



THE BOOK OF

Obadiah

...a verse by verse study

Books of the Bible

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

LAW

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

HISTORY

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

POETRY

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

MAJOR PROPHETS

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

MINOR PROPHETS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

GOSPELS

Acts

HISTORY

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

EPISTLES TO CHURCHES

1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

EPISTLES TO FRIENDS

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

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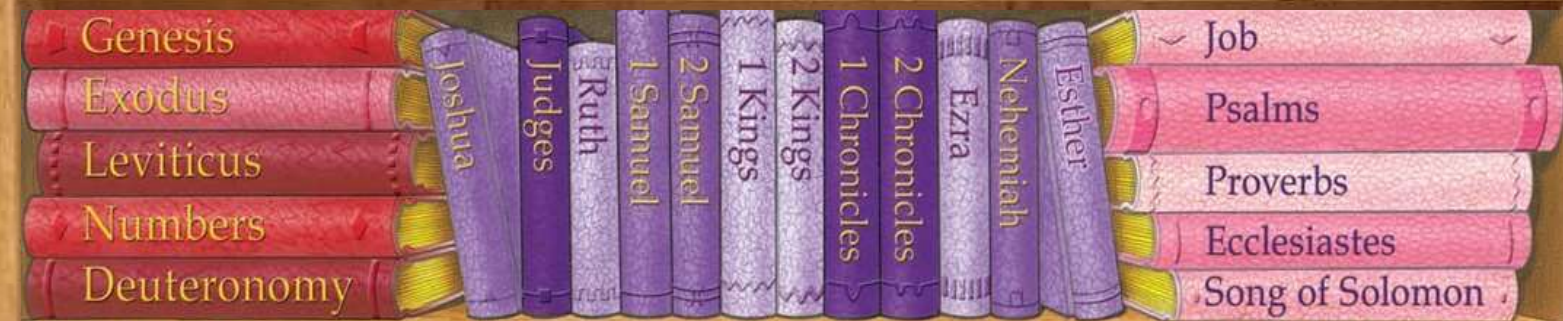
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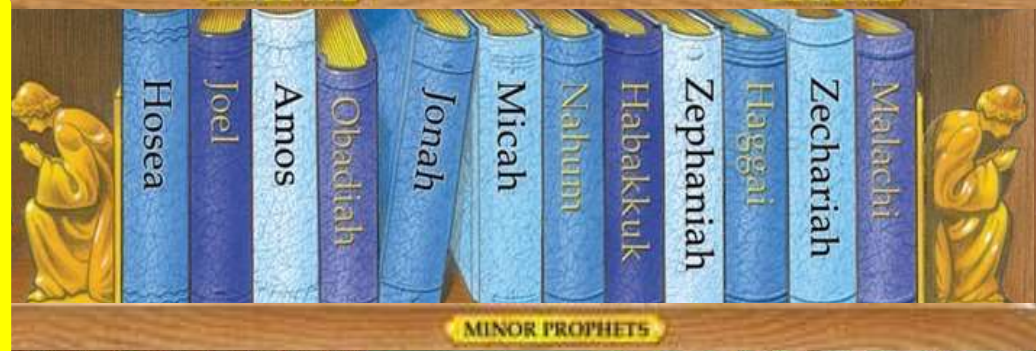
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GENERAL EPISTLES

