

## The Book of Obadiah

The Book of Obadiah, found in the Old Testament of the Bible, is a concise yet powerful prophetic work that focuses on the judgment of Edom and the restoration of Israel. Here's an introduction to the Book of Obadiah:

- **Authorship and Date:** The Book of Obadiah is attributed to the prophet Obadiah, whose name means "servant of the Lord." Little is known about the prophet Obadiah, and his precise historical context remains uncertain. However, the book likely dates to the post-exilic period, possibly around the 5th century BCE.
- **Historical Context:** Obadiah prophesied against the nation of Edom, a neighboring kingdom to Judah located southeast of the Dead Sea. Edom had a long history of hostility toward Israel, and Obadiah's prophecy addresses Edom's pride, arrogance, and mistreatment of the people of Judah during a time of crisis and vulnerability.

### Content

- **Judgment Against Edom:** The central message of Obadiah is a pronouncement of divine judgment against the nation of Edom for its pride, violence, and betrayal of its kinship with Israel. Obadiah condemns Edom's arrogance and boasts of its military strength, warning of the impending destruction and devastation that will come upon the nation.
- **Reasons for Judgment:** Obadiah identifies several reasons for Edom's judgment, including its participation in the plundering of Jerusalem, its gloating over Israel's misfortune, and its refusal to offer assistance to its brother nation in its time of need. Edom's treachery and hostility toward Israel are seen as offenses against God's covenant people.
- **Divine Retribution:** Obadiah prophesies that Edom will suffer the consequences of its actions and be brought low by the hand of God. The pride and arrogance of Edom will be humbled, and its fortresses will be laid waste. The day of the Lord's judgment will be a day of reckoning for Edom's sins.
- **Restoration of Israel:** Amidst the pronouncements of judgment, Obadiah also offers words of hope and restoration for the people of Israel. He prophesies that the exiles of Israel will return to their homeland, reclaim their inheritance, and experience the blessings of God's salvation. The house of Jacob will be restored, and the kingdom will belong to the Lord.

