

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Obadiah

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1:1-7

Background: The people of Edom were also called Esau in this book because they were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother (Genesis 25-27). The kingdom of Edom was on the southeastern border of Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh sent an ambassador among the nations to tell them to rise up for battle against Edom. [1:1-2]
- ☐ The people of Edom believed that no one could bring them down, but Yahweh would bring them down. [1:2-4]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. For what purpose did Yahweh send an ambassador among the nations? [1:1]
Yahweh sent an ambassador among the nations to tell the nations to rise up for battle against Edom.
2. What did Yahweh say he would do to Edom, and how would the other nations think of Edom? [1:2-4]
Yahweh said he would bring Edom down, and the other nations would despise Edom.
3. What was one of the sins of the people of Edom, and what did they believe? [1:3]
The people of Edom were proud, and they believed that no one could bring them down to the ground. That is, they believed that no one could defeat them.
4. What did Yahweh say he would do to Edom? [1:4]
He would bring them down.
5. Why do you think Yahweh spoke of Edom flying high like an eagle and putting their nest among the stars? [1:4]
Perhaps the people of Edom thought that their dwellings in the mountains were too high for their enemies to climb and attack them. But it did not matter how hard they thought it would be for their enemies to defeat them; God would defeat Edom.
6. What do thieves, robbers, and people who gather grapes normally do? [1:5]
They take only as much as they need. They leave some things behind.
7. What would those who ruin Esau do? [1:6]
They would take everything.
8. Who would deceive and prevail against Edom? [1:7]
The men who had an alliance of peace with Edom would deceive and prevail against Edom.

Comment Section:

1:8-14

Background: Teman was a grandson of Esau. In 1:9, the name Teman refers either to Edom or to a place in Edom. Jacob was an ancestor of all the people of Israel. In 1:10, the name Jacob refers to the people of Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh said that he would destroy Edom. [1:8-9]
- ☐ When strangers attacked Jacob, Edom stood aloof. [1:11]
- ☐ Yahweh told Edom not to gloat over Jacob or to loot Jacob's wealth. [1:12-14]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Yahweh say he would do to Edom and the mountain of Esau? [1:8]
He would destroy their wise men and their men who had understanding.
2. What would happen as a result of Teman's mighty men being terrified? [1:9]
All of the men from the mountain of Esau would be killed.
3. Why would Edom be covered with shame and destroyed forever? [1:10]
This would happen because of the violence done to Jacob.
4. What kind of violence was done to Jacob? [1:11]
Strangers took away their wealth, and foreigners went in and cast lots for Jerusalem.
5. Why do you think it was wrong for the people of Edom to do nothing to help Jacob? [1:10-11]
God called Jacob their brother. The people of Edom should have helped their brother.
6. How do you think the people of Edom felt about the terrible things that happened to Jacob and Judah? [1:12]
They were happy about what happened.
7. Where did Yahweh tell the people of Edom not to go, and what did he tell them not to take? [1:13]
He told them not to go into his people's gate and not to take his people's wealth.
8. What did Yahweh tell the people of Edom not to do to his people? [1:14]
He told them not to kill those who were running away from their enemies and not to deliver those who survived over to their enemies.

Comment Section:

1:15-18

Background: Verse 17 mentions Mount Zion. It refers here to Jerusalem or to a place in Jerusalem. Verse 18 mentions the house of Jacob and the house of Joseph. "The house of Jacob" probably refers to the two tribes of Israel that continued to worship God in Jerusalem. "The house of Joseph" probably refers to the ten tribes of Israel who did not worship God in Jerusalem.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh would punish Edom and the nations for the wrongs they did to Israel. [1:15-18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Yahweh say would return onto the nation's heads? [1:15]
Yahweh said that the nations' deeds would return onto their heads.
2. What do you think it means for a nation's deeds to return to their own heads. [1:15]
It means that the nations did terrible things to Israel, so others would do terrible things to the nations.
3. Who do you think drank on God's holy mountain, and what do you think they drank? [1:16]
Perhaps the people of Edom got drunk with wine. Or perhaps God was speaking to his own people, and they drank the wine of his wrath. This would mean that God punished his people.
4. What will the nations do, and what will appear to be true about the nations? [1:16]
The nations will drink continually, and it will look as though those nations had never even existed.
5. Where will those who escape be? [1:17]
They will be in Mount Zion.
6. What will the house of Jacob take? That is, what will the people of Israel take? [1:17]
They will take their possessions.
7. How do you think the people of Israel would have felt when they heard verse 17?
They were probably comforted and hopeful because Mount Zion would be holy again and they would take back what belonged to them.
8. What would the house of Jacob and the house of Joseph do to the house of Esau? [1:18]
They would burn the house of Esau.
9. How many people from the house of Esau would survive? [1:18]
No one from the house of Esau would survive.

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10. How do you think the people of Israel felt when they heard verse 18?
They were probably comforted to know that God would punish their enemies.

Comment Section:

1:19-21

Background: The Negev, Samaria, Gilead, Canaan, Zarephath, and Sepharad were names of places. Ephraim and Benjamin were tribes of Israel. The Philistines were Israel's enemies who lived in the western part of Canaan.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ People would take possession of lands in and around Canaan. [1:19]
- ☐ The kingdom would belong to Yahweh.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who would then possess the mountain of Esau? [1:19]
Those from the Negev would then possess the mount of Esau. Sometimes the Negev is called the South.
2. Who would possess the land of Canaan? [1:20]
The people of Israel who had been exiles would possess it. The word army could refer to Israel's military or it could refer to simply a great number of people of Israel.
3. Who would possess the cities of the Negev? [1:20]
The people of Jerusalem who had been exiles would possess those cities.
4. Who do you think all of these people who would possess the lands were? [1:19-20]
They were all God's people, descendants of Jacob.
5. Who would the kingdom belong to? [1:21]
The kingdom will belong to Yahweh.

Comment Section: