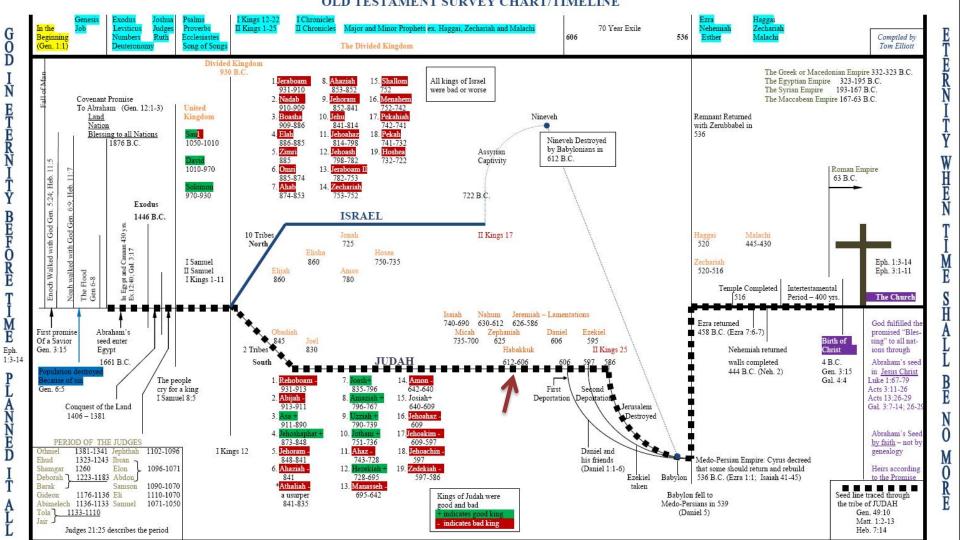
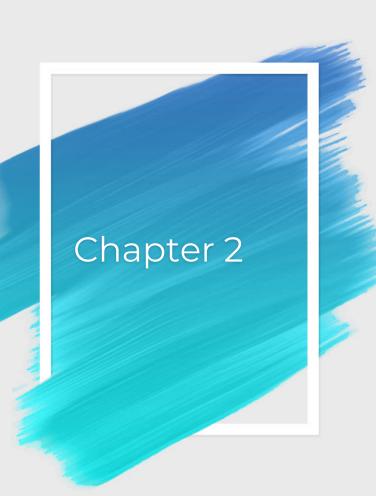


- >Habakkuk (chabhaqquq) means "embrace,"
- The church fathers think that He was from the tribe of Levi based upon the presence of the musical song at the end of the third chapter.
- >He lived during the rule of King Jehoiakim
- >The Prophecies of Habakkuk were probably written between B.C. 612 -605

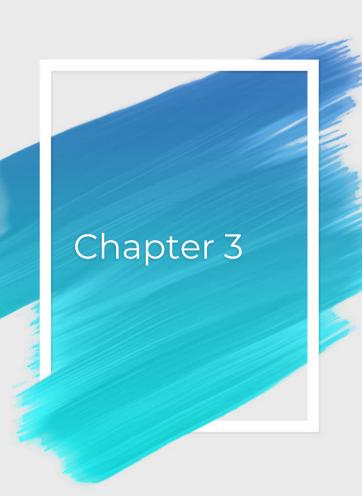




- (V 1-5) Habakkuk complained about the violence and he questioned God for the injustice towards the people of Israel.
- V (6 − 11) God answered by letting Habakkuk prophesy
- (V 12-17) Again the prophet appeal to God, Now that he is aware of the punishment But still questioning how God is holy, yet allows this punishment by the hand of wicked people



- Habakkuk must wait in faith.
- Judgments upon the Chaldeans.
- > Judgments upon drunkenness and idolatry.

