

In outlining this short book we have little trouble:

- I. The approaching judgment of Edom 1-9
- II. The reasons for wrath 10-16
- III. The promise of establishment 17-21

Regarding the history of redemption Obadiah is a classic piece of literature with regard to the justice and memory of God. God is omniscient and knows what his people and his enemies think. He will not overlook nor simply forget the ills done to his people. He must chastise them but he does not forsake them and he invariably brings judgment to the forces that oppose them even if they have been used of him in the chastising role. Obadiah is a lesson in the accounting procedure of God in which all accounts are dealt with honestly and fully.

With regard to archaeology, Obadiah prophecies the complete dissolution of Edom (8-9). We see this come to pass in the records of the surrounding states. Tablets from Ezion Geber show an Edomite governor about 600 BC but when the narrative is picked up about 300 the territory has long been ruled by Arabs and no Edomites are in evidence.

To help understand Obadiah better one needs to refresh oneself on the rivalry between Jacob and Esau. A study of pre-exilic warfare and political machinations will also help. See 2 Sam. 8:13 ff, 1 Kings 11:14 ff 2 Kings. 14:22; 16:5 ff; 2 Chronicles 20:1 ff; 21:8 ff. With your concordance you can survey other Edom prophecies to get a feeling for God's concept of this rebellious land. Using a Bible atlas it would be helpful to check the city-sites and know the locations of the countries mentioned.

Some key questions to aid the study: How literal is the action of 11-14 thought to be? what is Edom's relationship to the other nations troubling Israel at the time of the exile? What is the significance of vs. 2?

Further reading and study: Lewis, Jack: The MINOR PROPHETS. Most one volume Bible commentaries contain short notes on these prophets. The NEW BIBLE COMMENTARY is generally helpful.

b. Some survey thoughts on Obadiah:

- how Israel will inherit this land
- the ultimate end of deliverance: The Kingdom shall be the Lord's.

5. A Survey Study of Jonah (still my notes)

a. An Overview of Jonah ("God's widespread mercy")

One of the more maligned books in the Bible, Jonah suffers from too much popularity. Attempts to justify it and show the probability of the featured account are numerous...even Ripley in BELIEVE IT OR NOT gave an account of a modern time English seaman, three hours swallowed by a large fish and returned to land alive. Bryan probably said it well when he noted that it was no harder to believe one miracle than another and while we do not spoof attempts to understand things, we fear they sometimes lead to matters more incredulous than the original item.