

Welcome to **WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT**

No one's education is complete without a knowledge of the Bible.

Over half the world's people consider the Bible to be part of their belief structure.



The Bible is not mere literature: it offers insight and wisdom to those seeking truth.

What is the "Bible"?

τὰ βιβλία

from *biblia* (Latin)

from earlier *tà biblía* (Koine Greek)

meaning "the books" or "library" or "book"

A collection of sacred texts or scriptures that Jews and Christians consider to be a product of divine inspiration and a record of the relationship between God and humans



66 books by
40 authors

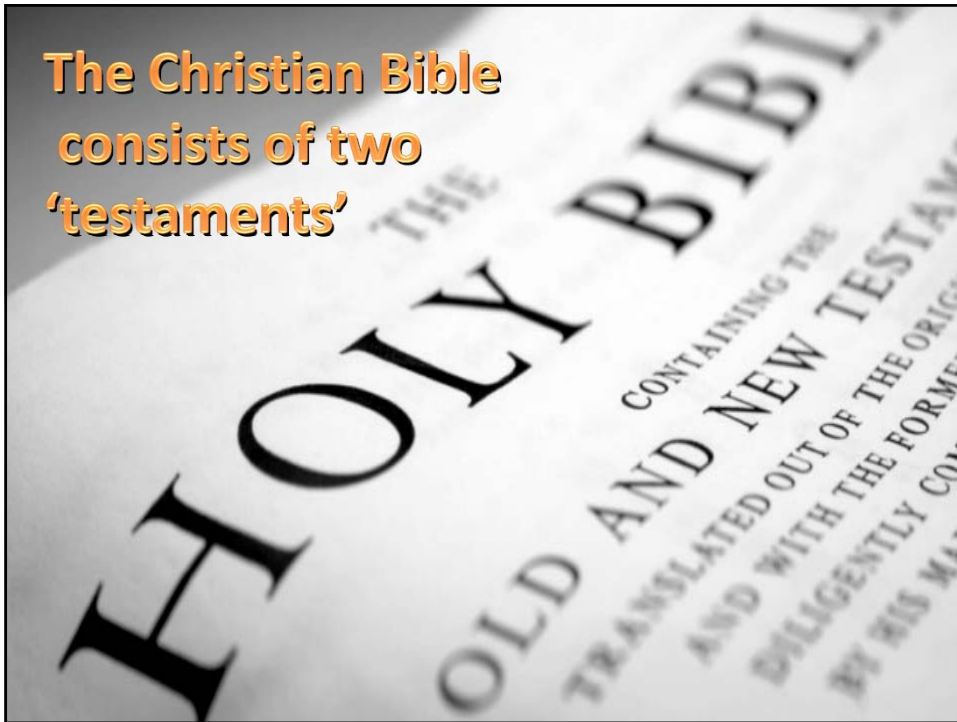
[shepherds, kings, scholars, prophets, fishermen, a priest, a soldier, and a cupbearer]

from
3 continents
writing in
3 languages
over nearly
2,000 years

The Unity of Scripture

Yet with a single, unified message of God's nature, His love, and His plan of salvation for fallen humanity.

The Christian Bible
consists of two
'testaments'



testament

/ˈtɛstəmənt/
noun

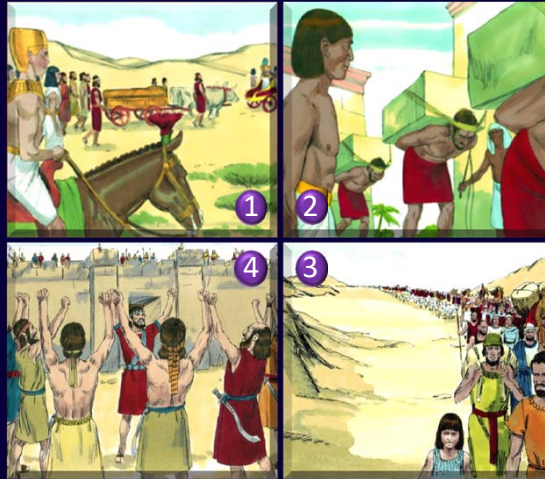


1. (law) a will setting out the disposition of personal property.
2. a. a covenant instituted between God and man,
b. a copy of the Bible or either the Old or the New Testament.

Origin: from Late Latin *vetus testamentum* and *novum testamentum*, loan-translations of Greek *palaia diatheke* and *kaine diatheke*. The Greek **διαθήκη** (*diathēkē* /dē-ä-thā'-kā/ Strong's G1242), means a compact, a covenant, a testament or a will.

The **Old Testament** is the story of a **Nation**

- 1 The Hebrews went to Egypt as a Family.
- 2 They were later enslaved.
- 3 Moses led them out as a Nation...
- 4 ... that conquered Canaan.

