

Obadiah (Worshipper of Jehovah)

Probably lived in Judah

Prophecy against Edom

Theme

The struggle between the descendants of Esau and Jacob.

Edom and the Israelites

Obadiah condemns Edom for refusing to help Israel

They did not help Israel during the time of Moses (Numbers 20:14-21)

Or in the time of invasion

Location of Edom

Lamentations 4:21

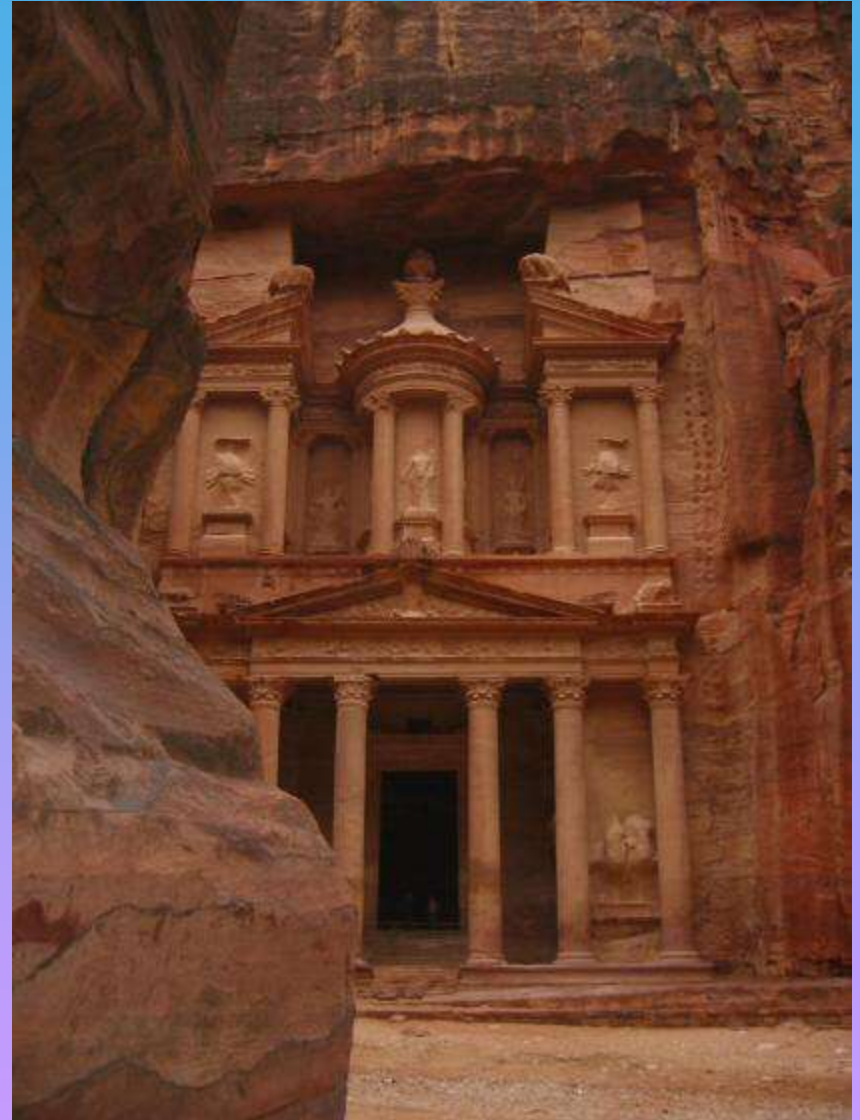
'Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz...'

Edom was at the southern end of the Dead Sea.



Obadiah 3

‘The pride of your heart has deceived you, you that dwells in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that says in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?’



Petra - Picture Wikipedia (Petra)

Time of Obadiah

Obadiah vv.10-14

Which invasion? 4 possibilities.

1. Reign of Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:25-26)

926 BC Shishak of Egypt plundered Jerusalem

Too early. Edom was still subject to Israel at this time.

2. Reign of Jehoram (848-841BC)

Arabs and Philistines invaded Judah (2 Chronicles 21:16-17)

Edom revolted at this time. (2 Kings 8:20-22)

Fits

3. 790 BC King Jehoash of Israel invaded Judah (2 Kings 14, 2 Chr. 25)

Does not fit description – Israel and Judah were not strangers (Obadiah v.11)

4. 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed Jerusalem.

Not likely because Edom could not have helped Judah.