### Key Themes

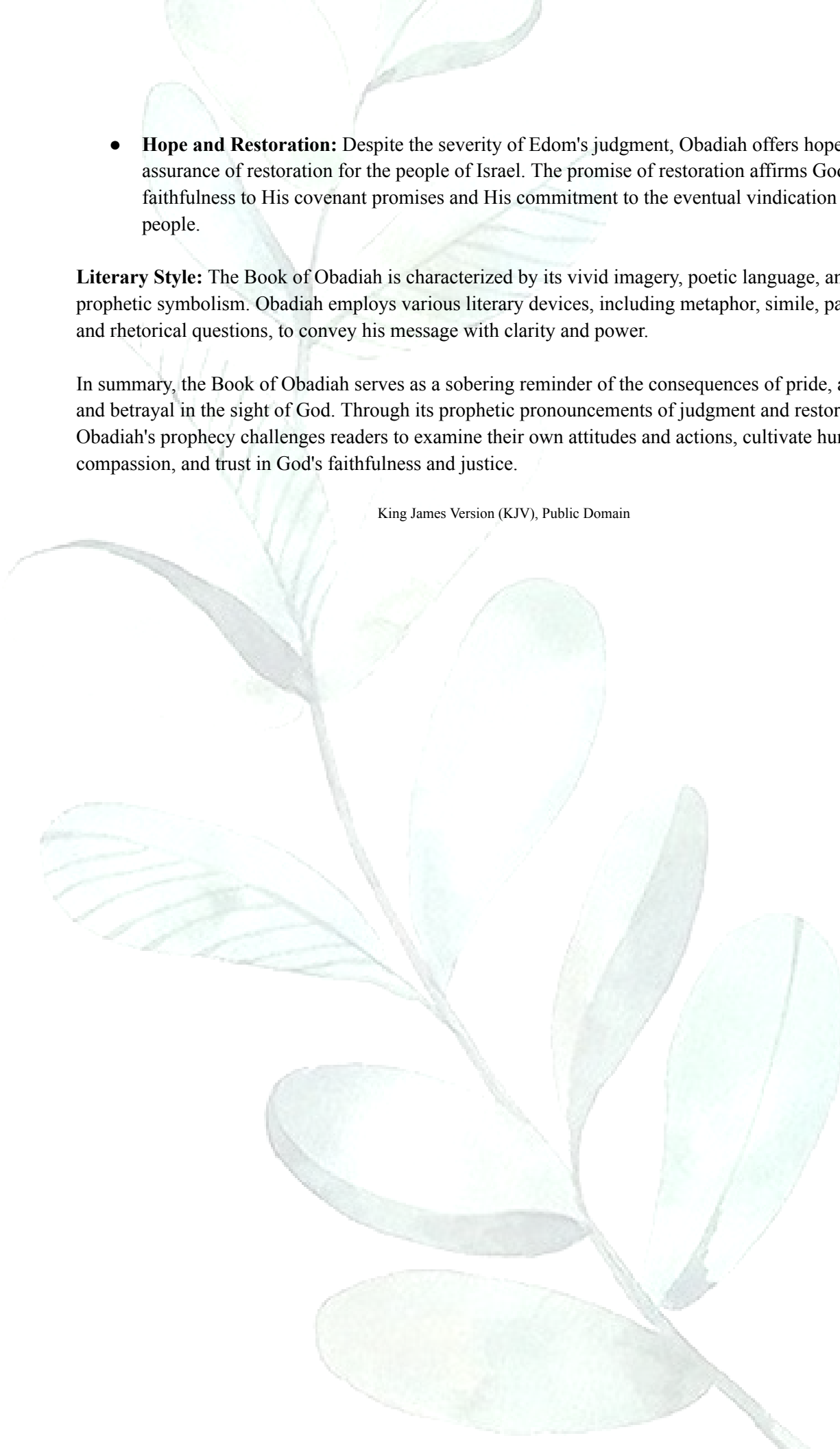
- **Divine Judgment and Justice:** The Book of Obadiah emphasizes the theme of divine judgment and justice, highlighting God's righteous response to human sin and injustice. Edom's pride, arrogance, and hostility toward Israel incur the wrath of God, resulting in divine retribution and punishment.
- **Humility and Pride:** Obadiah contrasts the pride and arrogance of Edom with the humility and faithfulness of Israel. Edom's downfall is attributed to its boastful attitude and self-reliance, while Israel's restoration is linked to its trust in God and acknowledgment of His sovereignty.
- **Brotherhood and Betrayal:** The prophecy of Obadiah underscores the importance of brotherhood and solidarity among God's covenant people. Edom's betrayal of its kinship with Israel represents a violation of sacred bonds and a rejection of God's covenant relationship.

- **Hope and Restoration:** Despite the severity of Edom's judgment, Obadiah offers hope and assurance of restoration for the people of Israel. The promise of restoration affirms God's faithfulness to His covenant promises and His commitment to the eventual vindication of His people.

**Literary Style:** The Book of Obadiah is characterized by its vivid imagery, poetic language, and prophetic symbolism. Obadiah employs various literary devices, including metaphor, simile, parallelism, and rhetorical questions, to convey his message with clarity and power.

In summary, the Book of Obadiah serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences of pride, arrogance, and betrayal in the sight of God. Through its prophetic pronouncements of judgment and restoration, Obadiah's prophecy challenges readers to examine their own attitudes and actions, cultivate humility and compassion, and trust in God's faithfulness and justice.

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A watercolor illustration of a green leafy branch, rendered in soft, light green and teal tones. The branch is positioned vertically on the left side of the page, with several oval-shaped leaves extending from it. The leaves have visible veins and are painted with a delicate, painterly style. The background is plain white.

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## CHAPTER 1

*The Fall of Edom; The Lord Condemns Edom's Cruelty; The Lord Will Judge the Nations; Israel's Final Triumph*

### **The Fall of Edom**

1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

2 Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

4 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.

5 If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave some grapes?

6 How are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!

7 All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.

8 Shall I not in that day, saith the Lord, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

9 And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

### **The Lord Condemns Edom's Cruelty**

10 For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

11 In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.

12 But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

13 Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity;

14 Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

### **The Lord Will Judge the Nations**

15 For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

16 For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

### **Israel's Final Triumph**

17 But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the Lord hath spoken it.

19 And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

20 And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

21 And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

