

OBADIAH

- 1) -- This Obadiah probably lived and prophesied in the 5th century BC. There is a reference to Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Therefore, he is not the Obadiah of Ahab's time (860), who defied Jezebel (1 Kings 18:3,4). /// Vss 1-4 are the same as Jer 49:14-16. Vss 5-6 same as Jer 49:9-10. /// There are so many similarities to both Jeremiah and Joel that they either used the same sources or borrowed from each other. /// The Hebrew MT vocalizes his name "öbadyâ", meaning "worshiper of Yahweh." The LXX used the Greek Abdiou.. The Latin Vulgate rendered it Abdias, "servant of Yahweh." /// Perhaps like Amos, he was not a professional prophet but called by God for a specific task. /// Edom is located south of the Dead Sea, mostly mountains, only 70 x15 miles in area, characterized by reddish rocks. The Edomites arrived c 1300 BCE, before the Israelites arrived in Canaan. The struggle between the twins in Rebecca's womb (Gen 25:22-26) symbolizes the hostility between Israel and Edom. The mutual hostility began when the Israelites wanted to cross Edom on their way from Egypt and Canaan and the king refused. This continued and reached its peak when the Edomites joined the Babylonians in destroying Jerusalem and capturing fugitives who had fled. /// After Israel's exile, a small group of Edomites moved to the south of Palestine to escape the Nabateans and were known as Idumeans. Herod the Great was an Idumean.
- 2) v 3 – "Clefts in the rock: – Edom's capital Sela ("rock" in Hebrew) was located on a plain among high mountains and could be approached from only one direction.
- 3) 7 – "Ate your bread" – your close friends.
- 4) 9 – Teman was an important town in the caravan trade. Eliphaz in Job was from Teman and represents a type of wisdom severely criticized in the book of Job.
- 5) 16 – The idea of divine judgment is likened to a drunk person – the outpouring of God's wrath, the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem.
- 6) 18 – "House of Joseph" may be a poetic allusion to Israel and its salvation. "House of Esau" is Edom. "Flame" and "fire" refer to God's wrath being executed by the Israelites against Edom.
- 7) 19- 20: Indicating that all of the lands they once possessed will again be theirs – northwest to Phoenicia, northeast to Gilead, north to Samaria, south to Idumea and the Negev, west to Philistia. /// Sepharad. No one knows where this was. But the Jews in Muslim Spain in the Middle Ages decided it was a reference to Spain. Therefore, the Jews of Spain and Portugal and their descendants to the present day are the **Sephardic** Jews, the first Jews to migrate to the U.S. (They speak Ladino, a dying language with only 100,000 speakers left (1993), based on medieval Castilian Spanish, written in Hebrew characters. It was the language of Columbus, Queen Isabella, Cervantes, etc.) The **Ashkenazim** descended from the Jews who migrated to Europe after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and had no contact with Babylonia. Their language is Yiddish. Others believe that it referred to Sardinia, making the first reference to the Jews in Asia. This would have been part of the Diaspora which began in the late 3rd century, BCE when Antiochus III moved 2,000 Jews from Babylon to Lydia and Phrygia to serve in the military.