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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FOUR
AN INVITATION TO RETURN—A SURVEY OF HOSEA—MALACHI
OBADIAH: STRONG WARNING TO THE PROUD
A SURVEY OF OBADIAH

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The Heart of the Matter

In that section of the Bible known as the Prophets, there are four points of interest that are interwoven together: (1) the prophet's own times—his particular situation; (2) the imminent threat of the nations' captivity by Assyria and Babylon as well as the nations' eventual restoration; (3) the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ; and (4) the literal, millennial reign of Messiah as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Obadiah's major message is related to the *first two historical periods*. Except in his case, Obadiah's message was not to Israel or Judah but to Edom, and there was no hope of restoration for them.



Discovering the Way

1. A Helpful and Necessary Orientation

The history and background to the vision of Obadiah is foreign to modern readers, but his message drips with personal and current relevance.

2. A Careful and Direct Examination

Obadiah's vision is divided into three sections: Edom's humiliation and destruction (1:1–9); Edom's cruelty and crimes (1:10–14); and Edom's judgment and doom (1:15–21).

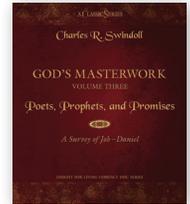


Starting Your Journey

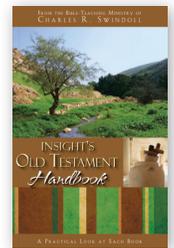
Three practical and convincing applications are found in the book of Obadiah. First, if you hold grudges, take revenge, or continue in feuds and fights, your own failure is certain. Second, if you are proud and find pleasure in another's calamity, your own success will be diminished. Third, if you think you are secure in what you earn and erect, your own situation is sure to change.



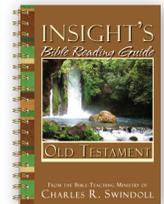
Tools for Digging Deeper



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OBADIAH

	Edom's Humiliation and Destruction	Edom's Cruelty and Crimes	Edom and the Day of the Lord
	<i>VERSES</i> 1–9	<i>VERSES</i> 10–14	<i>VERSES</i> 15–21
Portent	Prediction	Denunciation	Consummation
Event	What will happen	Why it will happen	How it will happen
Content	“The arrogance of your heart has deceived you. . . . I will bring you down.” (1:3–4)	“Because of violence to your brother Jacob” (1:10)	“As you have done, it will be done to you.” (1:15)
Theme	The coming judgment of Edom		
Key Verse	1:10		
Christ in Obadiah	God’s judgment of Edom and deliverance of Israel prefigure Christ’s salvation and end-times judgment.		

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