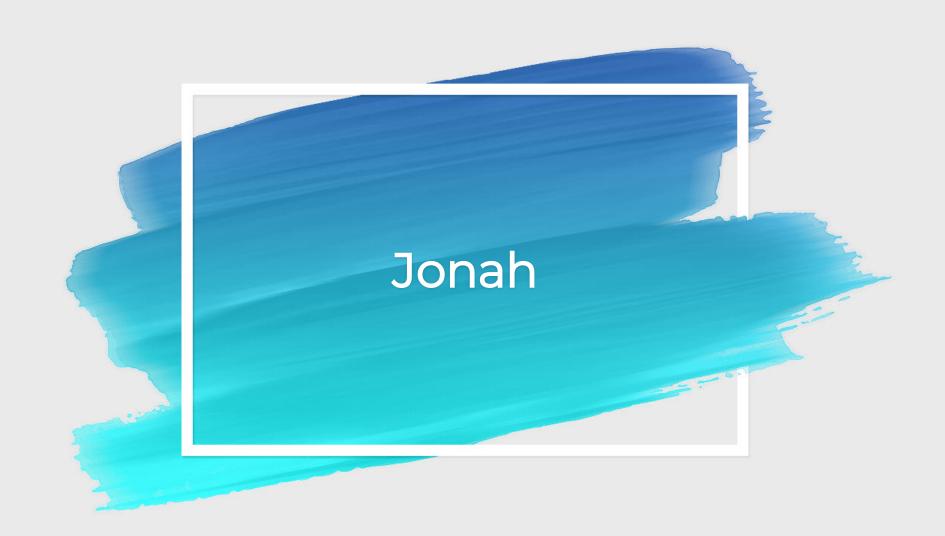


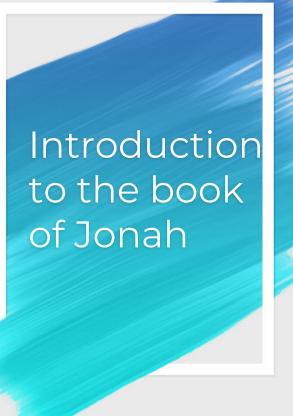
Habakkuk's Prayer

- Habakkuk prayed for revival.
 He knew how God once
 worked and how His people
 once responded.
- Habakkuk wanted to witness this again.



- The servant heart is always open to God carrying his own burdens along with his children problems and put them infront of God until he realize God purpose and solutions.
- The servants heart should be open towards his children .The servant should feel their pain and suffering.
- With a Joyful heart the servants should always react despite all the trouble.





- The book of Jonah is an announcement from God enforcing the acceptance of the gentiles and glimpse of his messages to them. We understand that God reveals himself to everyone not to certain people.
- Jonah's name means "dove" in Hebrew and also suffering
- He is believed to be the son of Widow at Zarephath1 Kings 17



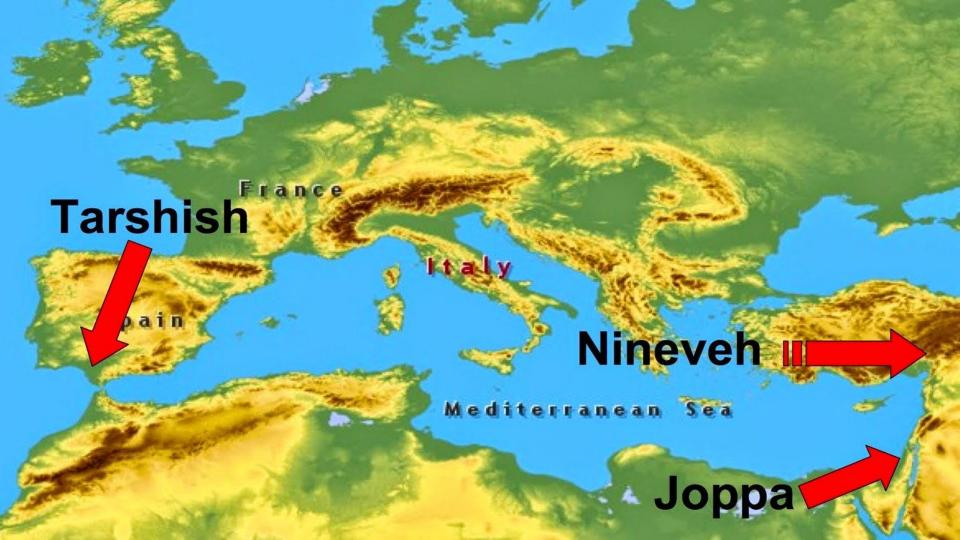
- Jonah lived in the eighth century BC.
 Some have estimated between 793-753 BC (possibly 780 BC).
- The book of Jonah is prophetic work that is unlike any of the other prophets. The genre is historical literature. The book is surrounded by historical data: Jonah was a historical person, Nineveh was a historical city, the seaport of Joppa has historical significance, etc. There is no reason to doubt its historical value, no matter how magical the story might seem to the reader.

