### Obadiah

## Chapter 1

1This is the vision of ObadiAh.  
  
Jehovah God spoke this against Edom.  
  
I heard this report from Jehovah, and it’s a summary of what He sent to the nations:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Arise against her in battle!  
  
 2‘Among the nations, I’ve left you just few,  
 And upon you, I’ve brought much disgrace.  
 3For, you’ve made your hearts proud  
 By camping in cracks in high rocks;  
 And you’ve said in your hearts:  
  
 ‘From here, who can drag us down to the ground?’  
  
 4‘But if you could fly as high as an eagle  
 And put your nest up in the stars...  
 From there, I’d lead you back down,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 5‘Now if thieves were to enter among you,  
 Or robbers were to come during the night;  
 [How many things] would you lose?  
 Wouldn’t they take just the things [that they want]?  
 And if those who [steal] grapes came among you,  
 Wouldn’t they leave you a gleaning?  
  
 6‘But, there’ll come those who’ll search Esau through  
 And take even the things that you’ve hidden away.  
 7Then, to your borders, they’ll drive you,  
 Where your allies will fight against you and win…  
 Yes, men you’re at peace with  
 Will then rise up against you,  
 And they won’t understand why they did this.  
  
 8‘So, in that day,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘I’ll destroy all of Edom’s wise men.  
 And thereafter, in the mountains of Esau,  
 Understanding will be gone from the land.  
  
 9‘For they’ll frighten your Temanite warriors;  
 And then, from the mountains of Esau,  
 Every man will be carried away.  
  
 10‘Because you’ve been so defiant  
 And brought slaughter to Jacob, your brother;  
 With shame, you’ll be covered,  
 And throughout ages thereafter, you’ll be gone.  
  
 11‘For, from the day that you faced and opposed them  
 To the day that strangers captured their army  
 And foreigners entered their gates,  
 Who then cast lots for JeruSalem’s spoils,  
 You were considered to be one of them.  
  
 12‘So you shouldn’t have [sneered at] your brothers  
 On the day that those strangers arrived…  
 You shouldn’t have rejoiced at their downfall,  
 And [approved of the killing] of Judah’s sons.  
  
 ‘You shouldn’t have [laughed] in the day of their pain,  
 13And you shouldn’t have entered their gates  
 On that day of their misery!  
  
 ‘Especially so, you should never have looked  
 Upon them in joy at their ruin.  
 Nor should you have joined to attack them  
 In the day that they were destroyed.  
  
 14‘In their mountain passes, you shouldn’t have stood  
 To destroy those who tried to escape…  
 No, you shouldn’t have locked up those fleeing  
 In their day of affliction.  
  
 15‘But now, the Day of the Lord has arrived  
 Upon all those nations [that did this].  
 So, all of the [bad] that you did to them  
 Is what they’ll now do to you…  
 What you did will come upon your own heads!  
  
 16‘So, as you drank wine on My Holy Mountain,  
 The nations will drink wine from you…  
 Yes, they’ll swallow you down,  
 And it’ll be like you never existed.  
  
 17‘But salvation will come to Mount Zion,  
 And My Holy Place will stand there again.  
 Then the house of Jacob will inherit  
 All those who’ve inherited them!  
  
 18‘Like the fire that came upon Jacob’s house  
 And the flames that came upon JoSeph…  
 Like stubble, they’ll burn the house of Esau,  
 Yes among them, the fire will burn and consume,  
 And there’ll be no wheat harvest in Esau!  
 For I, Jehovah, have spoken.  
  
 19‘At that time, the Mountains of Esau  
 Will be owned by those in the Negev.  
 And those who live in the Philistine ShepheLa  
 Will inherit Ephraim’s mountains,  
 Along with Samaria and BenJamin’s plains,  
 And all of GileAd’s land.  
  
 20‘For the sons of IsraEl who’ll then return  
 Will inherit all of your land  
 From CanaAn, all the way to ZarEphath.  
 And those who return to JeruSalem  
 Will inherit the Negev to EphRatha.  
  
 21‘So the survivors [who return to] Mount Zion  
 Will take vengeance on the mountains of Esau,  
 And then your kingdom will belong to Jehovah!’

# Jonah

Jonah is a story about a prophet of the same name, who reluctantly delivered a message to the Assyrian capital city of Nineveh.  
  
Although the the story is set sometime in the mid-8th Century BCE, it’s a third-person account, and its Hebrew text shows influence from Aramaic – so it may have been written by someone else after the Babylonian exile, possibly Ezra.  
  
Is it an historical account, or was it just a popular story to teach a moral lesson?  
  
Well, archaeologists have not (yet) found evidence outside of the Bible for these events. However, Jesus spoke about the trials of Jonah at Matthew 12:39-41; therefore, many conclude that it’s a real story. Yet we must remember that Jesus also used fictional stories (parables) to teach – so modern Bible scholars are divided on the matter.  
  
The traditional Jewish view is that the events were real, and the early Christians shared this view. Muslims also view the book as reporting real events.  
  
  
Large parts of this book are poetry  
  
Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. These portions are written in the style of poetic verses.  
  
  
Why use poetry?  
  
Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.