The Minor Prophets



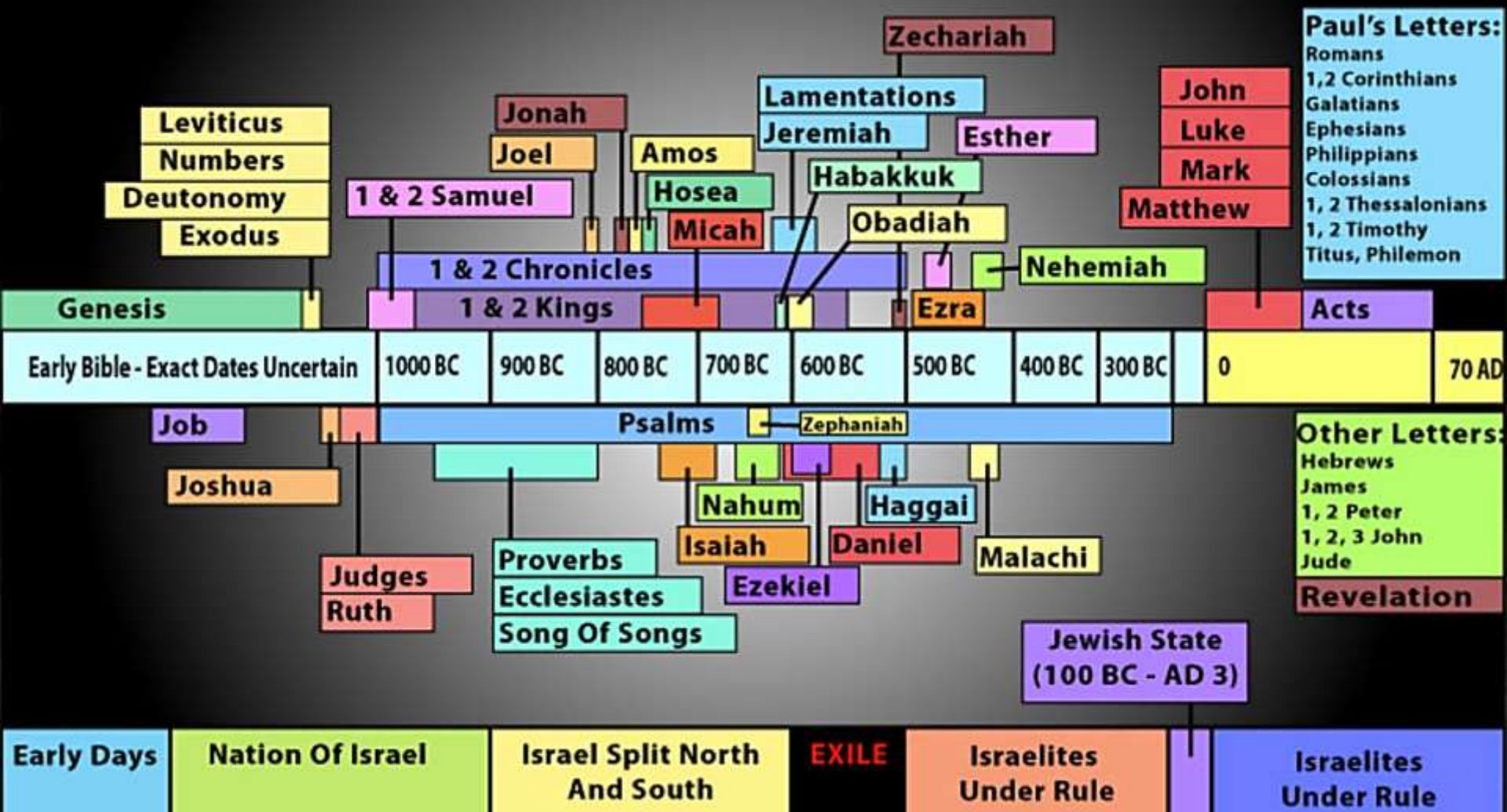
- Hosea
 - The Lord loves Israel despite her sin
- Joel
 - Judgment precedes Israel's future revival
- Amos
 - God is just and must judge sin
- Obadiah
 - Sure retribution must overtake merciless pride
- Jonah
 - Divine grace is universal
- Micah
 - Bethlehem born Messiah will deliver

