

The Edom Experience

Chapter 4

Audio Lesson: Old Testament number 77



Objective: To understand the warning in Obadiah's message.



“The house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, so that there will be no survivor in the house of Esau.”

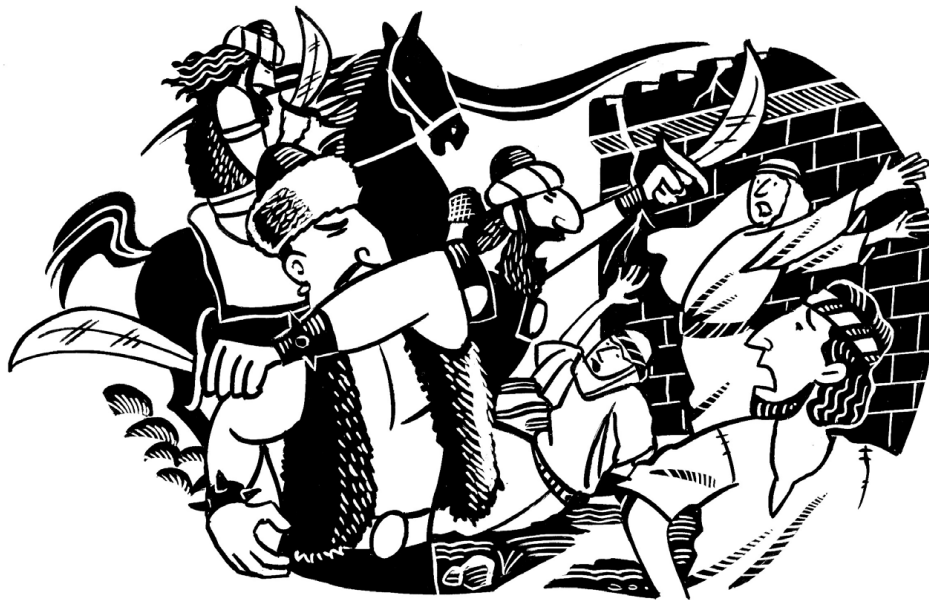
—Obadiah 18

The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

—Romans 8:6

God spoke through Obadiah to condemn the nation of Edom because its people had rejoiced and gloated when Judah fell. God promised through Obadiah that it would eventually be annihilated because of its arrogance. History has proven the prophecy true, as the nation of Edom was conquered several times and its people no longer exist today. In His dealings with Edom, God demonstrated His covenant with Abraham to *“bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse”* (Genesis 12:3).

The story of the enmity between Israel and Edom goes back to Jacob and Esau. Jacob sought spiritual blessing and became the father of Israel. Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup and was rejected by God. These brothers represent for us the difference between those who are spiritual, who seek God and obey His ways, and those only interested in the material world and their selfish desires.



1. True or false? Obadiah is the smallest book in the Old Testament.
2. True or false? Obadiah's prophecy does not specify the date and historical context in which it was written.
3. True or false? The Edomites were known for being aggressive raiders.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. In what book of the Bible do we find the story of the Edomites' origins?
 - a. Genesis
 - b. Numbers
 - c. 2 Chronicles
 - d. Obadiah
5. Who did the Edomites descend from?
 - a. Jacob
 - b. Esau
 - c. Moses
 - d. David
6. How did Edomites feel about Jews?
 - a. They loved them as brothers.
 - b. They felt inferior to them.
 - c. They hated them.
 - d. They never had any contact with them.
7. What role did Edomites play in the fall of Jerusalem?
 - a. They helped Babylon destroy the city.
 - b. They helped Jews defend the city.
 - c. They tried to negotiate peace.
 - d. They completely ignored the situation.
8. What was Obadiah's message to Edom?
 - a. He blessed them even though they helped destroy Jerusalem.
 - b. He promised that the Jews would help them if they were attacked.
 - c. He called all of God's people to battle against them.
 - d. He prophesied that the country would be punished and its people would be wiped out.
9. What happened to Edom after the fall of Jerusalem?
 - a. It prospered greatly.
 - b. It was immediately destroyed.
 - c. It was conquered three times—by Babylon, the Jews, and the Romans.
 - d. Its people have occupied the land of Israel to this day.

10. Which of the following devotional truths can be found in Obadiah? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. Everyone must eventually face the consequences of their life.
 - b. God's judgment only applies to those who are not His people.
 - c. We should not envy the way of the transgressor.
 - d. God will fulfill His covenant to bless those who bless His chosen people and to curse those who curse them.
 - e. The nations of Jacob and Esau will eventually reconcile.
 - f. God will eventually work all things together for the good of His people.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able to bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

— 1 Corinthians 10:13



Jacob and Esau represent the two natures we each have—the spirit and the flesh. Which seems to be stronger in your life? What can you do to ensure that your spiritual nature wins each battle?



Thank God for His faithfulness and that He has given His Spirit to those who love Him. Ask Him to help you always seek eternal spiritual blessing over material blessing.



Going Deeper

1. Who was Edom and why is Obadiah so upset with him? _____

2. How many “*You should not have's*” can you find in this shortest book in the Old Testament?

3. In what ways are they the key to understanding this book? _____

4. Look up the history of the Red Rock City of Petra and relate that history to this prophecy of Obadiah. _____

5. In what ways do Jacob and Esau (Edom) represent the spiritual man and the secular man of the flesh? _____

6. Having visited Petra, I have been deeply impressed to see how the prophecy of Obadiah concerning Edom has been fulfilled. Precisely, what was his prophecy concerning this nation of people? _____

7. Explain how our Jacob potential and our Esau potential can exist in one person. _____