Introduction to the book of Jonah

- Ninevah was the capital of Assyria, the arch rivals and enemies of Israel
- We learn from the book of Jonah that God is orchestrating the nature, the sea, the animals, trees to achieve a mission
- Jesus referred to the story of Jonah in Matthew 12:39



- Jonah Flees From the LORD. WHY?
- Jonah went down to Joppa then gone below deck (Jonah kept on drowning in his sin to the extent that he never noticed the trouble surrounding him any more)
- Gentile mariners praying to their gods woke Jonah up and they asked him to pray to his God so that they could be saved





- > Jonah is Praying in the Great Fish (2:1-9)
- > The prayer of Jonah is a prophecy of Jesus crucifixion.
- God has finally put His prophet in the place where he would seek His face and submit himself to Him.



- Jonah Goes to Nineveh. He took 3 days to arrive after the fish vomited him onto dry land.
- The people of Nineveh were ready for Jonah's evangelistic message.
- They proclaimed a fast, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes and dressed coarse cloth, dark in color, that was usually made of goat's hair
- God's evaluated Ninevites' faith and it was strong enough to persuade God not to destroy them



- The repentance was good news to Nineveh, but bad news to Jonah.
- instead of being pleased with what happened, and praising God for His grace to Nineveh and for the success of his ministry, Jonah was displeased exceedingly and very angry with what God had done
- God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah.
- Jonah sat under a shelter he watched the city.
- As the morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm.



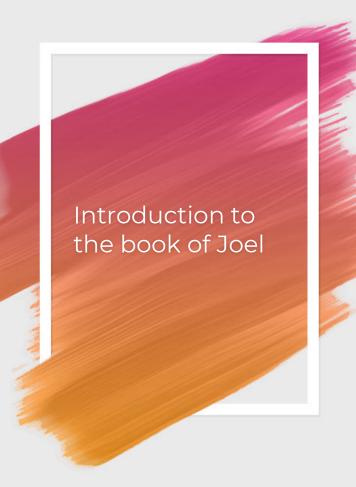
- Jonah was concerned over a temporary plant.
- > This was a plant without a soul.
- > He had no concern over the great city of Nineveh.
- This city had a population of more than 120,000 souls (v.11).



- Jonah was not expecting God's mission for him "A Godly prophet to preach Gentiles"

 Sometimes as servants we are called for a service out of our scope and we feel that this service is not for us.
- We need to be watchful to avoid missing God's clear messages to us. It is easier to have our ears open than to get swollen by a fish ©
- Jonah was not ready to learn lessons from others (sailors, Ninevites, worm)
- Jonah witnessed miracles once he started God's work not because of his own powers but through God's glory.