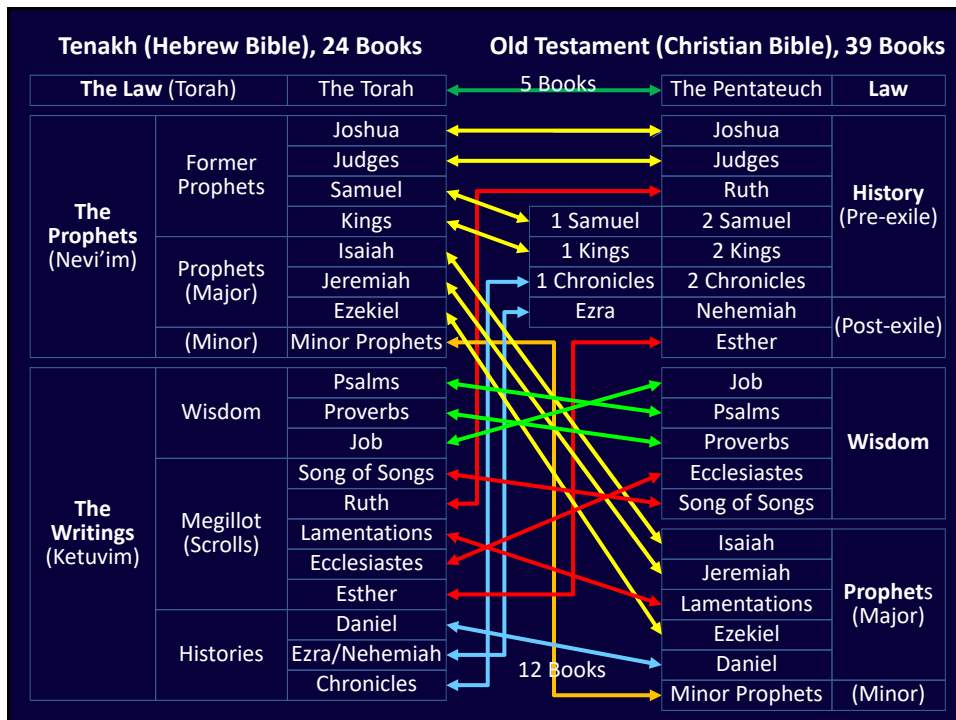


The **New Testament** is the story of a **Man**
... told by people (**eyewitnesses**) who knew Him.



A central Bible tenet

The **New Testament** is in the Old Testament **concealed**,
 the **Old Testament** is in the New Testament **revealed**.





gos'pel

noun | gos•pel | \gä-spəl\

1. *capitalised*: good news; the message concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God, and salvation
2. *capitalised*: one of the four New Testament books telling of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. a lection from one of the four gospels used in a religious way
4. any system of religious doctrine; sometimes, any system of political doctrine or social philosophy; as, this political gospel.
5. anything promoted or accepted as infallible truth or as a guiding principle of doctrine

Middle English, from Old English *gōd-spel* meaning "good news" or "glad tidings", which is a calque (word-for-word translation) of the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον, euangelion (eu- "good", -angelion "message") or in Aramaic (ܐܘܢܘܢܐ ewang'eliyawn).

Okay, but what IS the Gospel?

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The “Good News” of the Bible

01

Jesus died,
according to the Scriptures...

02

He was buried...

03

He rose again on the third day,
according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

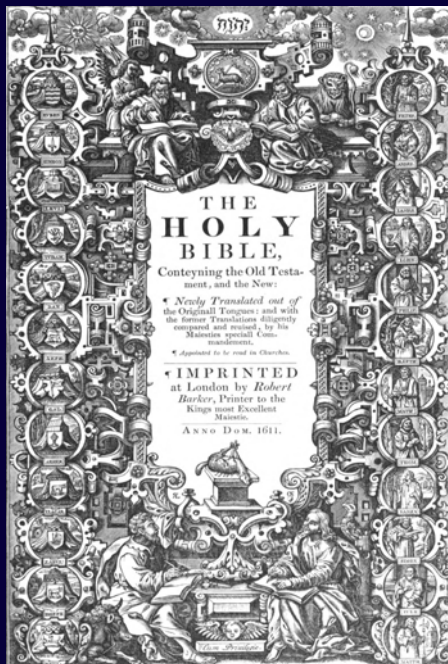
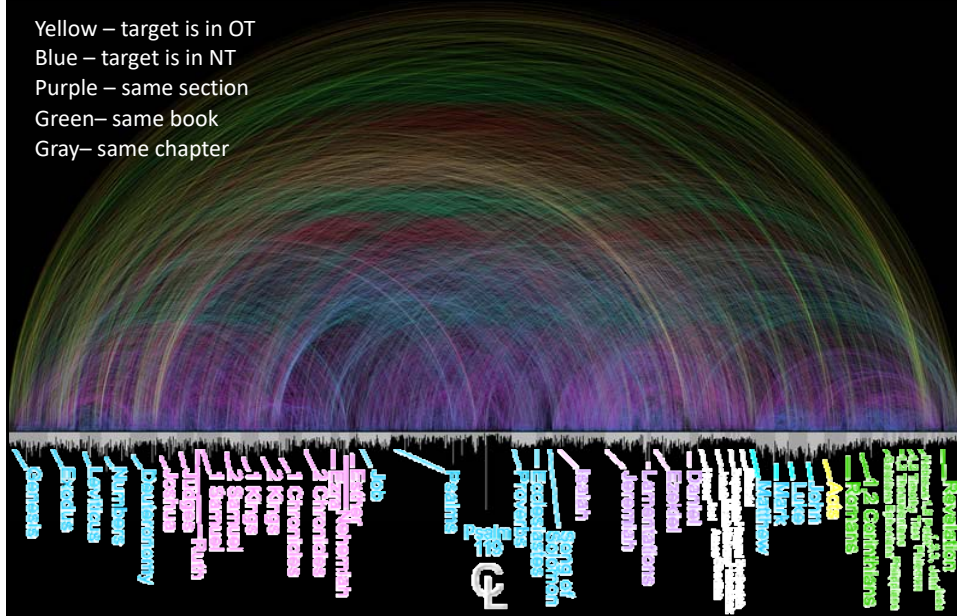
3 **Died**
according to the scriptures

Buried
Rose on the 3rd day
according to the scriptures



Chart showing 63,779 cross-references found in the Bible, each represented by a single arc. The Bible is internally consistent.

