

The Voices of God to Israel: The Minor Prophets

15 – OBADIAH

I. Introduction

A. General Information

- Obadiah is the shortest Old Testament book with 21 verses.
- The book is little known and seen primarily as a message of doom and judgment.
- The book is not quoted in the New Testament.

B. The Prophet

- The name “Obadiah” means “Worshipper of Yahweh.”
- There is no other information concerning Obadiah’s identification and occupation.

C. The Date of the Prophecy

- No information is given in the opening verses to established the date of this prophecy.
- Those who hold to a pre-exilic date look to its position in the Hebrew Old Testament.
- Scholars have proposed various dates ranging from the 9th to 6th centuries B.C.

II. The Judgment of Edom (Obadiah 1-16)

A. The Destruction of Edom (Obadiah 1-9)

- The Lord is calling the nations to rise up in battle against Edom.
- The Lord will make Edom despised and small among the nations.
- While Edom is prideful and has a false sense of security, the Lord will bring them down.
- Edom’s wealth will be plundered and her allies will become her enemies.
- Edom’s wise men, her mighty men and her people will be slaughtered.

B. Edom’s Offense (Obadiah 10-14)

- Edom will be judged for its violence against Israel.
- They stood by and allowed others to plunder Israel and even joined in.
- They went beyond being a spectator of Israel’s destruction and rejoiced in it.

The Voices of God to Israel: The Minor Prophets

- Edom joined in looting Jerusalem, killing its people and handing others over as exiles.

C. The Terrors of God's Judgment (Obadiah 15-16)

- The Day of the Lord for all nations is coming and they will experience what they did to Israel.
- Edom and the nations had celebrated Israel's destruction, but they will cease to exist.

III. The Blessings on Israel (Obadiah 17-21)

A. Israel's Deliverance (Obadiah 17-18)

- While Edom will be destroyed, Israel will experience deliverance because the Lord has spoken.

B. Israel's Territory (Obadiah 19-20)

- Israel shall possess the land of her enemies.

C. The Lord's Kingdom (Obadiah 21)

- Deliverers shall come to Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel shall be the Lord's.