- >Who? The author of the book is Joel the son of Pethuel (Joel means Jehovah is his God)
- >When? It is not known exactly when Joel lived and prophesied to the kingdom of Judah
- >He may have lived sometime between the reign of Joash, before 850 B.C. and the return of the tribe of Judah from captivity in Babylon and some other says that he lived around 400 BC in Jerusalem.
- ➤ Purpose : Calling for repentance and receiving the Holy Spirit



Verses 1-12

- An Invasion of Locusts explains how if we ignore small sins, it brings bigger sins which causes destruction.
- God warnings comes in stages.
- The greatness of Judgment.
 - A nation has invaded my land.
 - Waste my vines
 - Ruined my fig trees



Verses 13 -15

- A call for repentance.
- The prophet is addressing the clergy and the servants as this is where repentance should start.

Verses 16 - 20

Describing the signs of suffering as a result of the people sins



Verses 1-12

A very strong army coming to attack as a discipline from God.

Verses 12 - 20

The repentance act God is expecting from his people.

Verses 21 – 32

It was revealed to the prophet how people will rejoice after God's forgiveness.

Describes the fruits of the spirit (same verses St. Peter used in Act 2 -17).



Verses 1 - 8

- After they repented God turn against the nations whom he allowed to discipline his children.
- Valley of Jehoshaphat = God's Judgment Valley

Verses 9-17

With God's grace his people can defeat their enemy (Let the weakling say, "I am strong!")



Verses 18-

- Blessings for God's People.
- Valley of acacias. = means the dry land which was ruined by the Locusts and the enemies.
- Egypt and Edom = represent the devil.
 - Egypt → the love of the world
 - Edom → the violence and bloodshed



- The timing of the prophecy is unknown which makes it applicable for all times not sent for certain period.
- The important message is that :The days are near hence without Jesus and the Holy spirit people will be in distress but God's people will be in peace despite all the trouble as the holy spirit will be guiding us and talking to us (Read John 16 -13)

Important service lessons learned from Joel

- Joel 2-18 Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people. The prophet in this verse is describing God's feelings towards his people and the land. Servants land is the service and the people we should have pity for are our kids.
- Joel 3-10 Let the weakling say, "I am strong!" Always remember in your service that its not your own words or your own powers that you are depending on but God's grace.



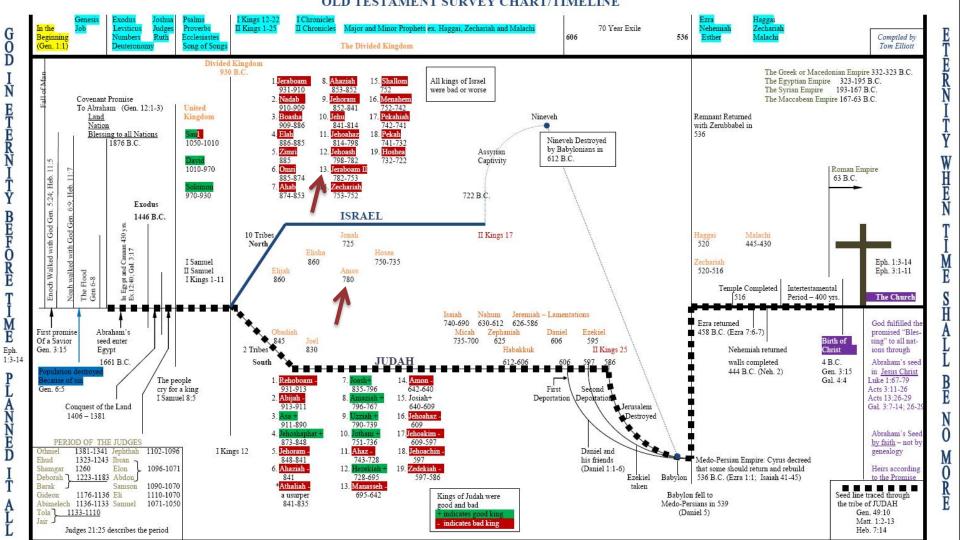


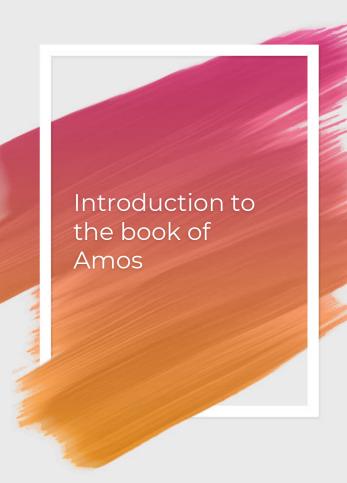
>Who? The author of the book Amos was from Tekoa . His name means burden