Jeremiah even told the Jews they should not defend themselves but go into captivity for 70 years.

The time of Obadiah must be during the reign of Jehoram (848-841BC)

Therefore Obadiah must have been written sometime after 848 BC.

Obadiah was therefore a contemporary of Elisha.

History of the Edomites

Descendants of Esau – Edom means red. The name was associated with the red stew that Esau took from Jacob when he sold his birthright.

Esau moved to the area called Seir where the Horites lived.

Refused Israel passage on the way to the promised land.

Opposed Saul.

Overcome by David and ruled over by Solomon.

Fought Jehoshaphat.

Rebelled against Jehoram.

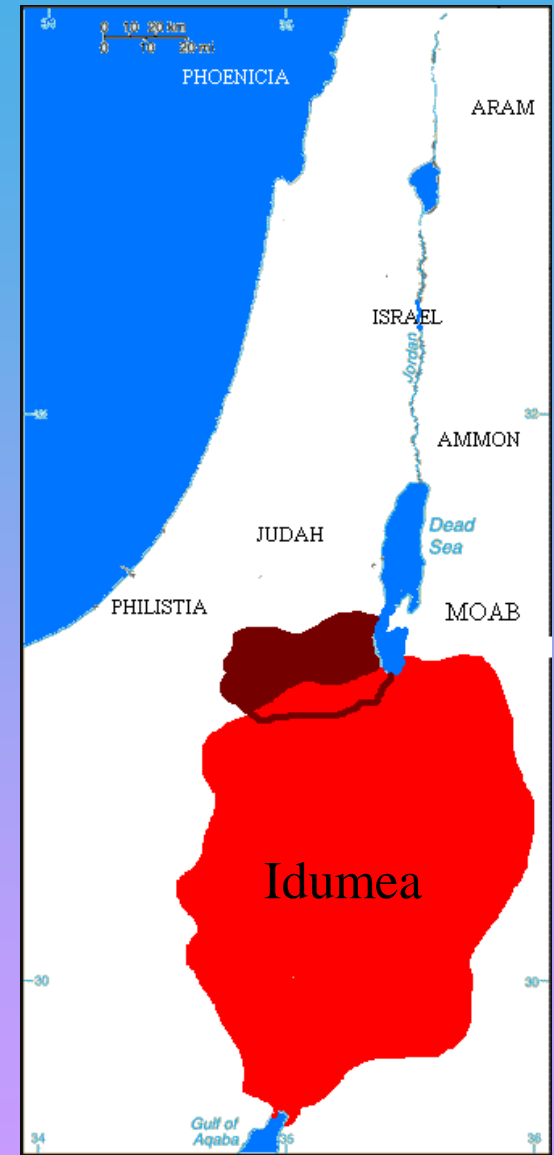
Conquered by Amaziah.

Broke from Judah in time of Ahaz.

Controlled by Assyrians and Babylonians.

Pushed out of Seir by Nabateans.

Moved to Southern Israel and became known as Idumeans.



Wikipedia - Edom

Shortest book in the Old Testament - 21 Verses

Judgment of Edom (1-18)

No survivor shall remain of the house of Esau

Fulfilled AD 70 – War of the Jews. Revolt against the Romans

Ironically their destruction was completed when they fought with the Jews against the Romans.

Reasons for Edom's judgment (v.10-14)

Judgment over their treatment of Israel.

Should not have joined themselves with the enemies of Israel.

- Gloating when Israel was surrounded by her enemies
- Rejoicing over Israel's destruction
- Speaking proudly over Israel's distress
- Entering Israel's territory
- Seeking to gain from Israel's affliction
- Seeking Israel's possessions
- Helping Israel's enemies by preventing escape
- Helping Israel's enemies by finding those who remained

Day of the Lord (v.15-18)

Retribution – sowing and reaping

Drinking destruction

Mount Zion – salvation and holiness. Blessing of prosperity.

Israel – fire and flame. Edom the stubble.

Restoration of Israel (19-21)

The children of Israel will possess the land.

From the mountains of Esau (19), lowland of the Philistines.

The fields of Ephraim and Samaria.

Benjamin will possess Gilead

North to Zaraphath

The captives of Jerusalem in Sepharad will possess the cities of the South.

The kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Final Destruction of Edom

King Herod was an Idumean.

The Idumeans revolted with the Jews against the Romans and were defeated in AD 70.

All mention of the Idumeans ended with the destruction of Jerusalem.