

FILLMORE STUDY BIBLE

The Book of Obadiah

Metaphysically Interpreted



FILLMORE BIBLE SOCIETY

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<https://fillmore.bible>

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Front cover image: Obadiah: Angels with Symbols of Passion and Prophets. Fresco by Melozzo da Forlì, 1477. Santuario della Santa Casa, Loreto, Italy. Public Domain.

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The Fillmore Bible Society

The Fillmore Bible Society are collaborators who comb through dozens of metaphysical books written by Charles Fillmore and his students as well as over 70 years of Fillmore articles and sermons for metaphysical insights into the Bible. They edit and submit these insights as short annotations which are then applied to the text of the text of the World English Bible, a contemporary-language update of the American Standard Version of the Bible, both online and in print.

This collaboration project is managed by TruthUnity Ministries, which is the publisher of The Fillmore Study Bible. In time the Fillmore Bible Society will become free-standing with its own board, Editorial staff and peer-review committee.

Members of the Fillmore Bible Society include:



Rev. Dan Beckett. Mark, Colossians.



Thomas Scheinler. Acts, Galatians.



Rev. Lisa Herklotz and Rev Jim Ernstsens.
Revelation to John.



Susan St John. Hebrews.



Rev. Mark Hicks. General Editor. John,
Acts, Romans, Corinthians 1.



Rev. Michelle Vargas. Luke.



Mary Salama. Matthew, Corinthians 2,
Thessalonians 1 & 2, Timothy 1 & 2,
Titus, Peter 1 & 2, Jude.

The Fillmore Study Bible

The Fillmore Study Bible provides the reader with an introduction to metaphysical Bible interpretation by offering annotations and commentary from the works of Charles Fillmore and his students. Many Bible students learn their theology by reading the annotations and commentary of study Bibles. Study Bibles have a theological point of view, typically Catholic, Evangelical or Mainline Protestant. The Fillmore Study Bible makes this method of study available to the Metaphysical Christian.

Metaphysical Christianity is an authentic and distinct expression of the historic Christian faith that acknowledges and embraces the influence of Platonic and Stoic Greek philosophy in the early development of Christian theology. Much of this influence has been suppressed in orthodox Bible commentaries because metaphysical interpretation relies on an inner knowingness as authority for spiritual matters. The annotations included here embrace inner knowingness as authority.

This study bible uses the *World English Bible* translation, which is a contemporary-language update of the bible used by Charles Fillmore, the American Standard Version. The language of the WEB is not American nor British, but *contemporary, world* English, making the text pleasant to read for the broadest possible audience of global English speakers. The WEB differs from several contemporary-language translations by not adopting gender neutral language but it has provided footnotes when gender neutral language would be appropriate.

We believe that our present day culture of information, science and technology is ready to restore to it's spiritual teachings the perspectives of original thinkers who gave us not only mathematics, ethics, democracy and medicine, but also deep insights into the inner world of soul and Divine mind—the Greek metaphysicians. We also believe that contemporary Christianity needs a contemporary, global interpretation applied to a contemporary, global biblical text. The Fillmore Study Bible is our offering for addressing these spiritual needs.

THE BOOK OF OBADIAH



Obadiah: Angels with Symbols of Passion and Prophets. Fresco by Melozzo da Forlì, 1477. Santuario della Santa Casa, Loreto, Italy. Public Domain.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

Obadiah (215-216)

<< Third Isaiah (213-215) • (LTBL Index) • Malachi (216-218) >>

Obadiah gave his messages sometime between the completion of the Temple and the coming of Ezra to Jerusalem. They consist of denunciations of Edom and predictions of her doom. Edom was the country to the south of Judah and had been the Jews' enemy for centuries. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, the one who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, while the Jews were the descendants of Jacob, the one who received the name Israel. The former were wholly materialistic in their outlook and, jealous of the Jews, rejoiced when their country fell in 586 B.C. Edom took every advantage of Judah's misfortune and for this gained the hatred of the Jews.

The Book of Obadiah is the shortest in the Old Testament, consisting of only one chapter. Charles Fillmore states that Obadiah represents:

The higher thoughts in man that serve and worship God through the I AM, Jehovah, indwelling Christ. They are faithful and true. They are thoughts that are obedient to spiritual ideals, that hear and heed the voice of Spirit (MBD/Obadiah).

There are two passages in The Book of Obadiah that are especially worthy of remembering. The first is a prediction of Edom's downfall:


Though thou mount on high as the eagle, and though thy nest be set among the stars, I will bring thee down from thence, saith Jehovah (Obadiah 1:4).

When the higher thoughts become active in consciousness, we realize that no matter how mighty we become when dominated by Edom (sense consciousness), the law of the Lord shall bring us down. This is ever the fate of man functioning apart from God.

The second outstanding passage in Obadiah's book relates the inevitable reward of a spiritual attitude:

But in Mount Zion there shall be those that escape, and it shall be holy; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions (Obadiah 1:17).

As we learn to harmonize ourselves with our indwelling Lord, we escape the evils that attend persons who live in sense consciousness; we experience holiness or wholeness. In the house of Jacob (spiritual consciousness) we shall possess our possessions instead of our possessions possessing us.

 Introduction to *The Book of Obadiah* by Elizabeth Sand Turner, *Let There Be Light* pp.215-216.