The Minor Prophets

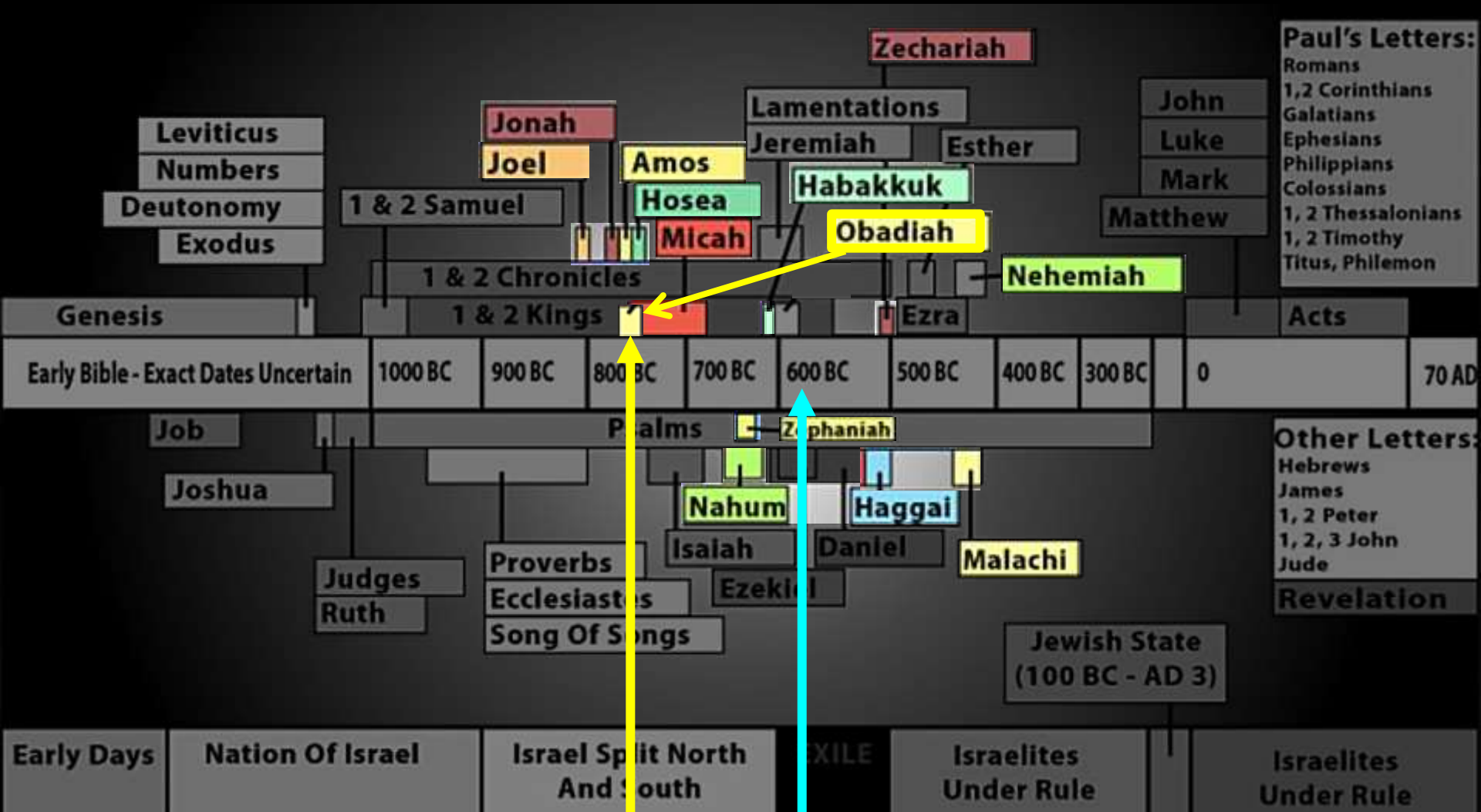


- Nahum
 - Doom is to come on wicked Nineveh
- Habakkuk
 - Justification by faith is God's way
- Zephaniah
 - The Day of the Lord will precede the kingdom
- Haggai
 - Consider your ways! God must be no#1
- Zechariah
 - Repentant Israel will see their Messiah
- Malachi
 - Judgment is certain for the wicked

Chronology of the Books



Ministry of the Minor Prophets



Obadiah: c.850 B.C.

c.586 B.C.?

