

OBADIAH.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Division.)

D¹	J¹	A¹ 1-16. EDOM. DESTRUCTION.
		A² 17-21. ISRAEL. RESTORATION.

For the CANONICAL order and place of the Prophets, see Ap. 1, and p. 1206.
 For the CHRONOLOGICAL order of the Prophets, see Ap. 77.
 For the Inter-relation of the Prophetic Books, see Ap. 78.
 For the *Formulae* of Prophetic utterance, see Ap. 82.
 For References to the Pentateuch by the Prophets, see Ap. 92.
 For the Inter-relation of the Minor (or Shorter) Prophets, see pp. 1206 and 1207.

The Minor Prophets do not profess to be chronological. The order seems to be logical; hence, Obadiah corresponds with Joel, and takes up Joel's theme, and shows (by contrast) what Joel's "day of the LORD" shall be for Israel's enemies. See pp. 1206-7. Edom is the one enemy in Joel (3. 19) as in Obadiah: indeed, from the first, Gen. 27. 39, 40 was fulfilled (see notes on 1 Kings 22. 47 and 2 Kings 8. 20-22. 2 Chron. 21. 8-10). After that we find prophecies against Edom (Isa. 34. 5-17. Jer. 49. 17-22. Ezek. 25. 12-14; 35; and Obadiah).

The correspondence between Jer. 49 and Obadiah may be thus shown :

Obad. 1- = Jer. 49. 7-.		Obad. -5 = Jer. 49. 9-.
" -1, 2 = " 14, 15.		" 6 = " 10.
" 3, 4 = " 16.		" 8 = " -7.
" 5- = " -9.		" 9 = " 22.

The two prophecies are independent and original. There is no need to discuss which of the two quoted the other, or whether both refer to an earlier prophet. All beyond the Scripture record is conjecture.

That Obadiah gives details which are complementary may well be explained by the Fig. *Hysterēsis* (Ap. 6).

For the partial fulfilment of the prophecy, see the notes.

The prophecy of Obadiah is undated; but, from the internal evidence, referred to above, it was almost certainly subsequent to the captivity of Jehoiachin (489-8 B.C.), or to the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, and the end of Judah. This would bring it to either 482 B.C. or 472 B.C.

OBADIAH.

A¹ A a
(p. 1245)
82 or 472

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.

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.

1-16 (A¹, p. 1244). EDOM. DESTRUCTION.
(Alternation and Introversion.)

A¹ | A | a | 1, 2. Remote Cause. Jehovah's Purpose.
b | 3, 4. Deceived by Self.
B | 5, 6. Devastation.
A | b | 7-9. Deceived by Others.
a | 10-14. Immediate Cause. Edom's Sin.
B | 15, 16. Extermination.

1 Obadiah = Servant of Jehovah. Cp. 1 Kings 18. 3. Thus saith, &c. The words of this prophecy, therefore, are not Obadiah's, but Jehovah's. Cp. vv. 8, 18. the Lord GOD. Heb. Adonai Jehovah. Ap. 4. VIII (2) and II.

concerning Edom. See notes on p. 1244.

We have heard. The rhetorical difficulty may be removed by regarding these words as the words of Edom's foes.

a rumour = tidings. the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II. Supply the logical Ellipsis (Ap. 6): “from Jehovah [that Edom is to be attacked]”. and: or, and [already].

heathen = nations.

Arise ye. These are the words of the embassy. in battle = the war.

2 Behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6. Calling attention to the words of Jehovah.

3 the clefts, &c. Referring to the natural position of the Edomites. Cp. 2 Kings 14. 7.

4 Though, &c. The words of Jehovah.

set thy nest. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 24. 21). Ap. 92. Cp. Hab. 2. 9.

among the stars. Fig. Hyperbole. Ap. 6.

saith the LORD = [is] Jehovah's oracle.

5 If . . . ? Fig. Erotēsis. Ap. 6.

how. Fig. Ejaculatio, or Erotesis. Ap. 6.

if the grapegatherers. Some codices, with Aram., Sept., and Syr., read “or if”, &c.

would they not . . . ? Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 24. 21). Ap. 92. Cp. Isa. 17. 6; 24. 13.

6 How . . . ! Fig. Erotēsis. Ap. 6.

searched out: i.e. discovered by the enemies. Ginsburg thinks it should be read “stripped bare”.

7 men. Pl. of 'ēnōsh. Ap. 14. III.

confederacy. See Ps. 83. 5-8.

the men, &c. = the men who were wont to salute thee.

and. Some codices, with three early printed editions and Syr., read this “and” in the text.

they that eat. The Ellipsis is thus correctly supplied. wound = snare.

understanding in him: or, no discernment of it: in spite of their renown for wisdom. Cp. v. 8. Jer. 49. 7.

8 that day: i.e. the day of the fulfilment of the prophecy. Cp. 15, 16, and Isa. 63. 1-6. Jer. 49. 13. mount = hill country.

9 Teman. Cp. Jer. 49. 7.

10 thy violence, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 27. 41-44. Deut. 23. 7). Ap. 92.