Yellow – target is in OT
 Blue – target is in NT
 Purple – same section
 Green – same book
 Gray – same chapter



In brief

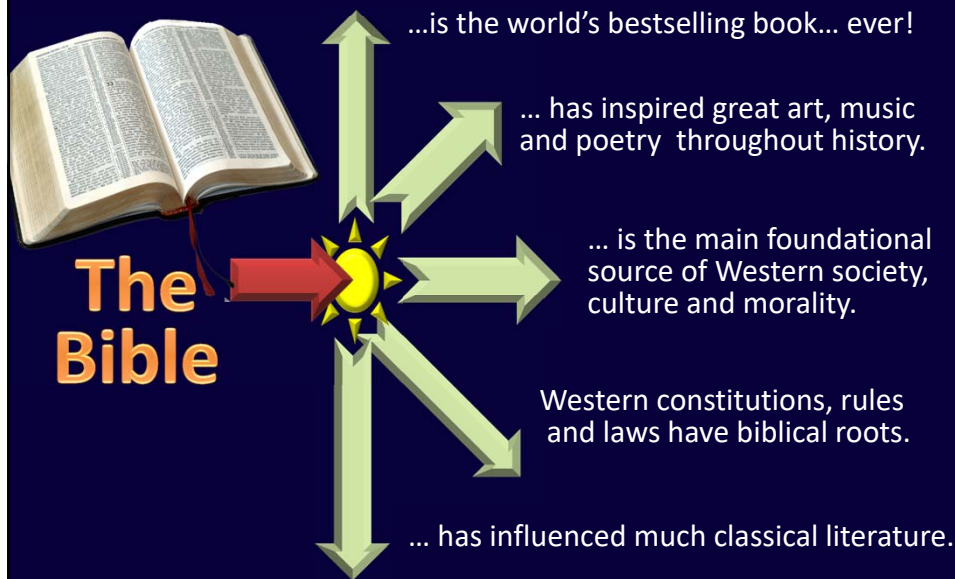
- The Bible is intended to be Mankind's:
 - Operating
 - Service
 - Repair, and
 - Owner's manual.

The Bible influences our language

"As old as the hills" "Beside yourself" "Put in my two cents"
 "O you of little faith" "Put your hand over your mouth"
 "On the one hand" "A little bird told me" "Raising Cain"
 "One way or another" "Red sky at night, sailors delight"
 "Out of the mouth of babes" "Dire straits" "Rise and shine!"
 "Physician, heal thyself" "Lying lips" "Risky business"
 "Played the fool" "Between a rock and a hard place" "Root of the matter"
 "Crystal clear" "Salt of the earth"
 "Bite the dust" "Sank like a stone"
 "At his wits' end" "Sour grapes"
 "Put his house in order" "Kiss of death" "Truth will set you free"



The Bible influences our society





The Bible influences education

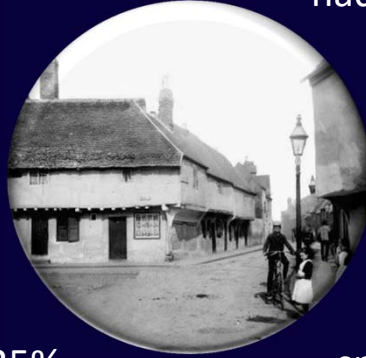
18th century children worked long hours six days a week. With nothing to do on Sundays, many turned to crime out of boredom.



The first public school was started in 1781 to teach child factory workers in Gloucester to read the Bible.

By 1785, 150,000
6-12 year olds
were enrolled.

Within ten years, child
crime in Gloucester
had dropped from
hundreds per
year to none.



By 1831,
1.2 million (25%
of English children)
were enrolled.

The scheme
spread to Ireland
by 1787 and to the
United States in the 1790s.



The Bible influences the Arts



What does the Bible cover?



This book addresses all aspects of humanity:

- 👤 heroic and epic,
- 👤 tawdry and tragic,
- 👤 poetic and comic.



It is as fresh and relevant today as when it was being written 2,000 to 4,000 years ago.

Purpose

The purpose of this course is not to advise anyone on what I or anyone else think they should believe; it is to help people gain a clear understanding of what the Bible itself says so that they can determine for themselves what to believe.

Of the people of Berea, Paul stated:

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 17:11

Objectives

- ① Introduce the **objective study** of the Bible.
- ② Allow scripture to interpret scripture.
- ③ Appreciate guidelines of Bible interpretation.
- ④ Take into account context, literary styles, figures of speech, grammatical context, etc.
- ⑤ Respect diverse religious and non-religious sensibilities of participants.
- ⑥ Avoid promotion of various religious traditions over others or of religion over non-religion.