Obadiah

- This is the shortest book in the OT
 - With just 21 verses
- Obadiah is not an uncommon name,
 - at least 12 others in scripture with this name
- Obadiah means “Servant of Jehovah”
- Apart from his name we know nothing about him.
- He steps onto the pages of scripture, delivers his God-given message and leaves

Obadiah

- Time of writing: dates vary from the time of Jehoram (848-841 B.C.) to c.586 B.C.
- Theme: the destruction of Edom
- Edom is mentioned in the Bible over 100 times by at least 13 different prophets!
- Obadiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah all prophesied that Edom would be destroyed.
 - (Jer. 49:7-22; Eze. 25:12-14; Eze. 32:29; Eze. 35:1-15; Oba. 1:1-21; Lam. 4:21)

Obadiah

“The prophecy of Obadiah is unique in the character of its contents. It is a book of unmitigated condemnation, unrelieved by any suggestion of compassion or hope.”

Frederick A. Tatford

Obadiah

“This book is the shortest in the Old Testament. It contains only 21 verses, but it includes two important themes: the doom of the proud and rebellious and the deliverance of the meek and humble. It is directly spoken to Edom and Zion and represents Esau and Jacob, the two sons of Isaac. But it appeals to all with our two natures, the earthly represented by Esau on one side, so proud and bold, and the spiritual by Jacob, chosen and set apart by God. The story of the bitter family feud that takes us back to the days of the two brothers Jacob and Esau, unfolds before us”.

Henrietta C. Mears

History of Edom

- Esau was the older brother of Jacob
 - Grandson of Abraham
 - Son of Isaac & Rebecca
- Esau casually sold his birthright to Jacob for a pot of stew (pottage)
- He married two Canaanite wives
 - Much to the distain of Isaac & Rebekah
- Jacob then deceitfully obtained the blessing of the firstborn from Isaac, leaving Esau bitter

History of Edom

- Esau eventually moved out of the land of Israel and dwelt in Mt Seir
 - stretching between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba (Red Sea)
- It is in modern-day Jordan

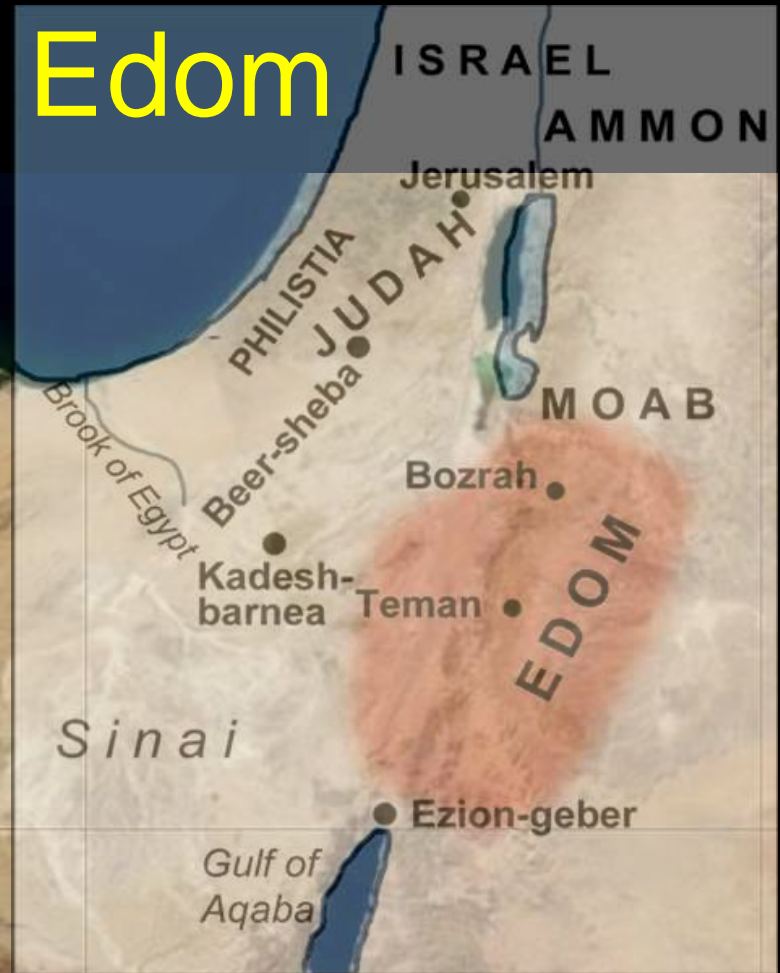
Modern Middle-East

- Israel 1948
- Saudi 1913
- Lebanon 1920
- Iraq 1932
- Syria 1941
- Jordan 1946
- Kuwait 1961



