

1. Obadiah contains only 21 verses. It is the shortest Old Testament book.
2. Nothing is known of the background or life and ministry of Obadiah. His name was a common one, meaning "Worshiper of Yahweh."
3. The message of the book is primarily one of judgment, and it is not quoted in the New Testament.
4. The Book of Obadiah may be small but it contains a powerful message about the justice of God. His righteousness demanded vengeance on Edom.
5. Judgment against Edom is mentioned in more Old Testament books than it is against any other foreign nation
6. The message, however, concerns more than Edom. It is placed in the context of a day of judgment on all nations when they receive just recompense for all their deeds.
7. Obadiah's message makes it very clear that God is sovereign over the nations of the earth. They may create chaos by mistreating God's people; they may seem to get by with it, but the day of the Lord will come and set things right.
8. The problems between the Edomites and the Israelites is one of the oldest examples of discord in human relationships.
9. The conflict started during the struggle between Jacob and Esau in the womb of their mother Rebekah (Gen. 25:21-26).
10. Years later, when Esau was hungry, he readily traded his birthright to Jacob for some stew.
11. Esau was also called Edom (Gen. 25:30), which means red. Also - when Esau was born his skin appeared red (Gen. 25:25).
12. Later Esau moved to the land of Seir (Gen. 36:8-9), the red sandstone area southeast of the Dead Sea.
13. There his descendants, the Edomites, drove out the Horites. (Deuteronomy 2:12, 22).
14. Edom refused to let the Israelites pass through their land when Israel was on the way to the Promised Land. (Numbers 20:14-21)
15. But God told Israel not to hate Edom since they were related. (Deuteronomy 23:7)
16. However, hostility developed and continued for centuries. (Ezekiel 35:5)
17. Saul (1 Sam. 14:47), David (2 Sam. 8:13-14), Joab (1 Kings 11:16), and Solomon (1 Kings 11:17-22) all had problems with the sons of Edom.
18. Jehoshaphat of Judah and Joram of Israel joined with Edom in an attack against Moab (2 Kings 3).

19. Also in Jehoshaphat's reign Edom joined the Ammonites and the Moabites in an attack against Judah, but the attack ended with the Ammonites and Moabites defeating the Edomites. (2 Chronicles 20:1-2, 10-11, 22-26).
20. In the reign of Jehoram, Jehoshaphat's son, Edom revolted against Judah and crowned their own king. (2 Kings 8:20-22; 2 Chronicles 21:8)
21. Later Amaziah, king of Judah, crushed Edom, and changed the name of the city Sela to Joktheel. (2 Kings 14:7; 2 Chron. 25:11-12)
22. Later Edom attacked Judah during Ahaz's reign. (2 Chronicles 28:17)
23. What kind of judgment did God promise to send to the nation of Edom? (verses 2-4)
24. Edom was a proud nation that considered itself impregnable and invulnerable because it was situated in the clefts of the rock.
25. Like the eagles, the Edomites lived on the rocks and looked down upon the nations around them. The Edomites thought they were a great people, but God said He would make them small.
26. The prophet also said that their wealth would be plundered. (verses 5-6).
27. Third, the Lord would work so that their alliances would be broken and their wisdom removed. (verses 7-8)
28. Obadiah announced that Edom's army would be defeated. (Obad. 9). The Greeks and Romans called these Edomites "Idumeans" (Mark 3:8), and from them came Herod the Great.
29. Having announced what God was going to do to Edom, Obadiah then proceeded to defend God's judgment of the nation. (verses 10-16)
30. Also, a word from the Prophet Amos: "For three sins of Edom, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. (Amos 1:11)
31. Edom's third great sin was assisting the enemy in attacking the Jews. (verses 13-14)
32. Edom's fourth sin was that of ignoring the impending wrath of God. (verses 15-16)
33. Now that the prophecy about Edom has been delivered, Obadiah turns to His own people and announces three divine promises. (v17-21)
34. When the great and terrible Day of the Lord dawns, the nations of the world will be judged for the way they have treated one another and the nation of Israel. Until that day comes, we must keep praying "Thy kingdom come" and seek to obey His command to take the Gospel to the whole world.