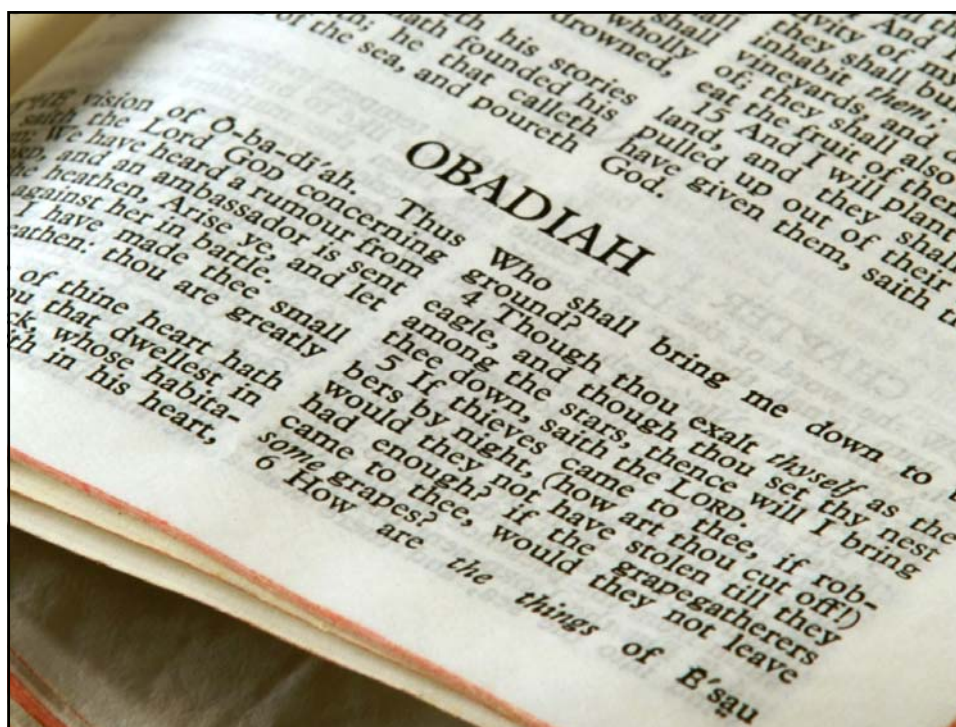
Spirit

ETSI DOCTRINA
NON DARETUR

(“as if doctrine is not given.”)

Questions





The least
 popular
 book in the
Bible

THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

The least
popular
message in the
Bible

Why?

JUDGMENT



JUDGMENT IS COMING

Judgment against Edom is mentioned in more Old Testament books than it is against any other foreign nation.

Isaiah 11:14; 34:5-17; 63:1-6
Jeremiah 9:25-26; 25:17-26; 49:7-22
Lamentations 4:21-22
Ezekiel 25:12-14; 35
Joel 3:19
Amos 1:11-12; 9:11-12
Obadiah 1:1-21
Malachi 1:4

A tale of two brothers... and two nations

Jacob = Esau
= =
Israel = Edom

שנאת עולם

The Everlasting Hatred

Genesis 25:19-34 (NKJV)

¹⁹ This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac.

²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.

²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.



²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If *all is well*, why *am I like this*?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations *are* in your womb,
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;
One people shall be stronger than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger."

²⁴ So when her days were fulfilled *for her* to give birth, indeed *there were* twins in her womb.

²⁵ And the first came out red. He was like an hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.

²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

²⁷ So the boys grew. Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.

²⁸ And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.



²⁹ Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he *was* weary.

³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same red *stew*, for I *am* weary.” Therefore his name was called Edom.

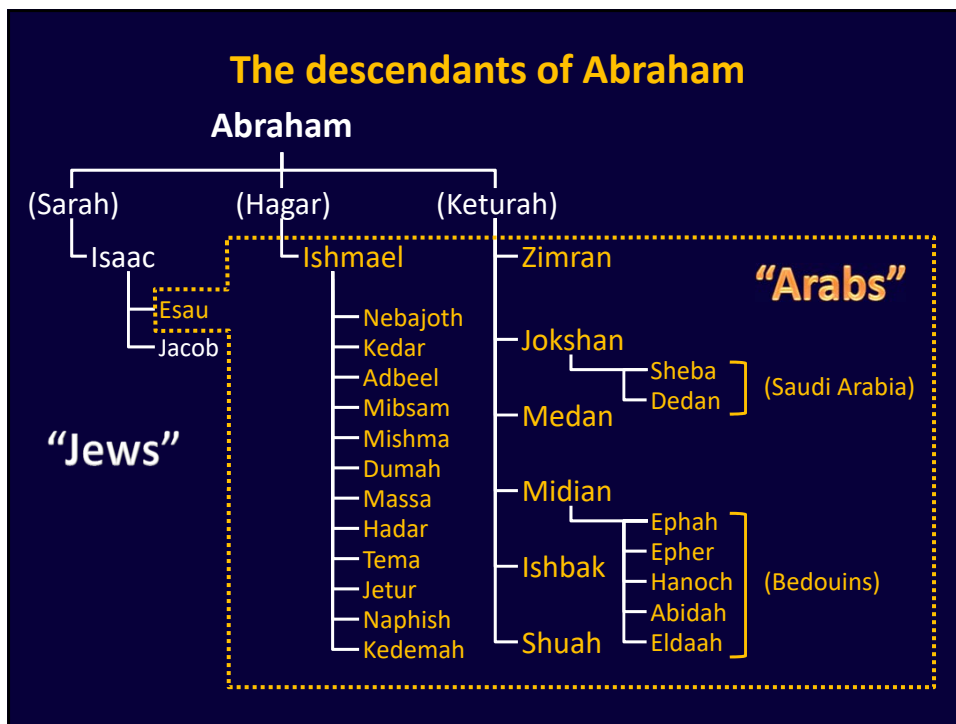
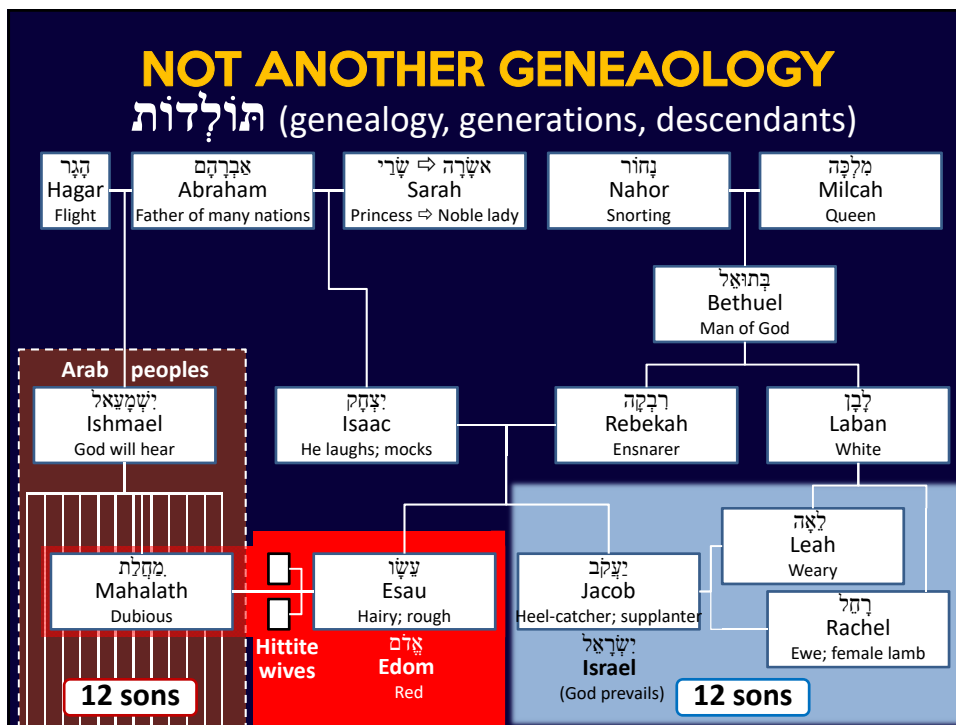
³¹ But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.”