OBADIAH 1

Proud Edom Will Be Brought Low

¹ The vision of Obadiah.^① This is what the Lord* Yahweh† says about Edom.^② We have heard news from Yahweh, and an ambassador is sent among the nations, saying, "Arise, and let's rise up against her in battle." ² Behold,‡ I have made you small among the nations. You are greatly despised. ³ The pride of your heart^③ has deceived you, you who dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high,^④ who says in his heart, "Who will bring me down to the ground?"

1. *Obadiah*. The higher thoughts in man that serve and worship God through the I AM, Jehovah, indwelling Christ. They are faithful and true. They are thoughts that are obedient to spiritual ideals, that hear and heed the voice of Spirit.

2. *Edom*. A nation descended from Esau, Jacob's brother. As Jacob and Esau had a contentious relationship, so did Edom and Israel. When Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, Edomites took advantage and earned the ire of the Jews. Metaphysically represents the outer man, the body, or the carnal, physical phase of man's consciousness and organism; sense consciousness.

3. *The pride of your heart*. Edom was located on higher elevations in the mountains of Seir; Edomites thought very highly of themselves and superior to the Israelites. Metaphysically, sense thoughts seem more important than spiritual ones and thus can be easily prioritized.

4. *whose habitation is high*. When operating apart from God, pridefully, and dominated by sense consciousness, man will be brought down, humbled.

Pillage and Slaughter Will Repay Edom's Cruelty

⁴ Though you mount on high as the eagle, and though your nest is set among the stars, I will bring you down from there,” says Yahweh. ⁵ “If thieves came to you, if robbers by night—oh, what disaster awaits you—wouldn’t they only steal until they had enough? If grape pickers came to you, wouldn’t they leave some gleaning grapes? ⁶ How Esau will be ransacked! How his hidden treasures are sought out! ⁷ All the men of your alliance have brought you on your way, even to the border. The men who were at peace with you have deceived you, and prevailed against you. Friends who eat your bread lay a snare under you. There is no understanding in him.”

⁸ “Won’t I in that day”, says Yahweh, “destroy the wise men out of Edom,¹ and understanding out of the mountain of Esau? ⁹ Your mighty men, Teman,² will be dismayed, to the end that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

1. *Destroy the wise men out of Edom.* As Edom has done to the Israelites, so it will be done to them.

2. *Teman.* Refers to the realm of the subconsciousness with its inherently rich stores of substance and good. Here this realm is under the influence of the Edom phase of mind in the individual; under material thought.

Edom Mistreated His Brother

¹⁰ For the violence done to your brother¹ Jacob, shame will cover you, and you will be cut off forever. ¹¹ In the day that you stood on the other side, in the day that strangers carried away his substance and foreigners entered into his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, even you were like one of them. ¹² But don’t look down on your brother in the day of his disaster, and don’t rejoice over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction. Don’t speak proudly in the day of distress. ¹³ Don’t enter into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity. Don’t look down on their affliction in the day of their calamity, neither seize their wealth on the day of their calamity. ¹⁴ Don’t stand in the crossroads to cut off those of his who escape. Don’t deliver up those of his who

remain in the day of distress. ¹⁵ For the day of Yahweh is near all the nations! As you have done, it will be done to you.² Your deeds will return upon your own head. ¹⁶ For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations will drink continually. Yes, they will drink, swallow down, and will be as though they had not been.

1. *For the violence done to your brother.* Referencing the violence Edomites committed against the descendants of Jacob, the Israelites. The atrocities are detailed here.

2. *as you have done, it will be done to you.* Obadiah’s message is now applied to all nations and peoples. Those who act pridefully, and harm others, will one day receive what they’ve given. Proudful nations will be judged.

Israel’s Final Triumph

¹⁷ But in Mount Zion,¹ there will be those who escape, and it will be holy. The house of Jacob will possess their possessions. ¹⁸ The house of Jacob will be a fire, the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble.² They will burn among them and devour them. There will not be any remaining to the house of Esau.” Indeed, Yahweh has spoken.

¹⁹ Those of the South will possess³ the mountain of Esau, and those of the lowland,


the Philistines. They will possess the field of Ephraim, and the field of Samaria. Benjamin will possess Gilead. ²⁰ The captives of this army of the children of Israel, who are among the Canaanites, will possess even to Zarephath; and the captives of Jerusalem, who are in Sepharad, will possess the cities of the Negev. ²¹ Saviors will go up on Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom will be Yahweh’s.

1. *Mount Zion*. Dwelling place of high, holy thoughts and ideals; love's abode. As we learn to harmonize ourselves with God, we escape the harms that come with living in sense consciousness; we experience holiness or wholeness [Turner, Let There Be Light].

2. *stubble*. Cut stalks of grain plants left sticking out of the ground after the grain is harvested. Joseph is Jacob's son. Metaphysically, spiritual or I

AM consciousness (Jacob) and imagination (Joseph) will overcome the animal mind (Esau).

3. *will possess*. Metaphysically, a description of change in consciousness culminating in higher forms of thought overcoming those of sense consciousness.

 Fillmore Study Bible annotations by Mark Hicks.

World English Bible Footnotes:

* 1:1. The word translated “Lord” is “Adonai.”

† 1:1. “Yahweh” is God’s proper Name, sometimes rendered “LORD” (all caps) in other translations.

‡ 1:2. “Behold”, from “הִנֵּה”, means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

APPENDICES

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Nearly all the New Testament writings are available online. Print editions of individual books, like this one, are being released as they become available. The society's focus in 2023 is publishing a complete New Testament edition and the start of selected Old Testament books. The society welcomes new collaborators in this ongoing project.



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