OET
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Translation

Open English Translation of the Bible

Ovadyah

(Obadiah)

Introduction

This short document was written by the prophet Ovadyah (three syllables, traditionally spelt as ‘Obadiah’) and is about God’s judgement and punishment of Edom—the nation made up of Esav’s descendants. Esav was Ya’akov’s twin-brother—the sons of Yitshak (‘Isaac’), however the two sets of descendants ended up as enemies. So that’s why Edom’s people were very glad when the Babylonian army destroyed Yerushalem in 586 before Yeshua/Jesus (B.C.), and not just that, they took advantage of the invasion to join in looting the city and help the invaders. Here, God passes on through Ovadyah the declaration that Edom will be punished and defeated and their warriors would be slaughtered without any survivors, thus allowing Yisrael/Israel to recapture their lands.

Main components of this document

The punishment of Edom *1-14*
The day of the Master God *15-21*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 This is the vision of Ovadyah (Obadiah) given by the master Yahweh concerning the Edom region:

Coming punishment for Edom

We have heard from Yahweh and a messenger has been sent to the nations, telling them:
Get everything ready then go into battle against Edom.
2 And Yahweh says to Edom:
Listen,
I will make you into an insignificant nation.
You'll become utterly despised.
3 Your inner pride has deceived you,
you who live on the rocky cliffs,
with your homes up there so high.
You say to yourselves that
no one can bring you down to the ground.
4 If you go up high like an eagle,
even if your nest was up between the stars,
Yahweh declares that his command can bring you down from there.
5 If it was thieves who came to destroy you in the night,
(and yes, you're going to be destroyed)
they would only steal what they wanted.
Or if it was grape-pickers who came to you,
at least they'd leave behind the smaller grapes.
6 How Esav's (Esau's) descendants will be looted.
Their hidden treasures will be found and taken.
7 Those who have treaties with you will force you to the border.
Those who talk about peace will deceive you.
Those who eat meals with you will set a trap for you.
You have no idea what's about to hit you.
8 Yahweh will make a declaration on that day.
The wise people of Edom will be destroyed.
Understanding will disappear from Esav's (Esau's) hill.
9 And you the city of Teyman, your warriors will

Literal Version

1:1 The_vision_of ʿOvadʸāh thus my_master **YHWH** he_says of_'Edōm a_report we_have_heard from_with **YHWH** and_an_envoy among_nations he_has_been_sent arise and_let_us_arise on/upon_it(f)[123] for_battle.

2 HERE small I_will_make_you among_nations you will_be_despised exceedingly. **3** The_ _presumption_of your_heart_of_your it_has_ _deceived_you Oh_you_who_dwell_of in_clefts_of rock the_height_of his_dwelling_of_his he_is_ _saying in_heart_of_his who will_he_bring_me_ _down the_ground. **4** If you_will_make_high like_ _eagle and_if between the_stars nest_of_your will_be_set from_there I_will_bring_you_down the_utterance_of **YHWH**. **5** If thieves they_came to/for_yourself(m) if destroyers_of night how you_will_be_destroyed am_not will_they_steal sufficiency_of_their if grape_gatherers they_ _came to/for_you(fs) am_not will_they_leave gleanings. **6** How Esau they_will_be_plundered treasures_of_its_hidden they_will_be_searched_ _out. **7** To the_border they_will_send_you_away all_of the_men_of your_covenant_of_your they_ _will_deceive_you they_will_prevail to/for_ _yourself(m) the_men_of your_peace_of_your food_of_your they_will_set a_trap under_you there_is_not understanding in/on/over_him/it. **8** Am_not in_the_day (the)_that the_utterance_of **YHWH** and_I_will_destroy wise_people from_ _'Edōm and_understanding from_hill of_Esau. **9** And_ your_of_warriors _they_will_be_dismayed Oh_Tēymān so_that everyone he_may_be_cut_off from_hill of_Esau from_slaughter.

1 LV 1:1 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

2 LV 1:1 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

3 LV 1:1 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

Literal Version

10 From_the_violence_of your(ms)_ _brother/kindred Ya´ₐqov/(Jacob) it_will_cover_ _you shame and_you_will_be_cut_off forever_ _perpetuity. **11** In/on_day stood_you from_before in/on_day strangers took_captive wealth_of_his and_foreigners they_came his[5] and_on Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) they_throw a_lot also you like_one of_them. **12** And_do_not look on_ _the_day_of your(ms)_brother/kindred in/on_ _day his_misfortune_of_his and_do_not rejoice to_the_people_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) in/on_day perish_they and_do_not make_big mouth_of_your in/on_day trouble. **13** Do_not go in_the_gate_of my_people_of_my in/on_day their_disaster_of_ _their do_not also you look on_calamity_of_his in/on_day his_disaster_of_his and_do_not stretch_out on_wealth_of_his in/on_day his_ _disaster_of_his. **14** And_do_not stand at the_ _parting_ways to_cut_off ~~DOM~~ fugitives_of_his and_do_not deliver_up survivors_of_his in/on_ _day trouble.