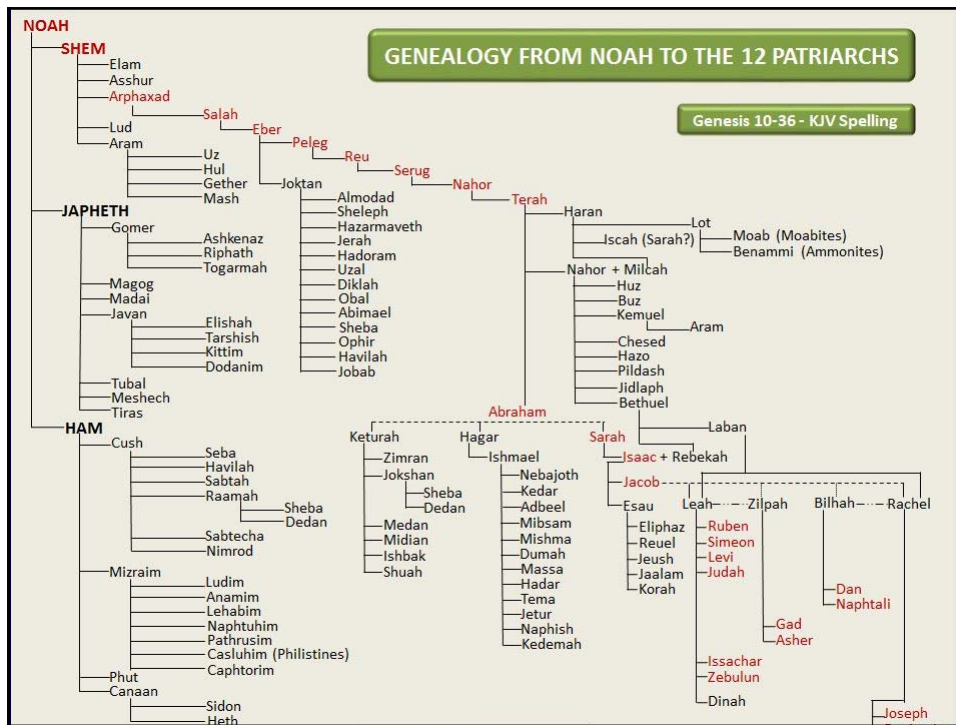
³² And Esau said, “Look, I *am* about to die; so what *is* this birthright to me?”

³³ Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised *his* birthright.

Is there more to
JACOB
&
ESAU
than a very expensive
bowl of soup?





Hebrew wordplay

- The Hebrew Scriptures are filled with various kinds of wordplay. Puns, acrostics, hyperboles, alliteration, similes, Gematria and other literary devices are used.
- Wordplay often appears on the surface level, e.g.:

The Hebrew name...	plays on the Hebrew word(s)...
Adam (אָדָם, "Man")	adamah (אֲדָמָה, "ground")
Chavvah (חַוְוָה, "Eve")	chayah (חַיָּה, "to live, have life")
Kayin (קַיִן, "Cain")	kanah (קָנָה, "to get, acquire") qayin (קַיִן, "a spear")
Yeshua: יֵשׁוּעַ, "Jesus")	yeshuah (יְשׁוּעָה, deliverance or salvation)

Hebrew word play – Jacob (*Ya`aqob*)

- Heel-catcher, grappler (יַעֲקֹב, *Ya`aqob*, yah·ak·ōve', H3290)
- Supplant, to be behind (עָקַב, *`aqab*, ä·kav', H6117)
- Consequence (עֲקֵב, *`eqeb*, ā'·kev, H6118)
- Heel, rear (עֲקֵב, *`aqeb*, ä·kāv', H6119)
- Overreacher, supplanter (עָקַב, *`aqeb*, ä·kāv', H6120)
- Deceitful, sly, insidious (עָקַב, *`aqob*, ä·kōve', H6121)
- To bind, to tie (עָקַד, *`aqad*, ä·kad', H6123)

Is not he rightly named Jacob (*Ya`aqob*)? for he hath supplanted (*`aqab*) me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. (Genesis 27:36)

Hebrew word play – Esau (*`Esav*)