History of Edom

- Edom means 'Red'
- Apparently, Esau was a red-head
- 'Coincidentally' the rocks around southern Edom were also reddish in colour, whence the Red Sea gets its name



Etham, edge of the wilderness

- ⁶ And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which is in the edge of the wilderness.
- ⁷ And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pi-hahiroth, which is before Baal-zephon: and they pitched before Migdol.
- ⁸ And they departed from before Pi-hahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and went three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham, and pitched in Marah.

History of Edom

- Edom has a history of cruelty to its brother Israel.
- When Israel left Egypt and journeyed to the Promised Land Edom refused to let Israel pass through their land.
 - Numbers 20:14-21

History of Edom

- 400 years later the Edomites became David's servants
 - 2 Samuel 8:13-14
- During Jehoram's reign Edom revolted from under the dominion of Judah
 - 2 Kings 8:20
- There were further battles between Edom and Judah under the reigns of Jehoshaphat, Amaziah and Ahaz
 - 2 Chronicles 20:10; 2 Chronicles 25:11; 2 Chronicles 28:17

History of Edom

- The Edomites continued to live in Edom until about 587 B.C.
- Between 605 and 587 B.C., Jeremiah prophesied that Edom would be taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar
 - along with all the other surrounding nations. (Jer. 9:25-26; 25:8-31; 27:2-11)
- Before the captivity of Edom, Nebuchadnezzar first attacked Jerusalem and took Judea captive.

History of Edom

- The Edomites rejoiced at Judah's destruction and helped the Babylonians.
- *“Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof. O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones..” Psalm 137:7-9*

History of Edom

- *“They helped plunder Jerusalem’s wealth, and killed its refugees. The prophets make it clear that the Edomites should not have done this! Edom was always supposed to be a place of refuge for his brother Jacob and Jacob’s descendants. These prophecies came as a direct consequence to the crime the Edomites committed against their brother Judah in his time of distress.” - S Ryan*

History of Edom

- *“These prophets said that the nations would rise up against Edom, the land would become a waste and a ruin, and the occupants would be killed with the sword. Sometime within 50 years after the destruction of Jerusalem, Edom was destroyed and taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar. The Edomites were then dispersed all over the world. Some of them resettled in the Negev, which today is southern Israel, and took on the new name Idumea. Eventually the Idumeans disappeared in history as well.” - S Ryan*
- Herod was an Idumean

History of Edom

- *“The Nabateans seemed to be the next group of people who appeared in Edom around 350 B.C. They settled in the land of Edom, and built up its capital, known today as Petra. Unlike the Jews, the Edomites never resettled in their land as a nation”. - S Ryan*

Prophetic future of Edom

- There is a prophetic future for Edom
- When Jacob returns from 20 years with Uncle Laban, Esau invites him 'home'
- Jacob's response is prophetic:
 - *“Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir.”*

– Gen 33:14

Prophetic future of Edom

- In Psalm 108, David begins by singing and praising YHWH.
- In this moment of worship David asks YHWH to exult Himself in order that those who love Him might be delivered and saved.
- David then pleads with YHWH to answer him regarding the deliverance of His people.