A simple man who earned his living from the flock and the sycamore-fig grove

Amos was from Tekoa in Judah about 6 miles south of Bethlehem and 11 miles from Jerusalem

- >When? Amos prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah over Judah (792-740 b.c.) and Jeroboam II over Israel (793-753).
- >Purpose : Calling for calls for social justice





- >Chapter 1-2: Series of messages to the nations and to Israel.
- >Chapter 3 -6: A collection of poems with messages to Israel and its leaders.
- >Chapter 7-9: Series of visions that Amos saw that describe God's coming judgment on Israel and the promise of salvation.



- Verses 1-2: Introduction
- o It is important to understand "the three and four sins" idea which is explained by the fathers as:
- First sin is sinful thinking
- Second sin is committing the sin
- Third sin is Stubbornness and the absence of repentance.
- Fourth sin is teaching and bragging about the sin



- Verses 3-5 : Judgment on Damascus (Arrogance)
- Verses 6-8 : Judgment on Gaza (Captive trade)
- Verses 9-10: Judgment on Tyre (disregarding a treaty of brotherhood)
 Verses 11-12: Judgment on Edom (pursued his brother with a sword)
- Verses 13-15: Judgment on Ammon (greedy)



Sons of Moab are the descendant of Lot from the elder daughter and Sons of Ammon are . from the younger daughter.

- Verses 1-3: Judgment on Moab and Judah.

 Verses 4-5 The word of the LORD against Judah.
- Verses 6-8 The sins of Israel
- Verses 9-12 The goodness of God to Israel and how they despised it
- Verses 13-16)Judgment to come upon Israel



THE LOGIC OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

- Verse 1-2: God's love and care for Israel makes their judgment unavoidable.
- Verse 3-6: The logic of God's judgment.
- Verse 7-8: God reveals what he is doing to his prophet.
- Verse 9-12: The message of judgment against Israel goes to the surrounding nations
 - Ashdod = Palestine
- Judgment on the house of Jacob
 - head of a bed and a piece of fabric^[a] from a couch = Their luxury life

YET YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED TO ME"



- Verse 1 -3 judgment against the women of Israel.
 - Amos describes the indulgent women of Israel which he calls these women "fat cows.".
 - Bashan = is in the northern part of Israel.
- Verse 4-5 The vain sacrifices of Israel
- Verse 6-8 God withholds rain from idolatrous Israel.
 - I gave you cleanness of teeth = Because there is no food to eat.
- Verse 9- 11 Further judgment on idolatrous Israel.
- Verse 12 13 God vows to perform what He has promised.

THE OFFERINGS GOD HATES

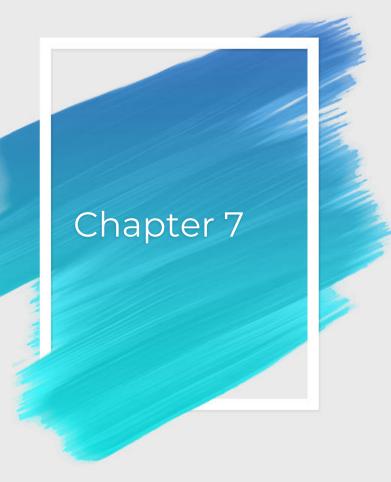


- Verse 1-3 Coming exile and captivity.
- Verse 4-9 An invitation to seek the LORD.
 - Pleiades and Orion = are planets worshiped by Israel so the people left the creator and worshiped the creation.
 - Wormwood = bitter aromatic taste
- $^{\circ}$ Verse 10 15 The cause, the curse, and the cure.
- Verse 16-20 Wailing and woe in the day of the LORD.
- Verse 21-27 Israel's religious ceremonies will not save them from the wailing and woe to come.