- Esau, hairy, rough (עֵשָׂו, *`Esav*, ā·säv', H6215)
- Grass, weed (עֵשֶׂב, *`eseb*, eh'sev, H6212)
- Rosy, red (אָדָם, *'adam*, ä·dam', H119)
- Man, mankind (אָדָם, *'adam*, ä·dam', H120)
- Adam as in first man, red (אָדָם, *'Adam*, ä·dam', H121)
- Red pottage, red (אָדָם, *'adom*, ä·dōm', H122)
- Red, ruddy, Idumea (אֶדוֹם, *'Edom*, ed·ōm', H123)
- Hair, hairy, rough (שַׁעֲרָ, *se`ar* [Seir], sā·är', H8181)
- Goat, devil, satyr, hairy, rough (שַׁעֲרָ, *sa`iy*, sä·ēr', H8183)

And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red *pottage* (אָדָם); for I *am* faint: therefore was his name called Edom (אֶדוֹם). (Genesis 25:30)

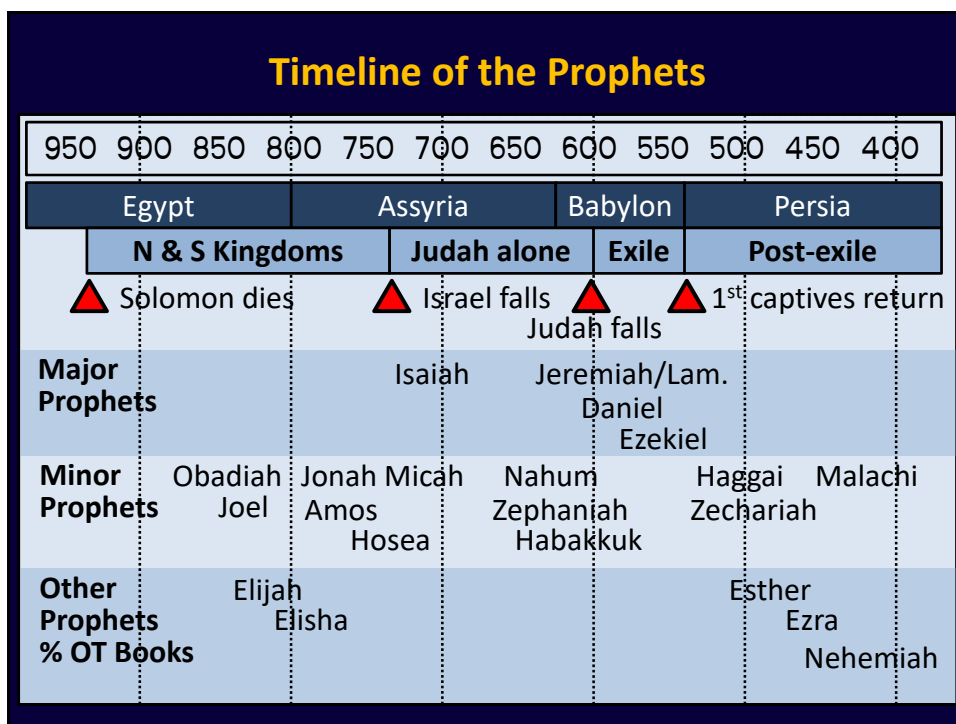
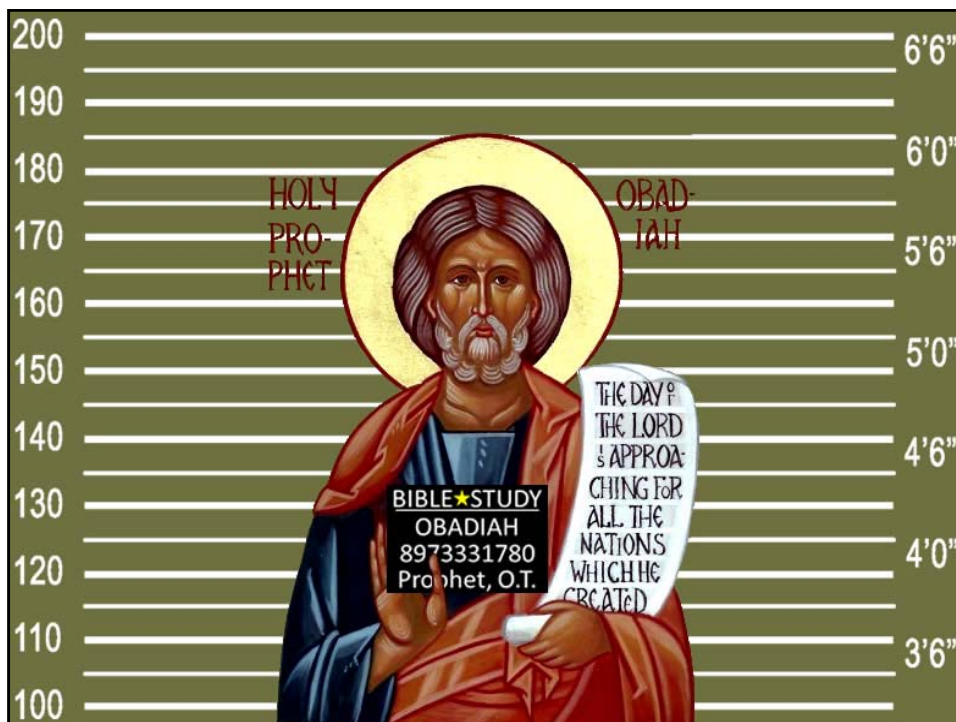


