THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

TIMELINE

- 931 BC The united kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon, was divided into the north (Israel) and the south (Judah). (1 Kings 11:43; 1 Kings 12:17-20)
- 760 BC The prophet **Jonah** journeys to Nineveh, capital of Assyria, preaches, and they repent; however, it does not last, and they return to being a cruel warrior empire.
- 722 BC Assyria raids the northern kingdom, Israel, "and carried them captive to Assyria." (2 Kings 15:29 and 17:18; 1 Chron. 5:25-26)
- 650 BC (approximate date) Nahum, a prophet in Judah, delivers his message that God will bring in another empire to destroy Nineveh. (Nahum 2:1)
- 612 BC Nineveh, capital of Assyria, is defeated by the Babylonian empire.
- 606 BC Begins the first of 3 attacks on Judah (southern kingdom) by Babylon, and some are taken captive (2 Kings 24:1);
 - 597 BC The second raid on Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Kings 24:10-11)
 - 586 BC The final siege on Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:1-2) The final group of captives taken, and the poor remain. (v11-12)
- 606 BC 586 BC Obadiah delivers his message to Edom to condemn their actions toward Judah during the time Babylon was raiding Judah.
- 586 BC 536 BC The captivity in Babylon lasts 70 years. (Daniel 9:2)
- 536 BC Cyrus issues a decree permitting the captives to return to Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:1-5)

(Ezra 1:7-11) Cyrus allows the return of all the temple vessels taken by Babylon. (Ezra 2) is a listing of the returning captives.

Also returning are: Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi, Zerubbabel, and Joshua.

THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

Author: Obadiah, a prophet in Judah, whose name means "servant of the Lord."

Written: Probably just prior to the final raid on Judah by the Babylonians.

Purpose: Judah had a longstanding feud with Edom, a neighboring nation of distant blood relatives through Jacob's brother, Esau. When Judah was invaded and conquered by Babylon, Edom not only cheered and gloated, they also looted Judah in the aftermath, and also captured those who tried to escape and turned them over to the enemy.

Obadiah condemns the Edomites' treachery and declares God's inevitable punishment for their crimes against His people.

Edomites: (Genesis 25:23; 36:43; Numbers 20:21)