THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

I. INTRODUCTION - 1a

A. Name: בּוֹדַי

1. Meaning - The Servant of Jehovah
2. Nothing else is known

B. Date

1. Quoted by Jeremiah

   a. 1-4 - Jeremiah 49:14-16
   b. 5-6 - Jeremiah 49:9-10
   c. 8-9 - Jeremiah 49:7, 22
   d. Places Obadiah before Jeremiah

2. Verse 17 quoted by Joel 2:32 and so placed before Joel

3. Key Question: Which sacking of Jerusalem is referred to in 10-14? - Two options

   a. 586 under Babylon
   b. 845 under Jehoram

   (1) By Philistines and Arabs but Edom helping

   (2) Edom revolted

      (a) II Kings 8:20-22

      (b) II Chronicles 21:8-10

   (3) The sacking of Jerusalem by the Philistines and Arabs came about the same time - II Chronicles 21:16-17
(4) Best fits the evidence

C. Locale – Judah

D. Historical Setting - Above-mentioned sacking of Jerusalem

E. Major Points

1. God will avenge Israel
   a. Principle of divine justice
   b. Principle of Abrahamic Covenant
   c. Principle of God’s sovereignty and control of the nations

2. God will restore Israel - God controls the future

F. Theme - The Doom of Edom

G. The Vision of Obadiah

1. Vision: לֶחֶם - The means of Divine communication

2. Of Obadiah - The prophetic means

3. *Thus says the Lord Jehovah concerning Edom*
   a. The source of the prophecy - *The Lord Jehovah*
   b. The subject – *Edom*
      (1) The sin: Esau, the twin brother of Jacob
      (2) Southeast of Israel
      (3) Jagged sandstone mountain rising as high as five thousand feet above sea level - Giving her a sense of security
(4) Controlled a major part of the King’s Highway thus bringing in wealth through levy

(5) A long history of hostility toward Israel - Numbers 20:14-21
II. THE DESTRUCTION OF EDOM - 1b-9

A. The Call to the Nations - 1b

1. The Source
   a. *We have heard tidings from Jehovah*
   b. *We* - The prophet and the people

2. The Means: *An ambassador is sent among the nations*
   a. *Ambassador* - Angel sent to stir up nations against Edom
   b. Angelic influence over nations

3. The Content
   a. *Arise ye*
   b. *Let us rise up against her in battle*

B. The Pride of Edom Destroyed - 2-4

1. Her Population Reduced – 2
   a. *Behold - I have made you small among the nations*
   b. *You are greatly despised*

2. Her Pride in Her Security – 3
   a. *The pride of your heart has deceived you*
   b. *O You - Who dwells in the clefts of the rocks*

(1) *Clefts of the rocks*
   (a) Rocky defense of the Edomite plateau
(b) Hebrew: *Sela* - Word-play with the name of the Edomite town

(2) Where key cities were located

(a) Sela

(b) Teman

(c) Bozrah (Petra)

c. *Whose habitation is high* - Mount Seir

d. *That says in his heart - Who shall bring me down to the ground?*

3. The Pride Brought Down – 4

a. *Though you mount on high as the eagle* - The high flying bird

b. *Though you be set among the stars* - Highest visibility to the eye

c. *Nevertheless: I will bring you down from there says Jehovah*

   (1) The pride of her numbers

   (2) The pride of her defenses

   (3) The pride of her wealth

C. The Totality of the Destruction - 5-9

1. The Contrast - 5-6

a. The incomplete – 5

   (1) Thieves do not take all - 5a

      (a) The situation


i) If thieves come to you

ii) If robbers by night

(b) Exclamation: How are you cut off!

(c) The Fact: Would they not steal only till they have enough? - Yes!

2. Gleanings are always left - 5b

(a) The situation: If grape gatherers come to you

(b) The fact: Would they not leave some gleaning grapes? - Yes!

b. The complete – 6

(1) In the case of Edom, it is total - How are the things of Esau searched!

(2) There is nothing hidden that will escape - How are his hidden treasures sought out?

2. Deceptive Alliances – 7

a. All the men of your confederacy have brought you on the way - Even to the border

(1) The ones confederate with Edom will be the ones to destroy him

(2) Brought to the border - Escorted envoys to the border as a mark of loyalty but it is all a ploy

b. The men that were at peace with you

(1) Have deceived you

(2) Prevailed against you
c. They that eat your bread - Lay a snare under you

d. There is no understanding in him - In Edom

3. The Collapse of Wisdom: Shall I not in that day says Jehovah - 8

a. Destroy the wise men of Edom

b. And understanding out of the Mount of Esau?

