



Obadiah prophesied judgment against Edom, a country southeast of Israel that had not helped Israel when foreigners were invading it. Because of this, the Lord was going to punish the Edomites and give their land to the people of Israel.

Edom's Pride and Punishment

¹ The LORD God gave Obadiah a message[>] about Edom, and this is what we heard:

¹ I, the LORD, have sent a messenger with orders for the nations to attack Edom."

² The LORD said to Edom: I will make you the weakest and most despised nation.

³ You live in a mountain fortress,[>] because your pride makes you feel safe from attack, but you are mistaken.

⁴ I will still bring you down, even if you fly higher than an eagle or nest among the stars. I, the LORD, have spoken!

⁵ If thieves break in at night, they steal only what they want. And people who harvest grapes always leave some unpicked. But, Edom, you are doomed!

⁶ Everything you treasure most will be taken from you.

⁷ Your allies can't be trusted. They will force you out of your own country. Your best friends will trick and trap you, even before you know it.

⁸ Edom, when this happens, I, the LORD, will destroy all your marvelous wisdom.

⁹ Warriors from the city of Teman will be terrified, and you descendants of Esau will be wiped out.

The LORD Condemns Edom's Cruelty

¹⁰ You were cruel to your relatives, the descendants of Jacob. Now you will be destroyed, disgraced forever.

¹¹ You stood there and watched as foreigners entered Jerusalem and took what they wanted. In fact, you were no better than those foreigners.

¹² Why did you celebrate when such a dreadful disaster struck your relatives? Why were you so pleased

when everyone in Judah
was suffering?

- ¹³ They are my people,
and you were cruel to them.
You went through their towns,
sneering and stealing
whatever was left.
- ¹⁴ In their time of torment,
you ambushed refugees
and handed them over
to their attackers.

The LORD Will Judge the Nations

- ¹⁵ The day is coming
when I, the LORD,
will judge the nations.
And, Edom, you will pay in full
for what you have done.
- ¹⁶ I forced the people of Judah[▷]
to drink the wine of my anger
on my sacred mountain.
Soon the neighboring nations
must drink their fill—
then vanish without a trace.

Victory for Israel

- ¹⁷ The LORD's people who escape
will go to Mount Zion,
and it will be holy.

Then Jacob's descendants
will capture the land of those
who took their land.

- ¹⁸ Israel[▷] will be a fire,
and Edom will be straw
going up in flames.
The LORD has spoken!
- ¹⁹ The people of Israel
who live in the Southern Desert
will take the land of Edom.
Those who live in the hills
will capture Philistia,
Ephraim, and Samaria.
And the tribe of Benjamin
will conquer Gilead.
- ²⁰ Those who return from captivity
will control Phoenicia
as far as Zarephath.¹
Captives from Jerusalem
who were taken to Sepharad
will capture the towns
of the Southern Desert.
- ²¹ Those the LORD has saved
will live on Mount Zion
and rule over Edom.[▷]
Then the kingdom will belong
to the LORD.

Notes

Phrases enclosed in half square superscript brackets (‘¹’) are those that are difficult to translate from the original Hebrew with great certainty. Consequently, the English rendering given should be understood as only one possible way of translating such texts.

- ▷ **1** *message*: Or “vision.”
- ▷ **3** *mountain fortress*: The Hebrew text has “rocky cliff.”
- ▷ **16** *I forced ... Judah*: Or “I will force the people of Edom.”
- ▷ **18** *Israel*: Hebrew “The descendants of Jacob and of Joseph.”
- ▷ **21** *Those the LORD...Edom*: Or “Leaders on (from) Mount Zion will save the people and rule over Edom.”