

OBADIAH

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To show that Yahweh judges those who have harmed His people.

Author

Obadiah.

Date

Based upon internal evidence, a likely date would be after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC and before 553 BC (Babylon's campaign against Edom).

Audience

The Edomites, the Jews in Judah, and God's people everywhere.

Setting

Edom. Obadiah condemned the Edomites, who were descendants of Jacob's brother Esau, for attacking the Judeans during the Babylonian crisis rather than assisting them.

Special Features

While Obadiah uses vigorous poetic language and is written in the form of a dirge, the primary genre is prophecy, and, thus, the predictions of the future are couched in pronouncements of judgment and promises of salvation or deliverance.



Key Verses

"You have been deceived by your own pride because you live in a rock fortress and make your home high in the mountains. 'Who can ever reach us way up here?' you ask boastfully. But even if you soar as high as eagles and build your nest among the stars, I will bring you crashing down," says the LORD. (1:3-4 NLT)

"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." (1:15 ESV)

"But Jerusalem will become a refuge for those who escape; it will be a holy place. And the people of Israel will come back to reclaim their inheritance." (1:17 NLT)

Key People

The Edomites.

Key Places

Edom, Jerusalem.