the company it keeps?

1) Romans 1:28-32

2) 2 Timothy 3:1-7

b. From all you have seen, how do you define pride from God's perspective?

2. Now let's apply some more of what we've learned about Edom.

a. Considering Esau/Edom's relationship to Jacob/Israel and Genesis 12:2-3, what kind of relationship to Israel pleases God?



b. How do you view Israel? What is your attitude toward this nation? Why?

3. Finally, Beloved, what fundamental truths of Obadiah do you need to remember and live by?

“For, ‘Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith . . . ’ ” (Hebrews 10:37-38a).

By faith—not pride of heart.

“Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me with falsehood; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts” (Psalm 119:78).

Press on, faithful one!





OBADIAH

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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.



OBADIAH AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Segment Divisions		Paragraph Themes
		Verses 1-4
		Verses 5-7
		Verses 8-9
		Verses 10-14
		Verses 15-18
		Verses 19-21



THE DAY OF THE LORD				
References	Purpose Why Does It Come?	What Happens? How Is It Described?	Who Is Involved?	Timing When Does It Occur?



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