11 in the day. See Ap. 18. Note the Fig. Repetitio (Ap. 6) in vv. 12, 13, 14. strangers = aliens.

gates. Heb. text = gate; but Heb. marg., with some codices and two early printed editions, read “gates” (pl.).

12 thou shouldest not have looked on, &c. All these are Prohibitives in Heb.: i.e. they are addressed to Edom as from a spectator looking on and saying; “Look not thou,” &c. children = sons.

spoken proudly. Heb. enlarged thy mouth [with laughter]. Cp. Ps. 35. 21. Isa. 57. 4. Ezek. 35. 13.

14 stood in the crossway. Referring to some antecedent event by Fig. Hysteresis (Ap. 6).

crossway = fork of the roads, or a mountain pass.

B
(p. 1245)
482 or 472

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.

A² C
(p. 1246)

17 But °upon mount Zion °shall be °deliverance, °and there shall be holiness;

D and the house of Jacob °shall possess their possessions.

E 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.

D 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.

C 21 And °saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and °the kingdom shall be °the LORD'S."

fields = territory.

and Benjamin = and [they of] Benjamin. being put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the captives.

tribes. shall possess. Supply the *Ellipsis* thus: "they who are scattered among [the Canaanites]". even, &c. Supply "[shall possess] as far as".

Zarephath = Sarepta, belonging to Sidon and Tyre. Sepharad is mentioned with Ionia and Greece (in the west) in the inscriptions of *Behistun*, col. 1, line 15. See Ap. 57, p. 81. Jews were sold as slaves, and were taken to Spain by the Phoenicians to work in the mines near the great city of Ampuria, now being unearthed, near Figueras, in the province of Gerona. The "Jews' houses" are still shown at Besalu.

the cities, &c. Jewish tradition declares for Spain. south. After v. 20, supply the logical *Ellipsis* of thought thus: "[yea, My People shall enlarge their borders on all sides], and saviours", &c.

21 saviours = deliverers: i.e. earthly and human, as in Judges 3. 9, 15. Cp. Mic. 5. 4, 5. See the Structure ("C" and "C"), above. the kingdom shall be the LORD'S. Cp. Ps. 22. 28. Dan. 2. 44; 7. 14, 27. Zech. 14. 9. Rev. 11. 15; 19. 6.

15 the day of the LORD. See note on Isa. 2. 11, 17. The prophecy is now enlarged, and includes all the nations who were Israel's enemies.

as = according as. This prophecy was fulfilled, so far as Edom was concerned, later on (see 1 Macc. 5. 4, 65. Josephus, *De Bell.* iv. 5); likewise will the judgment on "all the nations" be literally fulfilled.

16 holy. See note on Ex. 3. 5.

continually. Some codices, with four early printed editions (one Rabbinic in marg.), read "round about". swallow down: or, stagger. Only elsewhere in Job 6. 3.

as though, &c. Solemn and noteworthy words.

17-21 (A², p. 1244). ISRAEL. RESTORATION. (*Introversion.*)

A² C | 17-. Deliverance.

D | -17. Possession.

E | 18. Victory.

D | 19, 20. Possession.

C | 21. Deliverers.

17 upon mount Zion. Cp. Isa. 46. 13. Joel 2. 32. shall be. Cp. Jer. 46. 28. Joel 3. 16. Amos 9. 8. deliverance = a delivered remnant. Cp. Joel 2. 32. and there shall be, &c. Cp. Isa. 1. 26; 4. 3, 4. Joel 3. 17.

shall possess, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 24. 18, 19). Ap. 92. Cp. Isa. 14. 1, 2. Joel 3. 19-21. Amos 9. 11-16.

18 there shall not be. Cp. vv. 9, 10, 16.

any remaining = him that remaineth. Twenty-four centuries ago this prophecy was written, and to-day no Edomites can be identified. Cp. v. 14, and Num. 24. 19 (the same word). There will be a restored Edom, "in that day", or Isa. 63. 1-6. Jer. 49. 7-22 could not be fulfilled.

19 the south = the south [country], the Negeb. See note on Ps. 126. 4. Cp. Amos 9. 12.

the plain = the lowlands, the Shephelah [shall possess]. Cp. Zeph. 2. 7.

they = they [of the mountain], or [of the centre].

20 captivity = the captives: "captivity"

this host: i.e. the whole of the twelve

tribes. shall possess. Supply the *Ellipsis* thus: "they who are scattered among [the Canaanites]".

even, &c. Supply "[shall possess] as far as".

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JONAH.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(*Extended Alternation.*)

G¹ A | 1. 1. THE WORD OF JEHOVAH.

B | 1. 2. MISSION TO NINEVEH.

C | 1. 3. JONAH. DISOBEDIENCE.

D | 1. 4—2. 10. CONSEQUENCES. RESURRECTION OF JONAH.

A | 3. 1. THE WORD OF JEHOVAH.

B | 3. 2. MISSION TO NINEVEH.

C | 3. 3, 4-. JONAH. OBEDIENCE.

D | 3. 4—4. 11. CONSEQUENCES. CORRECTION OF JONAH.