

INTERNAL evidence seems to fix the date of Obadiah's ministry in the reign of the bloody Athaliah (2 Ki. 8. 16-26). If this be true, and if the ministry of Joel was during the reign of Joash, then Obadiah is chronologically first of the writing prophets, and first to use the formula, "the day of the LORD." (Cf. Joel 1. 4, *note*.)

The book is in four parts: I. Edom's humiliation, vs. 1-9. II. The crowning sin of Edom, vs. 10-14. III. The future visitation of Edom in the day of the LORD, vs. 15, 16 (Isa. 34., 63. 1-6). IV. The inclusion of Edom in the future kingdom, vs. 17-21 (Num. 24. 17-19).

Part I. The humiliation of Edom.

THE vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD ^aconcerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the ^bheathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

2 Behold, I have made thee small among the ^bheathen: 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 grape-gatherers 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 ^cEdom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

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

B.C. 587.

Part II. The great sin of Edom.
(Cf. Num. 20. 14-21; Psa. 137. 7; Ezk. 35. 5.)

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.

Part III. Edom in the day of the LORD.

15 For the ^eday of the LORD is near ^fupon all the ^bheathen: 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 ^bheathen drink continually, yea,

^a Psa.137.7;
Isa.34.1-15;
63.1-6; Jer.
49.7-22;
Ezk.25.12-13.

^b i.e. nations.

^c Gen.36.1,
note.

^d Gen.36.11;
1 Chr.1.45;
Jer.49.7,20.

^e Day (of
Jehovah).
vs.15-21;
Zeph.1.15-18. (Isa.2.
10-22; Rev.
19.11-21.)

^f Armaged-
don (battle
of). Zeph.3.
8. (Rev.16.
14; 19.11-21.)

they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

Part IV. Edom to be included in the kingdom.

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

18 ^bAnd 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*.

B.C. 585.

^a Joel 2.32.

^b Ezk. 25.14;
Dan. 11.41.

^c Amos 9.12.

^d Zeph. 2.7.

^e See *Kingdom*, Zech. 12.8, *note*;
1 Cor. 15.28, *note*.

19 And *they of* the south ^eshall possess the mount of Esau; and ^d*they of* the plain the Philistines; and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria; and Benjamin *shall possess* Gil-ead.

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 ^ekingdom shall be the LORD'S.