

# Correspondence Bible Study

## Lesson #28 – Amos & Obadiah

### PRAYER:

Father, You have provided me with so much. Not only my life but blessings beyond all I need. Help me to use my blessings to help others. Help me to be fair, just, honest, compassionate and loving as I deal with my fellow-Christian brothers and sisters, as well as anyone I may come into contact with. Show me how to live as Christ would have me live here and now. Thank You for the small ways I can share my life and material blessings in God-pleasing ways. I pray in the name of the Giver of good gifts, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Notes on Amos:

Dated according to the Kings of Israel and Judah, Amos was active from 760-750 B.C. For the most part, he spoke to the people of Israel, the northern kingdom. In both Israel and Judah, the time of Amos was a time of prosperity. It was the Gold Age of Israel. At the time, they should have been a blessing to other, the people of the north became more and more greedy. They took advantage of others, even the poor among their own countrymen. Because of these sins and others, God's judgment was coming soon. Their fate is seen in 5:27. They would have no one that there is to blame but themselves. It is not until the last verses of Amos that there is a promise of future hope.

### Questions on Amos:

1. What do we know about Amos's background? (Tekoa was a small town, eleven miles south of Jerusalem.) Look in 1:1; 7:14-15.
2. Chapter 1:2-2:16 – As Amos speaks against Israel's enemies, Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon and Moab, what do you think was the mindset of Israel's people concerning these other nations?
3. Relating back to question 2 – How do you think they felt when Amos continued and included them in the judgement of God?
4. Chapter 3:3-8 – In your words – What is Amos saying here?

5. Chapter 4 – List the things God did to try to get Israel to listen to him.
  
6. Chapters 5 & 6 – List the offenses of Israel against God?
  
7. Chapter 7 – What is the point made when he uses the plumb line?
  
8. Chapter 9:11-15 – How do these verses describe the heavenly paradise of the Messiah?

Note on Chapter 8:14 – When it says, “they will fall, never to rise again,” the ten tribes of Israel never became a nation again.

#### Notes on Obadiah:

The Book of Obadiah is the shortest one in the Old Testament and the reading of it only takes about five minutes. God revealed the complete coming destruction of Edom as a nation in the book. The first fourteen verses deal specifically with Edom, a nation related to the Hebrews, dating back to Jacob and Esau's time. “The Day of the Lord,” a concept found in the number of prophetic books, is mentioned twice, in verses 8 and 15. The Edomites were famous for their wise men and for their wisdom. Neither their wisdom or their impregnable defensive position would be able to save the Edomites from their enemies. The Book of Obadiah refers to some catastrophe that had come upon Jerusalem. The Edomites aided and abetted the enemy of Judah and Jerusalem when the latter was attacked and sacked. The punishment to be visited upon Edom will be due to a number of sins which they committed as listed in verses 11:14. The Book of Obadiah falls logically into three sections. The second section of the book speaks about God's visitation on all nations. The God of Israel claims sovereignty over all nations. Mt. Esau and Mt. Zion are contrasted in Obadiah. The fate of Esau is contrasted with the blessings of Jacob. Obadiah contains at least 13 geographical references. The book concludes stressing the ultimate victory of the kingdom of God. The Edomites were guilty of nine different sins against the Jews. Seventeen of twenty-one verses of Obadiah are predictive in character.

The key to determining when Obadiah was uttered lies in dating the events of verses 11-14, the sacking of Jerusalem. Of the four possible dates that are given in Scripture, one of the earlier ones seem to fit better. I would lean toward the one in 2 Chronicles 21:16f. This view would mesh with the thought that Obadiah is one of the earlier of the minor prophets. This would date the book around 850-840 B.C. The fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. is also a possibility.

Other than what is said in the book, we know nothing about the man who wrote it. There are a number of other Obadiahs in the Bible but none can be positively linked to this one.

Questions on Obadiah:

1. Obadiah refers to the nation of Edom as Esau and God's people as Jacob. What is the background to this? (See Genesis 25-27)
2. Of What sins does the prophet accuse the Edomites?
3. What had happened to Jerusalem?
4. How does vv.15-21 portray the New Testament kingdom of Jesus and its spread?

Your questions on Amos & Obadiah...

Read Jonah and Micah.