

Obadiah Introduction

...Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah...

Obadiah was a prophet around 586 BC who had a "vision" (1:1, superscript) concerning Edom.

The actual date is unknown. Earliest suggestions are 850 BC, but some go as late as 400 BC.

The fall of Jerusalem is in the past in Obadiah's time which means it was written is after 586 BC.

The collapse of Edom is still a future event in Obadiah's time which means it was written before 553 BC which was Babylon's campaign against Edom.

The point of the book is:

1. Edom will fall and never return
2. Israel, who has already fallen, will be restored.

Obadiah is similar to writings of Jeremiah:

1. Lamentations 4:22 – Israel will be restored, but Edom's fate is sealed
2. Jeremiah 49:7-22
3. Ezekiel 25:12-14
4. Ezekiel 35

The first half of Obadiah (1-15) addresses Edom with the singular "you" while announcing Edom's judgment for their violence against Judah during the Babylonian invasions. Edom is warned of the fate of all the nations on

the ultimate Day of the Lord.

The second half of Obadiah (16-21) addresses the people of Jerusalem with the plural "you" while promising them the good news of a future restoration:

1. Zion will be holy (16-17)
2. Israel will be reunited in their land and have victory over Edom (17-20)
3. The Lord will reign as king over all the earth (21)

Edom history:

1. 1200 BC Egyptian records show Edom well-established south and east of the Dead Sea
2. 1000 BC David subdues Edom
3. 594-593 BC Edom still an independent monarchy (Jeremiah 27:3) and provided partial refuge to fugitives from Judah in Jeremiah 40:11.
4. Edom does not fall as did Judah (586) and Ammon and Moab in 582 BC
5. 500's Edom still existed based on excavations at Ezion-geber with a seal dating from 600-550 BC with the Edomite name "belonging to Qws'n/ servant of the king" and an ostrakon with four Edomite names
6. 312 BC Petra is occupied by Nabataeans and are replace by Arabs by the days of Nehemiah
7. Malachi writing around 450 BC says Esau mountains is reduced to a wasteland Malachi 1:3-4
8. Nabonidus (Belshazzar's father) may have been responsible for Edom's fall during his reign (556-539) due to his interest in the trade routes

