

Obadiah

[Servant (or worshipper) of the Lord]

Summary

This is the only book of the Bible that has no chapters; just 2 verses. It is the shortest book in the old testament. Obadiah is a prophetic condemnation of Edom for their treatment of the people of Judah. This conflict goes back to the twins that Rebekah had in her womb, who were their patriarchs. The Edomites were descendants of her elder son, Esau and the people of Judah were the descendants of Jacob. Just as there was conflict in the womb between Jacob and Esau, there was conflict between their peoples. The Edomites had closed their borders and their hearts to the people of Israel as they are on their way to the promise land. They even looted Jerusalem after its fall. God's judgement against Edom was, therefore, harsh: the nation would be destroyed with no possibility of recovery. Obadiah teaches that God's treatment of us is based in part on the way we treat others in his kingdom family. **OUR CHOICES CAN HAVE LONG-TERM IMPACT ON OUR LIVES, JUST LIKE JACOB AND ESAU.**

Author and Date:

Obadiah, 590 BC.

Audience/ Setting:

Edomites and Israelites in the southern kingdom of Judah. Historically, Edom harassed the Israelites. Before this book, Edom participated in attacks against Judah.

Purpose:

To prophecy and explain the coming destruction of Edom. Provide hope for the people of Judah; that God doesn't allow the mistreatment of His people to go unnoticed.

Key People:

Edomites and Israelites.

Key Places:

Edomites

References

NLT Life Application Study Bible
Tony Evans Study Bible