

## O B A D I A H

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Obadiah is the shortest prophecy and the smallest book in the Old Testament.
- B. Obadiah is a specific declaration that Edom (Esau's seed) would be cut off
1. See Gen 36:8-9
  2. The Edomites were enemies of Israel because Jacob had stolen Esau's birthright.
    - a. In Numbers 20:14-21, Edom refused Israel passage when they were escaping from Egypt.
    - b. David put Edom under subjection (II Samuel 8:14)
    - c. During the reign of Jehoram, Edom revolted (II Kings 8:20-22; II Chron. 21:8-10). During this time, about 845 BC, we believe Obadiah was written.
- C. Obadiah is one of the most curious of the minor prophets in several ways
1. It is the shortest
  2. It is the most difficult to date
  3. It has very little, if any, to say about a restored kingdom
  4. We do not know anything about Obadiah, even though there are a dozen men in the Bible with that name.
  5. It contains no prophecy about Christ
- D. The Theme of Obadiah might be - "you should not have done that."
1. "thou shouldest not have" (verse 12)
- E. It appears that Obadiah may have been written in about 845 B.C. If so, he lived during the ministry of Elisha - a man of God.
- F. Obadiah is a prophet of Judah, but not to Judah or Israel.
- G. His name means, "servant of the LORD."
- H. Obadiah is one of seven Old Testament books never quoted in the New Testament
- I. Archer believe that Jeremiah read the work of Obadiah. See Jer. 49:7-22 and Obadiah 1-9. There is "strong evidence that the prophet Jeremiah had read and adapted for his own purposes Obad. 1-9" (Archer)
- J. The words "Esau" and "Temon" also refer to Edom.
- K. Judah is called "Jacob", "Jerusalem" and "Mount Zion."
- L. Note: the NIV corrupts verse 15 by changing "heathen" to "nations."



SOURCES: Map from "Atlas of Bible Lands," C.S. Hammond & Co, 1959; Map from Abingdon Press, 1994; ESRI

## II. LESSONS FROM OBADIAH

- A. The errors of Edom
  - 1. Being deceived by Pride (3)
  - 2. Thinking they are safe because of their habitation (3)
  - 3. Forgetting that God can bring them down (4)
  - 4. Trusting the wrong men (7)
- B. The condemnation of Edom – It will be unusually complete (5) - total annihilation
- C. The sins for which Edom is being judged
  - 1. Violence against Israel (10)
  - 2. Participating, and being accomplice, with those who invaded Jerusalem (11)
  - 3. Rejoicing over the destruction of Jerusalem (12)
  - 4. Kicking Judah when she was down (13)
  - 5. Preventing the escape of those from Judah who fled (14), and delivering them to the enemy.
- D. The judgment – “As thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee.” (15)
  - 1. “The day of the LORD”
- E. The deliverance of Judah (17-21)
  - 1. Shall come (17)
  - 2. The coming kingdom (21)

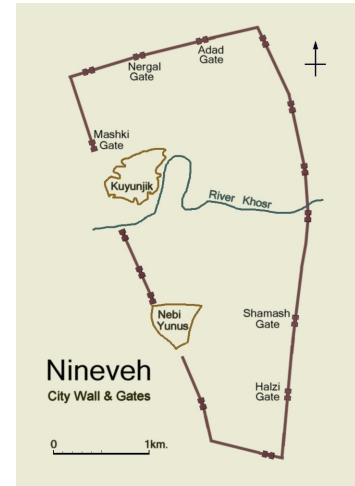


*The Edomites lived in clefts of rocks, and felt safe.*

## J O N A H

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jonah is probably one of the most preach-able books in the Old Testament. It is not just prophecy, it is a narrative.
- B. There are a number of obvious and well known lessons in Jonah.
1. You cannot run from God.
  2. You never know who will hear and repent.
  3. The LORD ALWAYS prefers repentance to judgment.
  4. Compassion is more important than ethnic bias.
- C. Its authorship appears anonymous: Jonah, perhaps?.
- D. The date of Jonah is easy to establish based upon II Kings
1. II Ki 14:25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.
  2. Jeroboam II reigned from 793 to 753 B.C.
  3. We believe Jonah's prophecy was about 758 B.C.
- E. Jonah was a native of "Gathhepher, a town about one hour from Nazareth in the Northern Kingdom.
- F. The Lord Jesus Christ believed and quoted Jonah
1. Matt 12:39 An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- G. Tarshish
1. A city in Spain, probably located near Gibraltar. A city as far away as you can get.
- H. Nineveh
1. Population 600,000
  2. Circumference of up to 90 miles
  3. Walls were 100 feet thick, 50 feet high, and had 500 towers
  4. Wickedness was unexcelled (1:2, 3:2-3, 4:11)
  5. The reason Jonah hated Nineveh is because they were the enemy of his people.