4. The Collapse of Courage - 9

a. The strength of Teman collapsed - And your mighty men, O Teman shall be dismayed

b. Totality of the slaughter - To the end that everyone may be cut off from the Mount of Esau by slaughter
III. THE REASON FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF EDOM - 10-14

A. Violence Against Brother Jacob: *For violence done to your brother Jacob* - 10

1. Edom - Brother of Israel
2. It is the violence of a brother against brother
3. Results
   a. First: *Shame will cover you* - Edom will be shamed
   b. Second: *You shall be cut off forever* - They shall be totally cut off
4. The following reasons show a gradual five stage increase of the sin

B. Hostile Attitude – 11

1. *In the day that you stood on the other side* - Edom stood back without helping
2. *In the day*
   a. *That stranger carried away his substance*
   b. *Foreigners (Philistines and Arabs) entered into his gates*
   c. *Cast lots for Jerusalem*
3. Result of Attitude: *Even you were as one of them* - Identified themselves with strangers and foreigners and not brother Jacob

C. Glee Over the Fall – 12

1. *But you - Look not*
   a. *On the day of your brother*
   b. *In the day of his disaster*
2.  *Rejoice not*
   
a.  *Over the Children of Judah*
   
b.  *In the day of their destruction*

3.  *Neither speak not proudly - In the day of distress*

D.  *Spoiling the City – 13*

   1.  *Enter not into the gate of My people - In the day of their calamity*
   
   2.  *Look you not on their affliction - In the day of their calamity*
   
   3.  *Neither ye lay hands on their substance - In the day of their calamity*

E.  *Blocking Escape - 14a*

   1.  *Stand you not in the crossway*
   
   2.  *Purpose: To cut off those of his that escape*

F.  *Turning Captives Over to the Enemy - 14b*

   1.  *Deliver not those of his that remain*
   
   2.  *In the day of distress*

G.  *Ezekiel 35:1-5*
IV. THE DAY OF JEHOVAH - 15-16

A. The Time of Retribution – 15

1. *For the Day of Jehovah is near upon all the nations* - The destruction of Verses 1b-9 will be fulfilled in the Great Tribulation

2. What they did to Israel will be done to them - Curse for curse in kind
   a. *As you have done - It shall be done unto you*
   b. *Your dealing shall return upon your own head*

B. The Cause for Retribution – 16

1. *For as ye have drunk upon My Holy Mountain* - They swallowed wine and got drunk on Mount Zion

2. Now they too will be swallowed up
   a. *So shall all the nations drink continually*
   b. *Yea*

   (1) *They shall drink*

   (2) *And swallow down*

   c. *And shall be as though they have not been* - Cessation of existence

3. Zechariah 12:2-3
V. THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL - 17-21

A. The Remnant – 17

1. But in Mount Zion shall be those that escape
   a. Isaiah 4:2
   b. Isaiah 10:20-23
   c. Isaiah 37:31-32
   d. Joel 2:32

2. It will be holy - Mount Zion previously defiled by the Gentiles

3. The House of Jacob will possess their possessions - Restoration of things lost

B. The Destruction of Edom – 18

1. Edom Destroyed by Israel
   a. The house of Jacob shall be a fire
   b. The House of Joseph a flame
   c. The House of Esau for stubble
   d. They shall burn among them
   e. Ezekiel 25:12-14

2. There will be no remnant left - There shall not be any remaining to the House of Esau
   a. Isaiah 34:5-15
   b. Ezekiel 35:14-16
   c. Jeremiah 49:14-20
3. The Basis: *For Jehovah had spoken it*

C. Israel’s Possession of the Gentile Nations – 19

1. *They of the Negev (Simeon) will possess the Mount of Esau (Seir)* - 19a

2. *They of the Shephelah (Judah) will possess the Philistines* - 19b

3. The Ten Tribes will possess Samaria and Ephraim - 19c
   a. *They shall possess the field of Ephraim*
   b. *And the Field of Samaria*

4. Benjamin will possess Gilead - 19b

D. The Return of the Captives – 20

1. *The Captives of this Host of the Children of Israel* - 20a
   a. רֹמַיִּים לַמִּשְׂרָאֵל הָּלִבָּה
   b. May refer to the captivity of verse 14
   c. If so, would events of 10-14 be in the Great Tribulation? - Zechariah 14:1-2

2. *That are among the Caananites* - Phoenicia or Lebanon
   a. They will *possess even unto Zerapheth*
      (1) Lebanon
      (2) Lebanon is part of the Promised Land

3. The Captivity of Jerusalem: *The Captives of Jerusalem* - 20b
   a. *That are in Sepharad* - Unknown but possibly Spain
b. *They will possess the cities of the South* - The Negev

E. The Establishment of the Kingdom – 21

1. *Saviors will come up on Mount Zion to judge the Mount of Esau*

2. The Messianic King: *The Kingdom will be Jehovah’s*