

Obadiah Outline

Introduction: Obadiah has the distinction of being the shortest of all the books in the Old Testament. It is unknown exactly when Obadiah was written, but the reference to the fall of Jerusalem puts it after the Babylonian Exile. And because the prophet envisions the future destruction of Edom (which happened in the 5th century BCE), historians place the book somewhere after the exile and before the 5th century.

Obadiah mainly speaks against the Edomites, neighbors who are depicted as “brothers” who are oppressing the Jewish people. The negative vision against Edom is then paired with an imaginative vision of Israel in the land.

Chapter 1:1-14: Oracle against Edom

Chapter 1:15-21: Day of the Lord a judgment not just against Israel but all nations;
Future vindication of Israel and destruction of Esau

Stories to know: Words against the economic injustice of the Edomites against Israel (1:11-12); God Lord of the world, not just of a religious community (1:15)