

**ABATT**  
**Obadiah**

Christian Life Assembly  
 Jim Hoffman

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**The Minor Prophets**

Prophet	Date of Writing	Prophesied to:
Obadiah	845-750	Israel/Edom
Joel	835-796	Judah
Jonah	793-753	Niniveh
Hosea	753-715	Israel
Amos	760-755	Israel/Judah
Micah	770-710	Israel/Judah
Nahum	663-612	Niniveh
Zepheniah	635-625	Judah/Assyria/Nations
Habbakuk	610-605	Judah/Nations
Haggai	520	Judah
Zechariah	520-470	Judah
Malachi	460-410	Judah

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**The Minor Prophets**

"That God sent a man named "worshipper of Yahweh" to the people of Edom was no mistake. Edom had been found guilty of pride before the Lord. They had thought themselves greater than they actually were; great enough to mock, steal from, and even harm God's chosen people. But the "Lord GOD," a name Obadiah used to stress God's sovereign power over the nations, will not stand idly by and let his people suffer forever. Through Obadiah, God reminded Edom of their poor treatment of his people and promised redemption, not to the Edomites but to the people of Judah. The nation of Edom, which eventually disappeared into history, remains one of the prime examples of the truth found in Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling."  
 Chuck Swindoll

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**The Minor Prophets**

One might imagine that, because of all the trouble Israel and Judah have suffered at the hands of the Edomites down through history, Obadiah would have written his prophecy against Edom with great antagonism: "These are our enemies, and they deserve this!" This, however, does not seem to have been the case. A sadness seems to run through the book; there is a sense that Obadiah's poetry is a lament for an entire people caught in the act of rebellion against God.

Richard Ritenbaugh

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**The Minor Prophets**

- The Book of Obadiah was likely written between 848 and 840 B.C. by Obadiah, (1:1 This is the vision that the Sovereign Lord revealed to Obadiah concerning the land of Edom.)
- Obadiah is the shortest book in the O.T. and the third shortest in the Bible. (only 2nd and 3rd John are shorter)
- Obadiah's prophecy is a condemnation of Edom – the descendants of Esau. (Jacob's twin brother)

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**The Minor Prophets**

- We know exactly nothing about Obadiah beyond what he tells us as the book opens - he was a man who was given a vision by God.
- Obadiah means "the Lord's servant" or "worshiper of Yahweh" and the name was rather common in the old testament.
- It is believed the author of the book Obadiah is not any of the other Obadiah's mentioned in the bible.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Obadiah's prophecy is against "Edom" – the edomites were the descendants of Esau.
- You may recall that Esau and Jacob were the paternal twins of Isaac who struggled with each other from the time they were in the womb and beyond.
- They would settle a dispute from time to time, but never did they or their descendants ever reconcile permanently.

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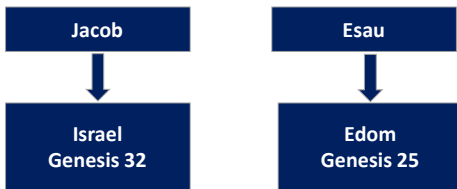
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### The Minor Prophets

- Jacob and Esau were both eventually given new names that would stay with them.



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### The Minor Prophets

- The history here is that Jacob had stolen Esau’s blessing from their father Isaac – Esau was the first born of Isaac’s sons and had the right to the “blessing” in the family, but he foolishly traded his rights to it for a bowl of “red” beans.
- As a result, Esau hated his brother and the hatred continued in varying levels over the years. (roughly 1,000 by this time)
- Over Israel and Edom’s histories, the Edomites developed a pattern of taking sides against Israel. (never a wise choice)

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### The Minor Prophets

- Remember what God promised to Abraham?
- Gen 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”
- The blessing that Esau traded for a bowl of beans was the one God promised to Abraham. (to be his covenant people)

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### The Minor Prophets

- Let’s travel down a short rabbit trail with respect to the blessing on Israel.
- The blessing is iron clad and will not be broken, but “**I will bless those who bless you**” is not a call for unmerited support for everything Israel does.
- It is okay to disagree with, and even resist Israel’s efforts when they do ungodly things – to oppose their sin (when it occurs) would in fact be a way of blessing them.

