

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Obadiah

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The prophet Obadiah, whose name means "Servant of Yahweh," speaks to the nation of Edom, descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob. This prophecy most likely was given during the days of the Babylonian exile. The Babylonian exile had three phases that occurred during the years between 605-586 B.C. The people of Israel had shunned the law of God and the covenant they had made with Him at Mt. Sinai. The northern Kingdom of Israel had fallen in 722 B.C. Many in the north had escaped and come to Judah and now the great kingdom of Judah had fallen. This prophecy however was given to encourage the people of Israel that God is a God of justice and that He would remember His covenant made with Israel.

The nation of Edom had dealt treacherously with their brother Israel. They had gloated over the destruction of Jerusalem and had rejoiced to see their downfall and even aided the enemy in the destruction. Obadiah points out that the people of Edom had collaborated with the Babylonians. God saw it all.

"Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame and cut off forever. On the day

you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gate and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were just like one of them. But you should not gloat in that day, your brother's day of misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction nor boast proudly in the day of their distress. You should not enter the gate of My people in the day of their disaster, nor gloat over their affliction in the day of their disaster, nor loot their wealth in the day of their disaster. Nor should you stand at the crossroads to cut off their fugitives, nor deliver up their survivors in the day of their distress." (Vv. 10-14)

God spoke through Obadiah that there was coming a day when Judah would return to its land and there would be great prosperity and blessing from the LORD. Edom would be conquered and destroyed, and Judah would be victorious over Edom. This happened during the days of the Maccabees, when Israel conquered most of the land gained by David and Solomon, including Edom.

Prayer and Action Steps

God is faithful to His people. Thank God right now for his faithfulness to His people.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