Prophetic future of Edom

- God answers David listing different places that will be used to fulfill His purposes.
- Psalm 108:7-9
- *“Elohim has spoken in His set-apartness, “I exult, I portion out Shekem, and I measure out the Valley of Sukkoth. Gil’ad is Mine, Menashsheh is Mine, and Ephrayim is My chief defense, Yehudah is My lawgiver. Moab is My wash-pot, over Edom I cast My shoe, over Philistia I raise a shout.”*

Prophetic future of Edom

- David responds to God in this way,
- *“Who shall lead me to Edom?”*
- Psalm 108:10-13 *“Who would bring me into the strong city? Who shall lead me to Edom? Have You not rejected us, O Elohim? And You do not go out with our armies, O Elohim! Give us help from distress, for the help of man is naught. In Elohim we do mightily, for it is He who treads down our adversaries”.*

Prophetic future of Edom

- David understood that God was going to lead His people to Edom.
- David knew that Edom was going to play a role in the deliverance and salvation of Israel.
- David emphasizes that he wants the help of God and not the help of man.
- God clearly has plans and purposes for Edom.

Prophetic future of Edom

- God says that He casts his shoe over Edom.
- “Casting your shoe” is a biblical idiom that means the legal right to tread ground.
- Here we see God claiming this land for His purposes, telling David that His people have the right to be in the area of Edom.

Prophetic future of Edom

- In Numbers 24, Balaam prophesied over Israel
 - much to the distain of King Balak

¹⁴ And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

Numbers 24:14

Prophetic future of Edom

¹⁵ And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

¹⁶ He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

Numbers 24:15-16

Prophetic future of Edom

17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

Prophetic future of Edom

¹⁷ I see in the future of Israel,
Far down the distant trail,
That there shall come a star from Jacob!
This ruler of Israel
Shall smite the people of Moab,
And destroy the sons of Sheth.

¹⁸ Israel shall possess all Edom and Seir.
They shall overcome their enemies.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Revelation 12:6

- Idiomatically, Israel is this woman
- Satan will seek to destroy Israel once and for all
- Israel will flee to Edom for 1260 days
 - 3 ½ years
 - The last half of the coming 7-year Tribulation

Israel's Flight

- 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
- 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Matthew 24:15-22

Israel's Flight

- 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:
- 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.
- 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Matthew 24:15-22

Israel's Flight

- 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:
- 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matthew 24:15-22

A Place Prepared?



A Place Prepared?



Outline of Obadiah

- Edom's pride to be abased v. 1–4
- Destruction of Edom v. 5–9
- The completeness of the plunder v. 5, 6
- The betrayal by Edom's allies v. 7
- The destruction of Edom's leaders v. 8, 9
- Reasons for Edom's downfall v. 10–14
- Edom's judgment is retributive v. 15, 16
- Restoration of Israel and Judah and extinction of Edom v. 17–21



THE BOOK OF

Obadiah

...a verse by verse study

¹ The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom;

We have heard a rumour from the Lord,
and an ambassador is sent among the heathen,
Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

² Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen:
thou art greatly despised.

Obadiah 1:1-2

3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee,
thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose
habitation is high;
that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the
ground?

4 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle,
and though thou set thy nest among the stars,
thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.

Obadiah 1:3-4

5 If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!)

would they not have stolen till they had enough?

if the grapegatherers came to thee,
would they not leave some grapes?

6 How are the things of Esau searched out!
how are his hidden things sought up!

Obadiah 1:5-6

7 All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.

8 Shall I not in that day, saith the Lord, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

9 And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

10 For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

11 In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.

12 But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

Obadiah 1:10-12

¹³ Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity;
yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity,
nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity;

¹⁴ Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape;
neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

Obadiah 1:13-14

15 For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen:
as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee:
thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

16 For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain,
so shall all the heathen drink continually,
yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down,
and they shall be as though they had not been.

Obadiah 1:15-16

17 But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau for the Lord hath spoken it.

Obadiah 1:17-18

19 And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

20 And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

21 And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ¹ *In a vision the Lord God showed Obadiah the future of the land of Edom.*
- *“A report has come from the Lord,” he said, “that God has sent an ambassador to the nations with this message:*
- *‘Attention! You are to send your armies against Edom and destroy her!’”*
- ² *“I will cut you down to size among the nations, Edom, making you small and despised.*

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- *3 “You are proud because you live in those high, inaccessible cliffs.*
- *‘Who can ever reach us way up here!’ you boast.*
- *Don’t fool yourselves!*
- *4 “Though you soar as high as eagles, and build your nest among the stars, I will bring you plummeting down,” says the Lord.*

