

# INTRODUCTION TO Obadiah

## READ ALONG

07/16 Obadiah

## WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 28. HOSEA
- 29. JOEL
- 30. AMOS
- 31. **OBADIAH**
- 32. JONAH
- 33. MICAH
- 34. NAHUM

## KEY VERSES:

**Obadiah 3** *“Your arrogant heart has deceived you, you who live in clefts of the rock in your home on the heights, who say to yourself, ‘Who can bring me down to the ground?’”*

**Obadiah 18** *“Then the house of Jacob will be a blazing fire, and the house of Joseph, a burning flame, but the house of Esau will be stubble; Jacob will set them on fire and consume Edom. Therefore no survivor will remain of the house of Esau, for the Lord has spoken.”*

## KEY THEMES

- The major theme of the book is the judgment of Edom
- “Pride before the fall” - Proverbs 16:18
- The age-old conflict of Jacob and Esau
- There are consequences for sin (even familial sin)
- Yes, you are your brother’s keeper

## BOOK BASICS



**DATE**  
848-841 BC



**TYPE**  
Prophecy



**AUTHOR**  
Obadiah

At least 12 people in Bible are named Obadiah and this one is one we know nothing about. His name means “worshiper of Yahweh.”

This book mostly focuses on the southern Kingdom of Judah and gives a thumbnail of all the prophets: judgment on unbelieving Gentiles and grace toward believing Israel.

Edom began with sibling rivalry in Genesis 25 as Jacob and Esau struggled in the womb. Later, Esau, the elder, sold his birthright to Jacob, the young deceiver, for red stew. Esau was called Edom which means “red” (Gen. 25:30). Esau married two Canaanite women (Gen. 26:34) and a daughter of Ishmael (Gen 28:9). As a nation, Edom denied passage to Israel coming out of Egypt. Even though they were instructed to be kind to their “brother” (Deut. 23:7-8) the sibling rivalry continued through the generations. Edom settled south of the Dead Sea along the “King’s Highway.” Edom was involved in several battles with Israel including attacks on Jerusalem around 848-841 BC. The region was invaded in the early 5th century BC and the Edomites were forced toward Palestine and became known as the Idumeans (Greek for Edom). Herod the Great was an Idumean and attempted to murder baby Jesus (furthering the symbolic sibling rivalry). The Idumeans joined the Jews in their rebellion against Rome in AD 70 and were likewise defeated by Rome. As prophesied in Obadiah 10 and 18 they were never heard from again after 70 AD.

## BASIC STRUCTURE

21 VERSES