### II. LESSONS IN JONAH

- A. "God Prepared"
1. A great fish (Jonah 1:17)
  2. A gourd (4:6)
  3. A worm (4:7)
  4. An east wind (4:8)
- B. Jonah was changed from an obstinate prophet to an

"If God said He had prepared a Waldorf Astoria apartment in the belly of the fish, steam heated and electric lighted, I could easily believe it because I believe God is able to do anything." A. C. Dixon

- obedient prophet.
- C. Nineveh was a huge city which was soon to capture Israel, but God still desired to see it saved.
  - D. God sometimes corrects His children with storms
  - E. Jonah had more compassion on a plant than he did over heathen souls.
  - F. Jonah's prophecy is partially directed to Israel as the repentance of Assyria (Nineveh was its capital) would have been an example of what Israel should have done.

### III. OUTLINES IN JONAH

- A. By Chapter – Jonah's . . .
  - 1. 1 – Commission and disobedience
  - 2. 2 – Prayer and deliverance
  - 3. 3 – Obedience and ministry
  - 4. 4 – Displeasure and the LORD's rebuke
- B. Look at what Jonah was willing to do rather than preach the gospel (in Ch. 1)
  - 1. Leave his home (3)
  - 2. Lose God's presence (3)
  - 3. Forfeit a pagan crew (5)
  - 4. Die a horrible death (12)
- C. In chapter 1, Jonah would rather die than . . .
  - 1. Tell about the Lord (1-4)
  - 2. Talk to the Lord (5-11)
  - 3. Turn towards the Lord (12-14)
- D. In Chapter Two, after God had dealt with him, Jonah . . .
  - 1. Realized his helplessness (1-3)
  - 2. Renewed his hope (4-7)
  - 3. Rededicated his heart (8-10)
- E. Jonah's ministry in Chapter 3
  - 1. Jonah received a renewed call (1-2)
  - 2. Jonah related a redeemer's cry (3-4)
  - 3. Nineveh responded with repentance (5-9)
  - 4. God repented of the ruin He has planned (10)
- F. Why was Jonah displeased (in chapter 4)?
  - 1. He was driven by passions (4:1)
  - 2. He was desirous of comfort (4:5-6)
  - 3. He was disgusted with God (4:7-9)



H O M E W O R K

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In preparation for the mid-term examination, complete and learn the chart below.

Prophet	Written to/ Propheied Concerning	Approximate Date	Primary Theme or Message	Memorable Ideas or Events
Hosea	Israel			Hosea married a prostitute
Joel	Judah			The plague of locusts
Amos	Israel			The earthquake; the eight nations judged; the vision of summer fruit
Obadiah	Edom			
Jonah	Israel			The whale; the dead gourd

(You may need to put some work into determining the primary message, but you should arrive at one for each of these books.)

2. What is the shortest book and shortest prophecy in the Old Testament?
3. Describe the history of the Edomites from their beginning in Genesis to their revolt in about 845 B.C.
4. If Obadiah was written in about 845 B.C, what famous Old Testament man of God was living at the time of its writing?
5. What nation do the words "Esau" and "Temon" refer to?

6. List two of the errors of the Edomites.
  - a.
  - b.
7. List two of the sins of the Edomites.
  - a.
  - b.
8. What was the date of the writing of Jonah, and how do we know (from the Bible)?
9. What statement by the Lord Jesus Christ proves to us that Jonah was inside a whale three days?
10. Where was Tarshish?
11. Describe Nineveh.
12. How did Jonah feel about Nineveh and why?
13. What lesson did God teach Jonah by killing the gourd plant?
14. Briefly outline Jonah, chapter by chapter. (Single level outline)