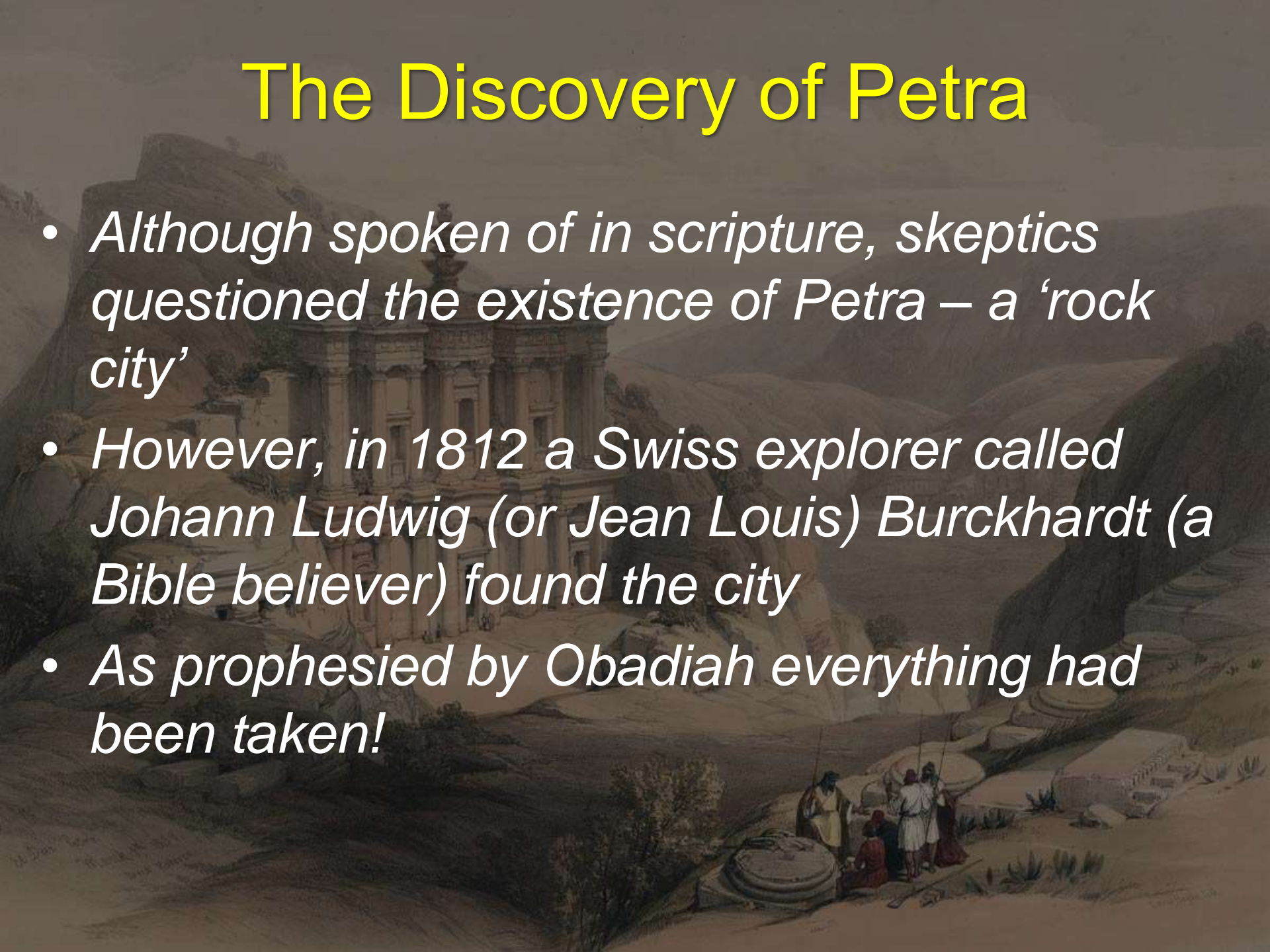
Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ⁵ *“Far better it would be for you if thieves had come at night to plunder you—for they would not take everything! Or if your vineyards were robbed of all their fruit—for at least the gleanings would be left!*
- ⁶ *Every nook and cranny will be searched and robbed, and every treasure found and taken.*
- ⁷ *“All your allies will turn against you and help to push you out of your land. They will promise peace while plotting your destruction*

