

OBADIAH.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

1-16	EDOM. DESTRUCTION.
17-21.	ISRAEL. RESTORATION.

For the CANONICAL order and place of the Prophets, see Ap. 1, and p. 1206.

For the CHRONOLOGICAL order of the Prophets, see Ap. 77.

For the Inter-relation of the Prophetic Books, see Ap. 78.

For the *Formulae* of Prophetic utterance, see Ap. 82.

For References to the Pentateuch by the Prophets, see Ap. 92.

For the Inter-relation of the Minor (or Shorter) Prophets, see pp. 1206 and 1207.

The Minor Prophets do not profess to be chronological. The order seems to be logical; hence, Obadiah corresponds with Joel, and takes up Joel's theme, and shows (by contrast) what Joel's "day of the LORD" shall be for Israel's enemies. See pp. 1206-7. Edom is the one enemy in Joel (3. 19) as in Obadiah: indeed, from the first, Gen. 27. 39, 40 was fulfilled (see notes on 1 Kings 22. 47 and 2 Kings 8. 20-22. 2 Chron. 21. 8-10). After that we find prophecies against Edom (Isa. 34. 5-17. Jer. 49. 17-22. Ezek. 25. 12-14; 35; and Obadiah),

The correspondence between Jer. 49 and Obadiah may be thus shown :

Obad. 1- = Jer. 49. 7-.	Obad. -5 = Jer. 49. 9-.
„ -1, 2 = „ 14,15.	„ 6 = „ 10.
„ 3, 4 = „ 16.	„ 8 = „ -7.
„ 5- = „ -9.	„ 9 = „ 22.

The two prophecies are independent and original. There is no need to discuss which of the two quoted the other, or whether both refer to an earlier prophet. All beyond the Scripture record is conjecture.

That Obadiah gives details which are complementary may well be explained by the Fig. *Hysteresis* (Ap. 6).

For the partial fulfillment of the prophecy, see the notes.

The prophecy of Obadiah is undated; but, from the internal evidence, referred to above, it was almost certainly subsequent to the captivity of Jehoiachin (489-8 B. c), or to the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, and the end of Judah. This would bring it to either 482 B. C. or 472 B. C.

OBADIAH.

1 The vision of °Obadiah. °Thus saith °the Lord GOD °concerning Edom; °"We have heard *tidings* from °the LORD, °and an ambassador is sent among the *nations*, °Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle."
2 Behold, I have made thee small among the *nations*: thou art greatly despised.
3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in °the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, 'Who shall bring me down to the ground?'
4 °Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou °set thy nest °among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, °saith the LORD.
5 If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? *or if* the grapegatherers came to thee, °would they not leave *some grapes*?
6 °How are *the things* of Esau *stripped bare*! *how* are his hidden things sought up!
7 All the °men of thy °confederacy have brought thee *even* to the border: *the men who were wont to salute thee* have deceived thee, *and* prevailed against thee; °*they that eat* thy bread have laid a *snare* under thee: there is *no discernment of it* in him.
8 Shall I not in °that day, °saith the LORD, even destroy the wise *men* out of Edom, and understanding out of the *hill country* of Esau?
9 And thy mighty *men*, O °Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the *hill country* of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.
10 For °*thy* violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.
11 °In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the *aliens* carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his °gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou *wast* as one of them.
12 But °thou shouldst not have looked on the day of thy brother ¹¹in the day that he became a ¹¹*alien*; neither shouldst thou have rejoiced over the *sons* of Judah ¹¹in the day of their destruction; neither shouldst thou have *enlarged thy mouth with laughter* in the day of distress.
13 ¹²Thou shouldst not have entered into the gate of My people ¹¹in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldst not have looked on their affliction ¹¹in the day of their calamity, nor have laid *hands* on their substance ¹¹in the day of their calamity;
14 Neither shouldst thou have °stood in the *fork of the roads*, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldst thou have delivered up those of his that did remain ¹¹in the day of distress.