Genesis 27:1-28:22		
<p>Decline (Genesis 27:1-4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blind and bedfast, Isaac abandoned his faith. He trusted his own senses. Instead of healing his family, he favoured Esau. He tried to disobey God's commandment to give the covenant blessing to Jacob. 	<p>Descry (Genesis 27:5-17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebekah eavesdropped on Isaac and Esau. She connived to ensure Jacob got the covenant blessing. She told Jacob, "Let the curse fall on me." 	<p>Deceive (Genesis 27:18-29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob lied about his name. He lied about hunting. He lied by calling goat meat venison. He lied about preparing it. He lied about his identity. He lied about his love.
<p>Despair (Genesis 27:30-40)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isaac trembled greatly. Esau wept. Esau begged for a blessing. 	<p>Decamp (Genesis 27:41-28:9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esau planned to kill Jacob. Rebekah overheard Esau. Rebekah and Isaac sent Jacob to Rebekah's brother. Rebekah used this as an excuse to get Jacob married. Esau acquired a third unsuitable wife. 	<p>Dedicate (Genesis 28:10-22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob's dream Jacob's declaration Jacob's decision

Historicity

- The Old Testament mentions Edom and the Edomites more than one hundred times. Examples: Isaiah 34; Jeremiah 49; Lamentations 4:21–22; Ezekiel 25:12–14; 35:1–15; Daniel 11:41; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:6–11; 2:1; 9:12; Malachi 1:4; as well as Obadiah.
- King Saul overcame them (1 Sam. 14:47), and so did David (2 Sam. 8:13–14; 1 Kings 11:14–16), but Edom was a thorn in Israel's flesh for centuries.
- The capital of Edom at the time of Obadiah was the city of Petra (Jordan), a city of 100,000.
 - 18th-19th century scholars believed the Bible was in error because Petra did not exist.
 - Swiss orientalist Johann Ludwig Burckhardt discovered the ruins of Petra on 22 August 1812.





Major and Minor Prophets

- There are 42 prophets (*navi*) in the Old Testament, including five women (*neviah*).
- Sixteen prophets are accorded large sections (books).
 - Four have long books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel)
 - Twelve have smaller books. The Hebrew Bible treats these as a single book called “The Book of the Twelve Prophets”.
- John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old era. Jesus Christ brought in a new age of prophetic truth.

Isaiah’s wife; Huldah; Miriam; Deborah; Noadiah

Obadiah the Prophet

- We know little about Obadiah except:
 - He wrote the prophecy bearing his name; and
 - His name means “one who worships God”.
- He was a prophet in the nation of Israel.
- Like Nahum and Jonah to Ninevah, Obadiah prophesied to a gentile nation, Edom.
- At least twelve other men in Scripture had this name, four of whom were connected in some way with the ministry at the temple (1 Chron. 9:16; 2 Chron. 34:12; Neh. 10:5, 12:25).

When did Obadiah prophesy?

- Scholars don't agree when the prophecy occurred:
 - Obadiah prophesied in 845 BC during the reign of king Jehoram (853–841 BC), when Edom revolted and gained their independence. The Edomites then assisted invading Philistines, Arabs and Ethiopians who looted the king's house in 843 BC and carried off all of his family except his youngest son. (2 Kings 8:20-22; 2 Chronicles 21:8–10, 16–17).
 - Some think that Obadiah refers to the Babylonian invasion of Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. Indeed, Psalm 137:7 indicates that the Edomites took advantage of the helpless people of Judah then as well.

Obadiah in Rabbinic tradition

- Obadiah was a convert to Judaism from Edom and a descendant of Eliphaz, Job's friend.¹
- Obadiah was the servant over the household of king Ahab (r. 871-852 BC) and Jezebel. Having served such godless people while staying true to YHWH, Obadiah was the most suitable person to prophesy against Esau (Edom). (1 Kings 18:3)
- When Jezebel sought to kill all prophets (v.4), Obadiah hid 100 in two caves, fifty in each cave.
- Obadiah also brought Ahab to Elijah prior to the fire competition on Mount Carmel. (vv.12-40)
- Obadiah served Ahab's son, Jeroham (r. 852-841 BC).

1. Per the Babylonian Talmud.


Obadiah in Roman Catholic tradition

- “This Old Testament prophet’s writings are dated between the 9th and 5th centuries before Christ. Outside of the text, which announces the punishment of the enemies of Israel, nothing is known about him.”¹
- He is also known as Abdias or Abdis.

1. “Obadiah the Prophet”. *CatholicSaints.Info*. 21 November 2016.

Obadiah in Roman Catholic tradition

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No!
Not the shoe
manufacturer!!

2 Timothy 3:16-16

¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Messages of the book of Obadiah

Vengeance on Esau

01 God will punish the Edomites because they treated Israel badly

02 Although Israel's enemies appear to prosper, God will give final victory to Israel

Victory for Jacob

Obadiah (NKJV)

1. The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom (We have heard a report from the LORD, and a messenger has been sent among the nations, [saying], 'Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle'):
2. "Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be greatly despised.
3. The pride of your heart has deceived you, [You] who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; [You] who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'
4. Though you ascend [as] high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," says the LORD.

Obadiah (NKJV)

5. "If thieves had come to you, if robbers by night--Oh, how you will be cut off!--Would they not have stolen till they had enough? If grape-gatherers had come to you, would they not have left [some] gleanings?
6. "Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! [How] his hidden treasures shall be sought after!
7. All the men in your confederacy shall force you to the border; The men at peace with you shall deceive you [and] prevail against you. [Those who eat] your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it.
8. "Will I not in that day," says the LORD, "Even destroy the wise [men] from Edom, and understanding from the mountains of Esau?"

Obadiah (NKJV)

9. Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.
10. For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.
11. In the day that you stood on the other side--In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem--Even you [were] as one of them.
12. "But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly In the day of distress.

Obadiah (NKJV)

13. You should not have entered the gate of My people In the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction In the day of their calamity, Nor laid [hands] on their substance in the day of their calamity.
14. You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped; nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained In the day of distress.
15. "For the day of the LORD upon all the nations [is] near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.
16. For as you drank on My holy mountain, [So] shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been.

