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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 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.[1]

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[2] 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.

Yisrael's victory · Both kingdoms

17 But on Mt. Tsiyon (Zion), there'll be deliver-

1 **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.

2 **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

ance,
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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