

Book of Obadyah

Obadyah: Introduction

Author

The name Obadyah means —servant of YaHuWaH or —worshiper of YaHuWaH. There is no further information preserved concerning this prophet. Neither is there any indication provided that would date the delivery of this prophecy by Obadyah. However, since the prophecies of the Minor Prophets division seem to be presented in chronological order, Obadyah most likely lived and prophesied at about the same time as Hosea, Yoel, Amos and Yonah; that is, around 790 B.C.

Focus

The time setting of this prophecy is the Day of Yahuwah, at the close of this age. The main theme is the destruction of Edom, the descendants of Esaw, who have been Yisra'el's primary enemy throughout the ages. The secondary focus is the restoration of Yisra'el's descendants to the land Yahuwah gave to Ya'aqob (GEN 35:10-12), the man who prevailed with Him (GEN 32:24-28).

Within this prophecy, all of the other prophecies pertaining to Esaw's descendants recorded by Mosheh, Dawid, Yoel, Amos, Yeshayahu, Yirmeyahu, Yahezqel and Malaki can be connected. Most commentators dismiss the importance of these many prophecies because they consider them only historically relevant. They fail to understand how Esaw's relationship to his brother Ya'aqob has played a major role in the development of circumstances crucial to bringing the world to the conditions that will precipitate the crisis at the end!

The reason for the events prophesied about Esaw, Edom, and Mount Seir goes back to a strained relationship between two brothers: Esaw and Ya'aqob. Yahuwah promised Abraham immense blessings, which included land and the Ha'Mashyach's bloodline. Everything promised to Abraham was then passed on to Abraham's son, Yitshaq.

GEN 26:2-5 Then Yahuwah appeared to him [Yitshaq] and said: —Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.

The great blessings promised to Abraham went to Yitshaq. After Yahuwah healed Rebekah so that she could produce an heir for Yitshaq, she became pregnant with twins. Yahuwah knew the personalities of both boys and knew which of them would be the better choice for the bloodline of the Ha'Mashyach. He determined their birth order and told their mother that He had already decided that the second-born would receive the blessings He had promised to Abraham. As Paul showed in Romans 9, this decision was made to emphasize that being selected by Yahuwah does not depend on any physical criteria or position—including birth order!

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GEN 25:22-23 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, —If all is well, why am I this way? So she went to inquire of Yahuwah. And Yahuwah 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.

As the years passed, Esaw displayed indifference to his status of firstborn and eventually sold his birthright to Ya'aqob (GEN 25:31-34). This was followed several years later by Ya'aqob's obtaining of the blessings (GEN 27:27-29) through a deceitful scheme plotted by his mother, Rebekah. This action was the catalyst for centuries of hatred and bloodshed.

GEN 27:41 So Esaw hated Ya'aqob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esaw said in his heart, —The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Ya'aqob.

Although Esaw had disqualified himself by his contemptuous attitude in despising his birthright (GEN 25:34), he felt wronged by his brother and, continuing to bear a grudge, passed his animosity on to his descendants. Due to the loss of the blessing to Ya'aqob, the hatred of Esaw's offspring towards Ya'aqob's descendants intensified and resulted in multiple attempts, led by Amalek, (the son of Esaw's firstborn son, and born to a concubine), to destroy the children of Yisra'el.

Within weeks of Yisra'el's leaving Egypt, seeing that Ya'aqob's descendants were no longer under the protection of their Egyptian overseers, Amalek attacked them (EXO 17:8-16), but under Yahuwah's protection, Yisra'el prevailed (verse 11). Toward the end of the forty years of wandering, other descendants of Esaw tried to prevent the descendants of Ya'aqob from obtaining the birthright that Ya'aqob had purchased from Esaw:

NUM 20:20-21 Then he [Edom] said, —You shall not pass through. So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand. Thus Edom refused to give Yisra'el passage through his territory; so Yisra'el turned away from him.

Once Yisra'el was established in the Promised Land, Esaw's descendants—especially those descended from Amalek—were a continual thorn in the side to them.

Obadyah: Chapter 1

1:1 The vision of Obadyah. Thus says Master YAHUWAH concerning Edom (We have heard a report from Yahuwah, and a messenger has been sent among the nations, saying, —Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle

Source

Yahuwah immediately establishes that the entirety of the written message that follows was communicated to Obadyah through a vision, and that every word originated from Yahuwah.