The Discovery of Petra

- *Although spoken of in scripture, skeptics questioned the existence of Petra – a ‘rock city’*
- *However, in 1812 a Swiss explorer called Johann Ludwig (or Jean Louis) Burckhardt (a Bible believer) found the city*
- *As prophesied by Obadiah everything had been taken!*



Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- *Your trusted friends will set traps for you, and all your counterstrategy will fail.*
- ⁸ *In that day not one wise man will be left in all of Edom!” says the Lord. “For I will fill the wise men of Edom with stupidity”.*
- ⁹ *The mightiest soldiers of Teman will be confused, and helpless to prevent the slaughter.*

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- **IO** *“And why? Because of what you did to your brother Israel.*
- *Now your sins will be exposed for all to see; ashamed and defenseless, you will be cut off forever.*
- **II** *For you deserted Israel in his time of need. You stood aloof, refusing to lift a finger to help him when invaders carried off his wealth and divided Jerusalem among them by lot; you were as one of his enemies.*

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ¹² *“You should not have done it.*
- *You should not have gloated when they took him far away to foreign lands;*
- *you should not have rejoiced in the day of his misfortune;*
- *you should not have mocked in his time of need.*
- ¹³ *You yourselves went into the land of Israel in the day of his calamity and looted him.*

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- *You made yourselves rich at his expense.*
- ¹⁴ *You stood at the crossroads and killed those trying to escape;*
- *you captured the survivors and returned them to their enemies in that terrible time of his distress.*
- ¹⁵ *The Lord's vengeance will soon fall upon all Gentile nations.*
- *As you have done to Israel, so will it be done to you.*

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- *Your acts will boomerang upon your heads.*
- ¹⁶ *You drank my cup of punishment upon my holy mountain, and the nations round about will drink it too; yes, they will drink and stagger back and disappear from history, no longer nations anymore.*

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ¹⁷ *“But Jerusalem will become a refuge, a way of escape.*
- *Israel will reoccupy the land.*

OBADIAH

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ¹⁸ *Israel will be a fire that sets the dry fields of Edom aflame. There will be no survivors,” for the Lord has spoken.*

OBADIAH

A group of sheep and goats in a field. In the foreground, two large white sheep are prominent. Behind them, several goats of various colors (brown, black, grey) are visible. The background shows a hazy, open landscape under a grey sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

The Judgment of The Nations

Matthew 25:31-46

- 31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
- 32 And before him shall be gathered **all nations:** and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
- 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:31-33

- 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand,
Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
- 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was
thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and
ye took me in:
- 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited
me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matthew 25:34-36

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Matthew 25:37-39

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them,
Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it
unto one of the least of **these my brethren**, ye have
done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand,
Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire,
prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:40-41

- 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:
- 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.
- 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Matthew 25:42-44

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew 25:45-46

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ¹⁹ *Then my people who live in the Negeb shall occupy the hill country of Edom; those living in Judean lowlands shall possess the Philistine plains and repossess the fields of Ephraim and Samaria. And the people of Benjamin shall possess Gilead.*

Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ²⁰ *The Israeli exiles shall return and occupy the Phoenician coastal strip as far north as Zarephath.*
- *Those exiled in Asia Minor shall return to their homeland and conquer the Negeb's outlying villages.*

The Promised Land



Obadiah

(Living Bible Paraphrase)

- ²¹ *For deliverers will come to Jerusalem and rule all Edom.*
- *And the Lord shall be King!*

OBADIAH

Lessons From Obadiah

- Disregard for the things of God leads to pride
- Pride leads to false security
- False security leads to cruelty
- *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death!”*
 - *Proverbs 14:12*
- *“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble*
 - *James 4:6*



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