

## Obadiah – People and Places

### **Obadiah (v. 1a)**

Obadiah's name means "servant of the Lord." Despite the fact that there are 13 men with this name in the Old Testament, no valid reason can be given for identifying the prophet with any of them.<sup>12</sup>

### **Edom (v. 1b)**

The written records and monuments of the Edomites have perished.<sup>13</sup>

The conflicts between Israel and Edom are traced in the Old Testament all the way back to a prenatal struggle of the ancestors Jacob and Esau (Gen. 25:22 f.).<sup>14</sup>

### **Esau (v. 6)**

The "traditional founder"<sup>15</sup> of Edom.

### **Teman (v. 9)**

A fortified citadel<sup>16</sup> or perhaps a tribal territory.<sup>17</sup> "In this passage it is synonymous with the nation of Edom."<sup>18</sup>

### **Brother Jacob (v. 10, 18a), Joseph (v. 18b)**

Twin brother of Esau and a nephew of Esau.

### **Negeb (v. 19a, 20c)**

The area around Beersheba and the lower portion of the Dead Sea.<sup>19</sup>

### **Shephelah (v. 19b)**

A narrow ridge of land between the coastal plain and the hill country, which would expand into the Philistine city-states.<sup>20</sup>

### **Zarephath (v. 20b)**

Located on the coastal highway between Tyre and Sidon in Phoenicia, Azrephath is depicted as the restored Israel's northern border.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Jack P. Lewis, *The Minor Prophets* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1966), 89.

<sup>13</sup> Jack P. Lewis, *The Minor Prophets* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1966), 91.

<sup>14</sup> Jack P. Lewis, *The Minor Prophets* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1966), 92.

<sup>15</sup> John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 775.

<sup>16</sup> Jack P. Lewis, *The Minor Prophets* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1966), 91.

<sup>17</sup> John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 775.

<sup>18</sup> John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 775.

<sup>19</sup> John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 777.

<sup>20</sup> John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 777.

<sup>21</sup> John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 777.

### Sepharad (v. 20c)

The most likely site for Sepharad is Sardis in western Asia Minor. The implication in the text is that even the most distant [exiles] would return to reclaim a portion of the land.<sup>22</sup>

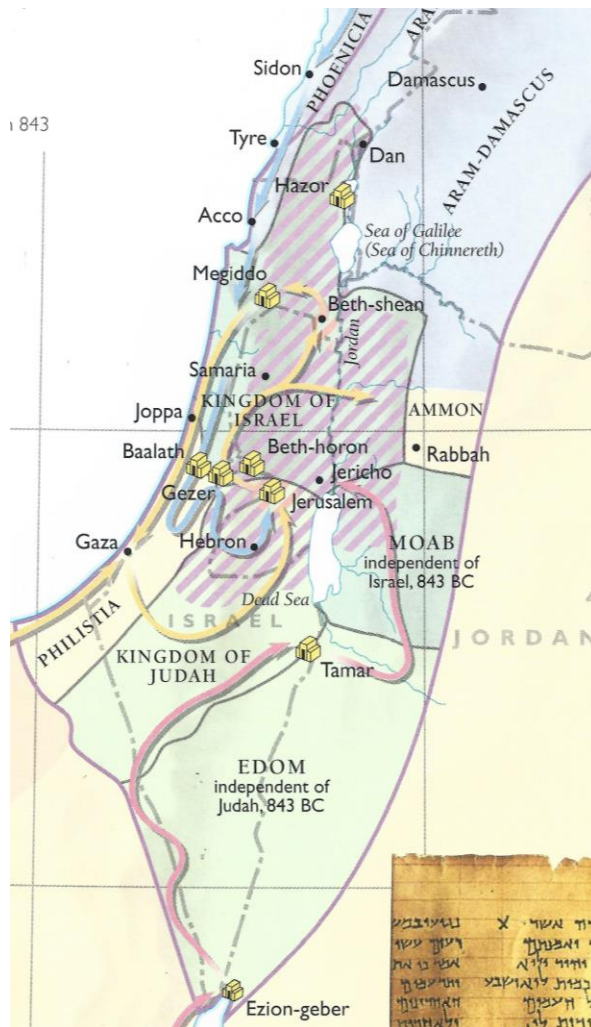
### Land of ... (v. 19b, 19c, 20a, etc.)

Philistines, Ephraim, Samaria, Gilead, Canaanites

### Idumea (Mark 3:8)

At an undetermined period Nabatean Arabs took over the territory of Edom. By 312 B.C. it was called Idumea.... The Idumeans supplied history with Herod who became king of the Jews. The territory came under Roman domination during the Roman period.<sup>23</sup>

Map<sup>24, 25</sup>



<sup>22</sup> John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 777.

<sup>23</sup> Jack P. Lewis, *The Minor Prophets* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1966), 93.

<sup>24</sup> John Haywood, *Atlas of Past Times* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Borders Press, 2002), 31.

<sup>25</sup> Tim Dowley, ed., *The Baker Atlas of Christian History* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1997), 42.