

Then all the people who live in the land  
will cry for the dead.

The land will rise and fall like the Nile  
River in Egypt.

- 6 He built his upper rooms above the skies.  
He put his skies<sup>a</sup> over the earth.  
He calls for the waters of the sea  
and pours them out as rain on the land.  
YAHWEH<sup>\*</sup> is his name.

### **The Lord Promises Destruction for Israel**

<sup>7</sup>This is what the LORD says:

“Israel, you are like the Ethiopians to me.  
I brought Israel out of the land of Egypt,  
the Philistines<sup>\*</sup> from Caphtor,<sup>b</sup>  
and the Arameans from Kir.<sup>c</sup>”

- 8 The Lord God is watching this sinful  
kingdom.  
The LORD said,  
“I will wipe Israel off the face of the earth,  
but I will never completely destroy  
Jacob’s<sup>\*</sup> family.  
9 I am giving the command  
to scatter the people of Israel among all  
nations.  
But it will be like someone sifting flour.  
A person shakes flour through a sifter.<sup>d</sup>  
The good flour falls through, but the bad  
lumps are caught.

<sup>a</sup>9:6 *skies* Literally, “dome” or “vault.”

<sup>b</sup>9:7 *Caphtor* An island west of Israel, probably  
Crete or Cyprus.

<sup>c</sup>9:7 *Kir* Where the Arameans came from and where  
the Assyrians sent them in exile. There are several  
places with this name.

<sup>d</sup>9:9 *sifter* Something like a cup with a screen on its  
bottom. A sifter is used for removing large lumps  
from the good flour.

- 10 “Sinners among my people say,  
‘Nothing bad will happen to us.’  
But all of them will be killed with  
swords.”

### **God Promises to Restore the Kingdom**

- 11 “David’s tent<sup>e</sup> has fallen,  
but at that time I will set it up again.  
I will fix its holes and repair its ruined  
parts.  
I will set it up as it was before.  
12 Then the people left alive in Edom,<sup>\*</sup>  
and all the people called by my name,  
will look to me for help.”  
This is what the LORD said,  
and he will make it happen.  
13 The LORD says, “A time of great blessing  
is coming.  
Workers will still be harvesting when it  
is time to plow the fields again.  
They will still be trampling the grapes  
when it is time for a new crop.  
Sweet wine will drip from the mountains  
and pour from the hills.  
14 I will bring my people, Israel,  
back from captivity.  
They will rebuild the ruined cities,  
and they will live in them.  
They will plant vineyards<sup>\*</sup>  
and drink the wine they produce.  
They will plant gardens  
and eat the crops they produce.  
15 I will plant my people on their land,  
and never again will they be pulled up  
out of the land that I gave them.”  
This is what the LORD your God said.

<sup>e</sup>9:11 *David’s tent* This probably means the city of  
Jerusalem or the country of Judah.

# Obadiah

## **Edom Will Be Punished**

<sup>1</sup>This is the vision<sup>\*</sup> of Obadiah. This is what  
the Lord God says about Edom:<sup>\*</sup>

We heard a report from the LORD.  
A messenger was sent to the nations.  
He said, “Let’s go fight against Edom.”

## **The Lord Speaks to Edom**

- 2 “Edom,<sup>\*</sup> I will make you the smallest  
nation.  
Everyone will hate you very much.  
3 Your pride has fooled you.

You live in those caves high on the cliff.  
Your home is high in the hills.  
So you say to yourself,  
‘No one can bring me to the ground.’”

## **Edom Will Be Brought Low**

- 4 This is what the LORD says:  
“Even though you fly high like the eagle  
and put your nest among the stars,  
I will bring you down from there.  
5 You really will be ruined!  
Thieves will come to you.  
Robbers will come in the night,

- and they will take all they want.  
When workers gather grapes in your vineyards,  
they will leave a few grapes behind.
- 6 But the enemy will search hard for Esau's hidden treasures,  
and they will find them all.
- 7 All those who are your friends will force you out of the land.  
Those who were at peace with you will trick you,  
and they will defeat you.  
The soldiers who fought by your side are planning a trap for you.  
They say, "He doesn't expect a thing!"
- 8 The LORD says, "On that day,  
I will destroy the wise people from Edom.\*  
I will destroy the intelligent people from the mountain of Esau.<sup>a</sup>
- 9 Teman,<sup>b</sup> your brave soldiers will be afraid.  
Everyone will be destroyed from the mountain of Esau.  
Many people will be killed.
- 10 You will be covered with shame because you were very cruel to your brother Jacob.\*  
So you will be destroyed completely.
- 11 You joined the enemies of Israel.  
Strangers carried Israel's treasures away.  
Foreigners entered Israel's city gate.  
They threw lots\* to decide what part of Jerusalem they would get.  
And you were right there with them,  
waiting to get your share.
- 12 You should not have laughed<sup>c</sup> at your brother's trouble.  
You should not have been happy when they destroyed Judah.  
You should not have bragged<sup>d</sup> at the time of their trouble.
- 13 You should not have entered the city gate of my people  
and laughed at their problems.  
You should not have taken their treasures in the time of their trouble.
- 14 You should not have stood where the roads cross  
and destroyed those who were trying to escape.  
You should not have captured those who escaped alive.
- 15 The Day of the LORD is coming soon to all the nations.  
And the evil you did to others will happen to you.  
The same bad things will fall down on your own head.
- 16 You spilled<sup>e</sup> blood on my holy mountain,<sup>f</sup> so other nations will spill your blood.<sup>g</sup>  
You will be finished.  
It will be as if you never existed.
- 17 But there will be survivors on Mount Zion.  
They will be my special people.  
The nation of Jacob<sup>h</sup> will take back what belongs to it.
- 18 The family of Jacob will be like a fire.  
The nation of Joseph will be like a flame.  
But the nation of Esau<sup>i</sup> will be like ashes.  
The people of Judah will burn Edom,  
and they will destroy it.  
Then there will be no survivors in the nation of Esau."  
This will happen because the LORD said it would.
- 19 Then people from the Negev\* will live on the mountain of Esau.  
And people from the foothills will take the Philistine lands.  
They will live in the land of Ephraim and Samaria.  
Gilead will belong to Benjamin.
- 20 People from Israel were forced to leave their homes,  
but they will take back the land of Canaan,\* all the way to Zarephath.  
People from Judah were forced to leave Jerusalem and live in Sepharad.<sup>j</sup>  
But they will take back the cities of the Negev.
- 21 The winners<sup>k</sup> will go up on Mount Zion to rule the people who live on Esau's mountain.  
And the kingdom will belong to the LORD.

<sup>a</sup>8 mountain of Esau That is, Mount Seir.

<sup>b</sup>9 Teman One of Edom's important cities in the south, maybe its capital city.

<sup>c</sup>12 laughed Literally, "looked." Also in verse 13.

<sup>d</sup>12 bragged Literally, "made your mouth big."

<sup>e</sup>16 spilled Literally, "drank."

<sup>f</sup>16 holy mountain One of the mountains Jerusalem was built on. Sometimes Zion is used to mean Jerusalem itself. Also in verses 17, 21.

<sup>g</sup>16 spill your blood Literally, "drink and swallow."

<sup>h</sup>17 nation of Jacob Literally, "the house of Jacob."

This could mean the people of Israel or only its leaders.

<sup>i</sup>18 nation of Esau Literally, "the house of Esau."

<sup>j</sup>20 Sepharad This is probably Spain.

<sup>k</sup>21 winners Or "saviors." Those who led their people to victory in war.

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