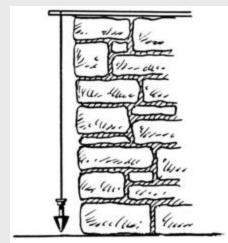


- Verse 1 -2 Comparing Israel to her pagan neighbors.
- Verse 3-7 The high-standing in Israel will be brought low.
- Verse 8-11 The city delivered to destruction.
- Verse 12-14 The injustice and pride of Israel

VISIONS OF JUDGMENT AND THE POWER OF THE PROPHET'S PRAYER



- Verse 1 -3 The vision of locusts (First Vision)
- Verse 4-6 The vision of fire. (Second Vision)
- Verse 7-9 The vision of the plumb line. (Third Vision)
- Verse 10-13 Amaziah's words against Amos.
- Verse 14-15)The answer from Amos





Amos 4th vision

The vision of the basket of summer fruit.

- Verse 1 -3 The basket of summer fruit.
- Verse 4-6 Dishonesty
- Verse 7-10 Stealing from the poor of Israel.
 - The rise like the Nile = Means the flood of the river Nile which used to destroy everything.
- Verse 11-14 How God will judge Israel.
- The famine of hearing the Word of God.
 - Meaning of god of Dan = the Golden calf which the people of dan used to worship



RAISING UP THE RUINS

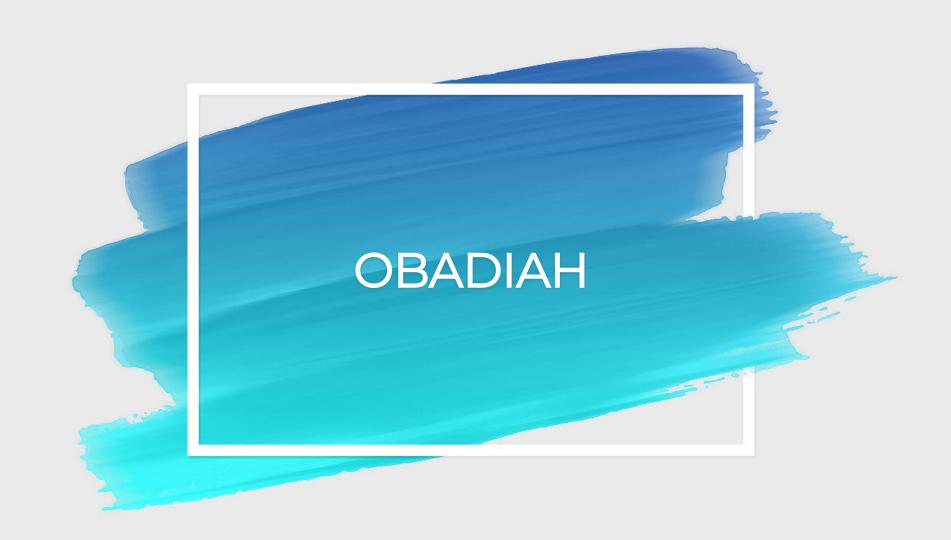
Amos fifth vision

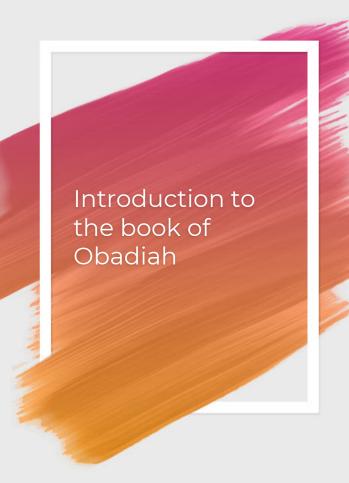
The vision of the altar

- Verse 1-10 God's judgment is clear.
 - The Cushites = Are people who were sinners and they weren't worshiping God and God saved them from destruction
- Verse 11-12 Restoring the house of David to Israel.
- Verse 13-15 Restoring abundance to Israel.

