

Key to OBADIAH

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Obadiah (background unknown), name means "**Servant of the Lord**"; time of writing, 586-583 B.C.; key verse, 21; prophesied to Judah; was contemporary with Jeremiah.

2. THEME:

The Edomites, descendants of Esau, were bitter enemies of Israel. When Judah was captured and Jerusalem destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (586 B.C.), the Edomites sided with the conquerors and assisted them hoping to receive a portion of the desolated land for themselves. Concerning this, GOD inspired Obadiah to prophesy against Edom telling them that their time was coming, "**there shall not be any remaining**" of that nation.

3. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

There are no references from Obadiah in the New Testament.

More than 20 predictions are given in the Old Testament regarding Edom. Most in Obadiah, but also Isaiah 34, 63; Jeremiah 49 and Ezekiel 35.

4. OUTSTANDING TEACHING:

The right to judge Israel GOD reserves for Himself. Other nations (such as Edom) He will severely judge.

Indications are in Malachi 1:3-5 that He had done so by 400 B.C.

Present ruins of Edom are impressive. No less than 300 cities are in desolate ruins today, including Petra or Sela. Nothing more is known of Edom following A.D. 70. Edom was not to rise again, but for Israel there is promise of future glory.

5. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament.

King Herod, the one responsible for the slaughter of innocent babies in Matthew 2:16-18, was an Edomite (Idumean).

6. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

It is imperative that we view Obadiah's utterances from the standpoint of GOD's over-all purpose. Edom became illustrative of any nation that failed to recognize GOD's eventual purpose for His chosen people.

~ end of Obadiah ~

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