

Obadiah

Summary

The prophet Obadiah brings judgment on the people of Edom. The descendants of Esau, or the Edomites, did not stand with their brothers when the Babylonians came to conquer Jerusalem. In fact, the Edomites joined forces with the Babylonians and took advantage of the weakness of Judah. Obadiah brings a message of retribution for the Edomites and one of hope for the people of Judah. He says that the Edomites' deeds will return on their own heads, but the people of Judah will go up to Mount Zion and be with the Lord.

Author

The prophet Obadiah, meaning "servant of Yahweh," is the author of Obadiah. Unfortunately, nothing specific is known about this author other than his name and prophecy.

Date

Though many dates have been proposed for this book, the most likely is between 605 and 586 B.C., due to Obadiah references to the fall of Jerusalem as a past event and the fall of Edom as a future one.

Primary Characters

Obadiah (The book of Obadiah)

Historical Moments

Fall of Jerusalem (Obadiah verse 11)

Major Theological Themes

In the End, God Wins - Despite the tragedy that occurred to the people of Judah, Obadiah promises God's victory and justification of His people. In the end, God will be victorious over all supernatural and earthly enemies, and His people will enjoy fellowship with Him forever.

God Rules the Entire World - In the book of Obadiah, it is clear that the God of Israel is not concerned with the actions of Judah alone, but other nations as well. The nation of Edom was held to God's standards as well. In other books of prophecy, we see the same level of God's interaction and use of foreign nations such as Assyria and Babylon. He is the Sovereign God who rules the entire world, not just individual nations or people.

Lessons Learned from Obadiah

Our God Is Big - The God that Obadiah presents is one of immense power and influence. This book forces us to ask the question, "Is our God too small?" We must never forget as we pray and interact with the living God that He is bigger than we can ever fully comprehend.

God Desires Perseverance - Despite the consequence of the people's actions and their exile to Babylon, God asked His people to persevere until the end. Though they certainly could not have seen God's long term plan in the midst of the exile, Obadiah gave them hope through God's promise that all would be made right. God continues to ask us to persevere in prayer and faith through the many tests of this life.