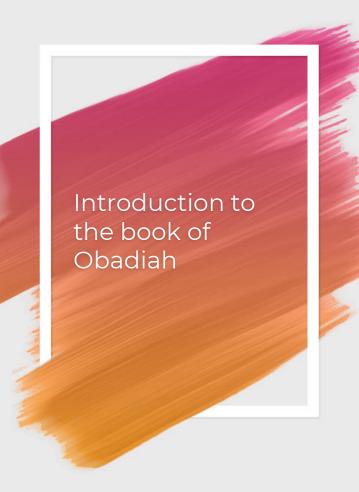


- Servant intercession role. (Amos 7:4-5) Then I cried out, "Sovereign LORD, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"
- Humility and submission go hand in hand. God's Word tells us that, as his servants, we are to submit to one another in lowliness of mind and to get away from our ego. (Amos 7:14-15)
- As Amos did not fear the man of authority "Amaziah" and delivered the word of god, the servant should be clear and sharp in his service when it comes to delivering God's word.





- >Obadiah means the person who gives honor to God
- The book of Obadiah was written in the 586 BC,
- >Purpose of the message is the judgment pronounced on Edom, Judah's neighbor.
- >They refused to help Israel in their need, sold them as slaves, and even abused them while they were exiled to Babylon.
- The Edomites, who were descended from Jacob's brother Esau.
- >Edom (Esau) [means the earthly which represents the devil] was in fight with his brother Jacob [represent the church] since the birth.



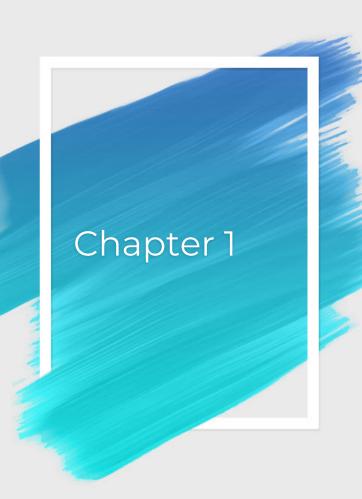
- >There was one narrow road to reach Edom which made the city very hard to be attacked by their enemies.
- > The Jews remembered what the Edomites did to them even in the land of exile :Psalm 137:7

➤ Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did

on the day Jerusalem fell.

"Tear it down," they cried,
"tear it down to its foundations!"





- Obadiah 1-9 :COMING DESTRUCTION
 OF EDOM
- Obadiah 10-14 CAUSE OF EDOM'S JUDGMENT
 - V 14 (You should not wait at the crossroads) It was known that the Edomites would wait for the Jews while they are trying to escape from their enemies .Once they reach crossroads, the Edomites meets them, kill them or hand them back to their enemies.

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- Obadiah 5-16Judgment of Nations
 - V 16 (they will drink and drink and be as if they had never been).It means that the punishments will come over them, one after the other, Each one will be harder as if the previous one which they experienced was nothing.
- Obadiah 17-21Judah Restored
 - ^o Zion is the heavenly church.
 - V17 But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy and Jacob will possess his inheritance. => In the prophecy this verse represents the salvation of Judah .The bigger picture is Zion (the church) which is our inheritance

Important service lessons learned from Obadiah

Servants will always witness families in distress and going through hardships .As a reaction God is questioned; why he is allowing his kids to go through all this .Our trust is always that, even though God is allowing minor problems, our eyes is not on the earthly benefits, those are all tools to prepare his people to the heavenly inheritance