Obadiah (NKJV)

17. "But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.
18. The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau [shall be] stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall [remain] of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.
19. The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, And the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim And the fields of Samaria. Benjamin [shall possess] Gilead.

Obadiah (NKJV)

20. And the captives of this host of the children of Israel [Shall possess the land] of the Canaanites As far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Shephard shall possess the cities of the South.
21. Then saviours shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

The sins of Edom

• Pride	vv. 3–4
• Confederacy	v.7
• Violence	v.10
• Rejoicing	v.12
• Looting	v.13
• Hindering Jews from escaping	v.14
• Drunken celebration	v.16

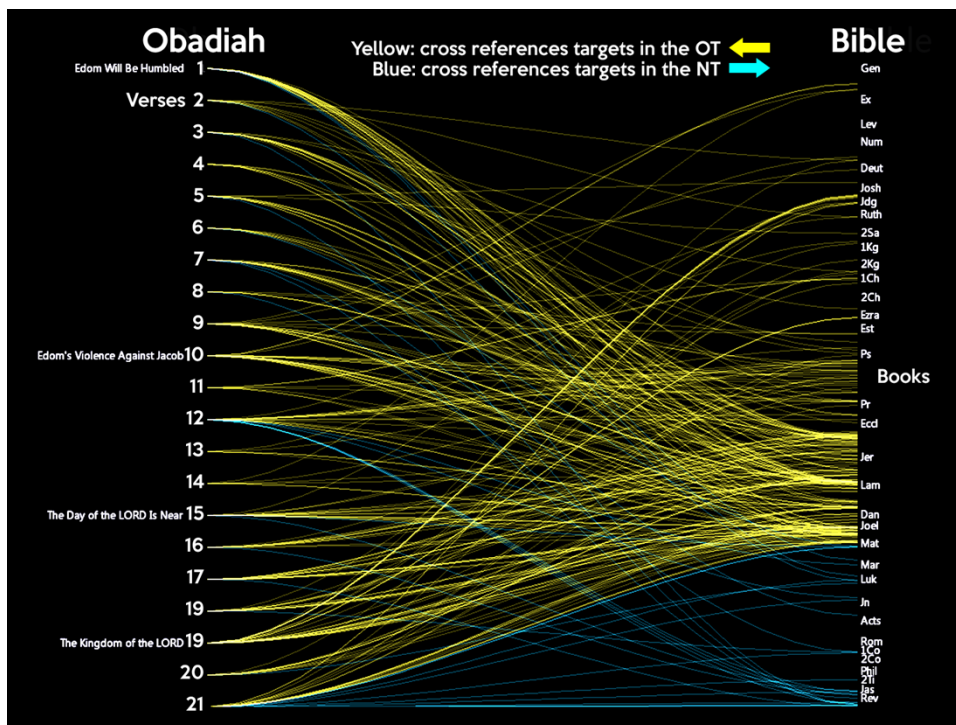
- “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate” (Proverb 8:13).
- “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (1 John 2:16).
- Pride, after all, was the sin of Satan. He said, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:13-14).
- “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” (Daniel 4:30).
- And what happened to Nebuchadnezzar? “While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field ...” (Daniel 4:31–32).

Proverbs 6:16-19

“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him.”

1. “A proud look”;
2. “a lying tongue”;
3. “hands that shed innocent blood”;
4. “an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations”;
5. “feet that be swift in running to mischief”;
6. “a false witness that speaketh lies”;
7. “and he that soweth discord among brethren”

**It's safe to say
that God does
not like pride.**



Jeremiah 49:9

If grape-gatherers came to you,
 would they not leave gleanings?

If thieves came by night,
 would they not destroy enough for
 themselves?

Obadiah 5

If thieves came to you,
 if robbers by night—
 Oh, how you have been destroyed—
 would they not steal enough for
 themselves?
 If grape-gatherers came to you,
 would they not leave gleanings?

PART 1. God's vengeance upon Edom		
God's message to the nations (v. 1) and to Edom (vv.2-16)		
Results of Divine Judgment	Reasons for Divine Judgment	Righteousness of Judgment
<p>EDOM'S FALL</p> <p>They would be despised vv.1-2 thou art greatly despised.</p> <p>They would be deceived vv.3-5 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee</p> <p>They would be destroyed v.6-8 Shall I not... destroy the wise men of Edom?</p> <p>They shall be dismayed v.9 Thy Mighty Men... shall be dismayed.</p>	<p>EDOM'S FOLLY</p> <p>Their indifference to Israel v.11 Identified with Israel's enemies v.11 Enjoyed Israel's difficulties v.12 Rejoiced over Israel's defeats v.12 Spoke proudly against Israel v.12 Joined in attacking Israel v.13 Robbed Israel v.13 Cut Israel's way of escape v.14 Handed Israel over to captivity v.14</p>	<p>EDOM'S FUTURE</p> <p>Their reward v.15 as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee</p> <p>Their revelry v.16 as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink</p> <p>As they drank in victory so shall they drink the wrath of God</p>
PART 2. Israel shall be restored		
God's message to Israel (vv. 17-21)		
Israel's Position	Israel's Power v.18	Israel's Possessions vv.19-21
<p>THE HOUSE OF JACON</p> <p>They shall be holy They shall have their possessions restored They will receive the birthright</p>	<p>THE HOUSES OF JACOB AND JOSEPH</p> <p>The house of Jacob will be a fire The house of Joseph will be a flame The house of Esau will be destroyed</p>	<p>UNITED ISRAEL</p> <p>Israel will spread north, east, south and west</p> <p>They will possess these lands Righteous judges from Israel will judge Esau</p>
<p>... and the kingdom shall be the Lord's!</p>		