15 If/because is_near the_day_of **YHWH** on all_of the_nations just_as you_have_done it_will_be_ _done to_you recompense_of_your it_will_return on_your_own_of_head. **16** If/because just_as you(pl)_have_drunk on the_mountain_of my_ _holiness_of_my all_of the_nations they_will_ _drink continually and_they_will_drink and_ _they_will_swallow and_they_will_be like_those_ _who_not they_had_been.

Readers' Version

be shattered,
so that everyone from Esav's hill country will be slaughtered.

The charges against Edom

10 Because of your violence against your brother Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants,
shame will overcome you,
and you'll be destroyed forever.
11 You just stood and watched on that day when strangers carried away their wealth.
When foreigners entered their gates and took possession of Yerushalem (Jerusalem), you wished it was you doing that.
12 You shouldn't have gloated over your cousins on the day of their misfortune.
And you shouldn't have celebrated about the destruction of the people of Yehudah (Judah).
You shouldn't have bragged in their time of distress.
13 You shouldn't have gone into their city at the time of their calamity.
You shouldn't have gloated—yes, you—over their misery in their time of disaster.
And you women shouldn't have grabbed their wealth on the day of their catastrophe.
14 You shouldn't have stood at the crossroads to kill those trying to escape,
And you shouldn't have handed-over any survivors that you'd captured in their time of trouble.[4]

The punishment of nations

15 For all the nations, Yahweh's day is near,
Just as you've done, the same will be done to you.
Your actions will return onto your own head.
16 Because just like how all you Israelis[6] drank suffering on my holy mountain,
all the nations will drink continually.
They will drink and swallow it down.
They'll become as if they'd never even existed.

4 **RV 1:1-14 · Cross-ref.** Isa 34:5-17; 63:1-6; Jer 49:7-22; Eze 25:12-14; 35:1-15; Amos 1:11-12; Mal 1:2-5.

5 **LV 1:11 · Note** OSHB variant note: וּרְעֵשׁ: (x-qere) וְיִרְעָשׁ': lemma_8179 n_0.1.1 morph_HNcmpc/Sp3ms id_31ewe וְיִרְעָשׁ

6 **RV 1:16 · Note** It's not actually clear from the Hebrew who 'you all' refers to, so the addition of 'Israelis' is clearly an interpretive decision and other translations might differ.

Readers' Version

Yisrael's victory · Both kingdoms

17 But on Mt. Tsiyon (Zion), there'll be deliverance,
and it will be holy,
Yisrael's (Israel's) people will reclaim their possessions.
18 Yisrael's people will be a fire,
and Yosef's (Joseph's) descendants will be a flame.
None of Esav's (Esau's) descendants will survive,
because Yahweh has spoken.
19 The people from the Negev will take ownership of Esav's mountain,
and the people from the Shefelah will take ownership of the Pelishtim' land.
They will recapture the Efrayim (Ephraim) and Shomroni (Samaritan) countrysides,
and the people of Benyamin will recapture Gilead.
20 Yisrael's (Israel's) exiles will take ownership of the Kena'anim' (Canaanites') land as far as Tserefat,
and the exiles from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) (who are in Sefarad) will take ownership of the cities of the Negev.
21 The rescuers will go up Mt. Tsiyon (Zion) to judge Esav's mountain.
and Yahweh will be their king.

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Literal Version

17 And_on_the_mountain_of Tsiyyōn/(Zion) it_ _will_be deliverance and_it_was a_holy_place and_ the_house_of Ya'ₐqov/(Jacob) _they_will_ _take_possession_of ~~ĐOM~~ possessions_of_their.[7] **18** And_it_was the_house_of Ya'ₐqov a_fire and_ _the_house_of Yōşēf/(Joseph) will_be_a_flame and_the_house_of Esau will_become_(into)_ _stubble and_they_will_burn in/among_them and_they_will_consume_them and_not he_will_ _belong[89] a_survivor to_the_house_of Esau if/because **YHWH** he_has_spoken. **19** And_ the_ _Negev _they_will_take_possession_of ~~ĐOM~~ the_ _mountain_of Esau and_the_Shephelah ~~ĐOM~~ Pəlishtiy and_they_will_take_possession_of ~~ĐOM~~ the_region_of 'Efrayim and_~~ĐOM~~ the_region_of Shomrōn and_Binyāmīn ~~ĐOM~~ (the)_Gil'ād. **20** And_ _the_exile[s]_of the_fortress the_this of_the_ _people_of of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) that_which is_of_ _the_Kəna'ₐnī/(Kəna'ₐnī/(Canaanite)s) to Tsₑrəfat/(Zarephath) and_the_exile[s]_of Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) who are_in_Şəfārād they_will_take_possession_of ~~ĐOM~~ the_cities_of the_Negev. **21** And_ deliverers _they_will_go_up on_the_mountain_of Tsiyyōn/(Zion) to_rule ~~ĐOM~~ the_mountain_of Esau and_it_will_belong to/for_ _**YHWH** the_royalty.

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7 LV 1:17 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

8 LV 1:18 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

9 LV 1:18 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.