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### The Minor Prophets

- 8 indictments against Edom -
- Obadiah 1:12 “**You should not have** gloated when they exiled your relatives to distant lands. **You should not have** rejoiced when the people of Judah suffered such misfortune. **You should not have** spoken arrogantly in that terrible time of trouble. 13 **You should not have** plundered the land of Israel when they were suffering such calamity. **You should not have** gloated over their destruction when they were suffering such calamity. **You should not have** seized their wealth when they were suffering such calamity. 14 **You should not have** stood at the crossroads, killing those who tried to escape. **You should not have** captured the survivors and handed them over in their terrible time of trouble.”

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### The Minor Prophets

- Eight times Obadiah says, “you should not have” and then follows it with specific words indicting Edom for sins against Israel.
- It is clear from the text the Edomites had more than just a bad attitude against Israel – they actually acted in accordance with their attitude.
- The level of hatred that started with Esau and Jacob had not improved over the years and never would. (just as love is a verb, so too is hate)

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### The Minor Prophets

- You might say, “be warned all who take pleasure in the downfall of others, all who fail to assist the hurting, and all who turn their backs on God’s people”.
- The warning is that no matter our spiritual condition our works ALWAYS matter!
- Whether on judgment day or today, what we do with our time, talent, and treasure actually matters.

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### The Minor Prophets

- The Edomites took pleasure in seeing their “relatives” be enslaved to others whether it was to Egypt, Assyria, or later to Babylon.
- When things would go bad for Israel, they would take pleasure to such a degree as to be described as being joyful.
- When Israel would get down, mostly because they deserved a spanking, the Edomites would speak about their situation in arrogant terms.

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### The Minor Prophets

- On at least one occasion it seems they actually joined in with the enemies of Israel to cause them harm.
- Obadiah 1:14 “You should not have stood at the crossroads, killing those who tried to escape. You should not have captured the survivors and handed them over in their terrible time of trouble.”
- In short – Esau’s descendants possessed more than just a casual dislike of Israel, they hated them.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Edom is guilty of all of the charges in God’s indictment of them and there is nothing vague about their behaviors towards Israel.
- Among any fair-minded persons, the charges against Edom are all behaviors we should find despicable.
- God did not set-up some vague arbitrary list of rules that Edom could not obey – no, Edom violated what we might call the bare minimum standards of human decency.

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**The Minor Prophets**

- They are found guilty and sentenced –
- Obadiah 1:15 “The day is near when I, the Lord, will judge all godless nations! As you have done to Israhel, so it will be done to you. All your evil deeds will fall back on your own heads.” NLT
- Remember God’s promise to Abraham included, “I will curse those who curse you”.



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**The Minor Prophets**

“All your evil deeds will fall back on your own heads.”

Again, we see that while salvation is by grace through faith, our works matter – there is justice everywhere and for everyone even if we are not in a position to see it!

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**The Minor Prophets**

- There is an interesting play on Hebrews words in Obadiah that points to a larger truth – the Hebrew for word for mankind and Edom are closely related.
- The Hebrew word in Gen 1:27 for man is “adam” and the Hebrew word for Edom in Obadiah is “edom” – even similar in sound.
- So what? What was happening to the proud and self-sufficient in Obadiah will happen to all of the proud and self-sufficient of mankind in the end.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Obadiah 1:21 Savivors (those who have been saved) shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord's. ESV
- This is a prophecy about the Millennial Kingdom when a Theocracy will be setup to rule and reign for 1,000 years. (we will be among the "saviors" in verse #21)
- Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." ESV

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### The Minor Prophets

- Now here is an interesting thought – there is no doubt that some from the lineage of Esau will be in that coming Millennial Kingdom and in Heaven for eternity.
- Just because the root is bad does not mean there can never be at least a few healthy branches that produce fruit.
- This is the hope we find in the grace of God – that no matter your lineage you can be a child of the king.

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### The Minor Prophets

God notes and tracks every act of injustice committed and he is not neutral towards the harm done to others. We sometimes think that evil people are running free through society working their will with impunity, but they are not.

This does not mean that the harm evil people do is somehow less harmful – it is merely to say that on the path God chooses for us there is opportunity after opportunity for us to exhibit Christ like behaviors.

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