



Obadiah Bible study guide

A clear 1-session guide for personal study, small groups, and churches

Read Obadiah as a whole before working through the sessions. Let its own structure set the agenda.

Every question sends you back to the biblical text. The guide helps you observe the passage, follow the author's argument, interpret it in context, and respond faithfully.

CHOOSE YOUR DEPTH

- Short: Read the book overview and discuss the first and final question in a session.
- Study: Work through all 1 sessions and answer each question from the passage.
- Deep: Open the free chapter commentary and dictionary links while you study.

protos-app.com/commentary/obadiah

Obadiah at a glance

BIG IDEA

“Am I my brother's keeper?” This ancient question, posed by Cain when the Lord inquired about his missing brother Abel, has become a metaphor for sidestepping responsibility. [1]

HISTORICAL SETTING

Author: Obadiah. Date: Around 586 BC. Setting: Probably very soon after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. [1]

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

Read this book in its historical setting and as prophetic proclamation. Track audience, covenant background, indictment, hope, and how later Scripture receives its promises.

MAJOR THEMES

- To announce God's judgment on Edom, who had rejoiced at and participated in Judah's destruction
- The book's literary movement and central claims
- Faithful response within the people of God
- Hope, judgment, grace, and obedience in their proper context

INTERPRETIVE CARE

- Locate judgment and hope in the prophet's historical setting before making modern parallels.
- Treat prophetic imagery as Scripture's language, not a shortcut around careful context.

Obadiah 1

21 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Esau · Edom · Jerusalem · Gilead · Joseph · LORD

Questions

- Try to state the argument in one sentence before anyone reacts to it.
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Why does the writer bring Esau into this argument, and what claim does the example support?
- The word brother is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What problem was this letter written to solve, and does knowing that change how the instruction lands?
- Where does this cut against something you already believe or already do?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Sources, method, and reuse

Protos created this guide to help readers understand Obadiah in its literary and historical context. Questions are designed to be answered from the passage, not from guesswork or personal opinion alone.

REFERENCES

[1] Tyndale Open Study Notes

Tyndale House Publishers. Book background, purpose, setting, and structural orientation. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://tyndaleopenresources.com/>

[2] Protos study guide editorial

Protos. Reading structure, discussion questions, and application prompts. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://protos-app.com/free-bible-study-tools>

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A Bible dictionary, 1,129 entries [_protos-app.com/bible-dictionary](https://protos-app.com/bible-dictionary)

Printable Bible reading plans [_protos-app.com/reading-plans](https://protos-app.com/reading-plans)

Protos is also available on iPhone and Android, with verse-by-verse study help beside the passage you are reading.

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