

Christ Fellowship

Series: Minor Prophets

Lesson I

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“Obadiah”

The Tale Of Two Mountains

I. Introduction. 1a (Some background . . .)

II. The destruction of Edom. 1b-9 (The How of the Lord’s judgment!)

Edom is archetypical of the hate-ridden, corrupt, world, a world which opposes God’s people and will be judged by the Lord in coming days! (cf Isa. 34:1–15; Jer. 49:7–22; Ezek. 35:1–15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11–12; 9:12; Mal. 1:2–4)

Jeremiah read the prophet Obadiah, learned the Lord’s Words and coming purging and restoration. Jer49 quotes repeatedly from Obadiah.

III. The downfall of Edom. 10-14 (The Why of the Lord’s judgment!)



IV. The Day of YHWH. 15-21 (The When of the Lord’s judgment!)

As to the fulfillment of this doom upon Edom, it may be fairly inferred from Mal. 1:3–5 that by Malachi’s time (ca. 435 B.C.) the Edomites had already been driven from Sela and Mount Seir by the overwhelming forces of the Nabatean Arabs. Secular sources inform us that as early as the reign of Darius I (522–485), the Nabateans had pushed the Edomites out of their ancestral territory and driven them into the deserted regions of southern Judea. The Nabateans originally came from Nabaioth in the region of Kedar in northern Arabia. Seventh-century Assyrian inscriptions refer to them as the Nabaitai. In the course of time the power of this Nabatean kingdom extended up into the Transjordanian region as far as Damascus. By New Testament times Damascus was held for a while at least by King Aretas of the Nabatean dynasty (cf. 2 Cor. 11:32). As for the dispossessed Edomites, the region in which they settled came to be known as Idumea, where they maintained an independent existence for a time, until they were conquered by the Jewish king, John Hyrcanus (135–105 B.C.), and forcibly converted to the Jewish faith. In the following century, the dynasty of Herod the Great, descended from the Idumean stock, came into control of the kingdom of Judea.