1-16. EDOM. DESTRUCTION.

1, 2. Remote Cause. Jehovah's Purpose.
 3, 4. Deceived by Self.
 5, 6. Devastation.
 7-9. Deceived by Others.
 10-14. Immediate Cause. Edom's Sin.
 15, 16. Extermination.

1 Obadiah = Servant of Jehovah. Cp. 1 Kings 18. 3.
Thus saith, &c. The words of this prophecy, therefore, are not Obadiah's, but Jehovah's. Cp. vv. 8, 18.
the Lord GOD. Heb. Adonai Jehovah. Ap. 4, VIII (2) and II.
concerning Edom. See notes on p. 1244.
We have heard. The rhetorical difficulty may be removed by regarding these words as the words of Edom's foes.
a rumour = tidings.
the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4, II. Supply the logical *Ellipsis* (Ap. 6): "from Jehovah [that Edom is to be attacked]".
and: or, and [already].
heathen = nations.
Arise ye. These are the words of the embassy.
in battle = the war.
2 Behold. Fig. *Asterismos*. Ap. 6. Calling attention to the words of Jehovah.
3 the clefts, &c. Referring to the natural position of the Edomites. Cp. 2 Kings 14. 7.
4 Though, &c. The words of Jehovah.
set thy nest. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 24. 21). Ap. 92. Cp. Hab. 2. 9.
among the stars. Fig. *Hyperbole*. Ap. 6.
saith the LORD = [is] Jehovah's oracle.
5 if the grape gatherers. Some codices, with Aram., Sept., and Syr., read "or if", &c.
would they not. . . ? Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 24. 21). Ap. 92. Cp. Isa. 17. 6; 24. 13.
6 How . . . ! Fig. *Erotosis*. Ap. 6.
searched out: i.e. discovered by the enemies. Ginsburg thinks it should be read "stripped bare".
7 men. Pl. of *'enosh*. Ap. 14, III
confederacy. See Ps. 83. 5-8.
the men, &c. = the men who were wont to salute thee.
and. Some codices, with three early printed editions and Syr., read this "and" in the text.
they that eat. The *Ellipsis* is thus correctly supplied.
wound = snare.
understanding in him: or, no discernment of it: in spite of their renown for wisdom. Cp. v. 8. Jer. 49. 7.
8 that day: i.e. the day of the fulfillment of the prophecy. Cp. 15, 16, and Isa. 63. 1-6. Jer. 49. 13,
mount = hill country.
9 Teman. Cp. Jer. 49. 7.
10 thy violence, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 27. 41-44. Deut. 23. 7). Ap. 92.
11 in the day. See Ap. 18. Note the Fig. *Repetitio* (Ap. 6) in vv. 12, 13, 14.
strangers = aliens.
gates. Heb. text = gate; but Heb. marg., with some codices and two early printed editions, read "gates"(pl.).
12 thou shouldst not have looked on, &c. All these are Prohibitives in Heb.: i.e. they are addressed to Edom as from a spectator looking on and saying; "Look not thou," &c. **children** = sons.
spoken proudly. Heb. enlarged thy mouth [with laughter]. Cp. Ps. 35. 21. Isa. 57. 4. Ezek. 35. 13.
14 stood in the crossway. Referring to some antecedent event by Fig. *Hysteresis* (Ap. 6).
crossway = fork of the roads, or a mountain pass.

15 For ^othe day of the LORD *is* near upon all the ¹*nations*: *according as* thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

16 For ¹⁵*according as* ye have drunk upon My ^oholy mountain, *so* shall all the heathen drink ^ocontinually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall *stagger*, and they shall be ^oas though they had not been.

17 But ^oupon mount Zion ^oshall be *a delivered remnant*, ^oand there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob ^oshall possess their possessions.

18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and ^othere shall not be *him that remaineth* of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

19 And *they of the south country, the Negeb* shall possess the ³*hill country* of Esau; and *they of the lowlands, the Shephelah* shall possess the Philistines: and *they of the mountain* shall possess the *territory* of Ephraim, and the *territory* of Samaria: and *they of Benjamin* shall possess Gilead.

20 And *the captives of the whole of the twelve tribes* of the ¹²*sons* of Israel ^oshall possess that of the Canaanites, *shall possess as far as Sarepta, belonging to Sidon and Tyre*; and *the captives* of Jerusalem, which *is* in ^oSepharad, shall possess ^othe cities of ¹⁹*the south country* [*yea, My People shall enlarge their borders on all sides*].

21 And *deliverers* [*earthly and human*] shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and ^othe kingdom shall be the LORD'S.

15 the day of the LORD. See note on Isa. 2. 11, 17. The prophecy is now enlarged, and includes all the nations who were Israel's enemies. **as** = according as. This prophecy was fulfilled, so far as Edom was concerned, later on (see 1 Macc. 5. 4, 65. Josephus, *De Bell.* iv. 5); likewise will the judgment on "all the nations" be literally fulfilled.

16 holy. See note on Ex. 3. 5. **continually.** Some codices, with four early printed editions (one Rabbinic in marg.), read "round about", **swallow down:** or, stagger. Only elsewhere in Job 6. 3. **as though, &c.** Solemn and note worthy words.

17-21. ISRAEL. RESTORATION.

17-	Deliverance.
-17.	Possession.
18.	Victory.
19, 20.	Possession.
21.	Deliverers.

17 upon mount Zion. Cp. Isa. 46. 13. Joel 2. 32.

shall be. Cp. Jer. 46. 28. Joel 3. 16. Amos 9. 8.

deliverance = a delivered remnant. Cp. Joel 2. 32.

and there shall be, &c. Cp. Isa. 1. 26; 4. 3, 4. Joel 3. 17.

shall possess, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 24. 18, 19), Ap. 92. Cp. Isa. 14. 1, 2. Joel 3. 19-21. Amos 9. 11-15.

18 there shall not be. Cp. vv. 9, 10, 16.

any remaining = him that remaineth. Twenty-four centuries ago this prophecy was written, and to-day no Edomites can be identified. Cp. v. 14, and Num. 24. 19 (the same word). There will be a restored Edom, "in that day", or Isa. 63. 1-6. Jer. 49. 7-22 could not be fulfilled.

19 the south = the south [country], the Negeb. See note on Ps. 126. 4. Cp. Amos 9. 12.

the plain = the lowlands, the Shephelah [shall possess]. Cp. Zeph. 2. 7.

they = they [of the mountain], or [of the centre]. **fields** = territory.

and Benjamin = and [they of] Benjamin.

20 captivity = the captives: "captivity" being put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the captives.

this host: i.e. the whole of the twelve tribes.

shall possess. Supply the *Ellipsis* thus: "they who are scattered among [the Canaanites]".

even, &c. Supply "[shall possess] as far as".

Zarephath = Sarepta, belonging to Sidon and Tyre.

Sepharad is mentioned with Ionia and Greece (in the west) in the inscriptions of *Behistun*, col. 1, line 15. See Ap. 57, p. 81.

Jews were sold as slaves, and were taken to Spain by the Phoenicians to work in the mines near the great city of Ampuria, now being unearthed, near Figueras, in the province of Gerona. The "Jews' houses" are still shown at Besalu. **the cities, &c.** Jewish tradition declares for Spain. **south.** After v. 20,

supply the logical *Ellipsis* of thought thus: "[yea. My People shall enlarge their borders on all sides], and saviours", &c. **21 saviours** = deliverers: i.e.

earthly and human, as in Judges 3. 9, 15. Cp. Mic. 5. 4, 5. See the Structure, above.

14, 27. Zech. 14. 9. Rev. 11. 15; 19. 6.

the kingdom shall be the LORD'S. Cp. Ps. 22. 28. Dan. 2. 44; 7.