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A Messenger

The parenthetical insertion points to the time when the prophecy that follows will be fulfilled: when a messenger from Yahuwah appears and compels the nations to carry out Yahuwah's will against Edom.

1:2 I will make you least among nations, you shall be most despised. (TNK)

Esaw

Unlike his brother Ya'aqob, Esaw never attained national greatness. His descendants chose a course that doomed them to nothing more than tribal status on the world scene. Yahuwah now emphasizes that Esaw's position is destined to become even more insignificant and, due to his inflexible state of mind, all other peoples will reject association with him.

1:3 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?'

The pride of Esaw continues to be manifested in his descendants. Even though they are truly insignificant in power and stature among the nations of the world, they imagine themselves to be important; consider, for example, the boastful blustering of Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Esaw's pride deceived him into thinking he could get anything he wanted by his own power; he did not need Yahuwah. This led him to despise what was legally his by right of birth.

GEN 25:29-34 Now Ya'aqob cooked a stew; and Esaw came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esaw said to Ya'aqob, —Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary. Therefore his name was called Edom. But Ya'aqob said, —Sell me your birthright as of this day. And Esaw said, —Look, I am about to die; so what profit shall this birthright be to me? Then Ya'aqob said, —Swear to me as of this day. So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Ya'aqob. And Ya'aqob gave Esaw bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esaw despised his birthright.

The worst repercussion of Esaw's pride was losing all fear of the Yahuwah of Abraham and Yitshaq. Without that fear, Esaw's descendants have believed that they have the strength to destroy Yisra'el.

DEU 25:17-19 Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear Yahuwah. Therefore it shall be, when Yahuwah your Aluhym has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which Yahuwah your Aluhym is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

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The —clefts of the rock is also a reference to the territory that Esaw originally possessed. That primarily mountainous region extended southward for about one hundred miles, from the southeastern border of Yahuwdah and the southern end of the Dead Sea, to the Gulf of Aqaba. Much of that area became known as the territory of Seir, named after Seir the Horite (GEN 36:20). Consequently, —Mount Seir became synonymous with Edom. Through his sons and grandsons, Esaw produced fifteen separate tribal groups in that region. Over time they migrated throughout much of the Middle East.

1:4 Though you exalt yourself as high as the eagle, and though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down, says Yahuwah.

Notwithstanding their imagined greatness, the reality is that Yahuwah will execute justice against them, because of their lack of fear of Him.

1:5 If thieves or robbers were to come to you by night, though your loss might be heavy, they would take only enough for their needs; if vintagers [NKJ: grape-gatherers] were to come to you, would they not leave gleanings? (REB)

Yahuwah declares that Esaw will be left totally destitute—a condition far worse than those whose houses are robbed and whose vineyards are harvested.

1:6 But see how Esaw is ransacked, their secret wealth hunted out! (REB)

The one thing that Esaw received in the blessing that Yitshaq gave him after he begged for something was the —fatness of the earth (GEN 27:39, NKJ). This —fatness refers to the —oil or petroleum that is hunted out from underneath the lands where the majority of Esaw's descendants now live—lands that for the most part are —away from the fertility of the earth (GEN 27:39, NAS). This one item of wealth he did receive, his descendants are quickly throwing away by squandering the proceeds on grandiose, opulent follies.

1:7 All your allies will force you to the border; your friends will deceive and overpower you; those who eat your bread will set a trap for you, but you will not detect it. (NIV)

Betrayal

The allies of Esaw include other peoples who desire the same end concerning the State of Yisra'el as they do—its complete annihilation.

PSA 83:1-4 Do not keep silent, O Yahuwah! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O Yahuwah! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, —Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Yisra'el may be remembered no more.

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Their goal of removing the memory of Yisra'el is the reason Yahuwah will destroy these nations during the Day of Yahuwah, so that during the Millennium they will be —as though they had never been.

PSA 83:5-8 For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagarites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia [Hamas in the Gaza Strip] with the inhabitants of Tyre [Hezbollah in Lebanon]; Assyria [Babylon the Great] also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot. Selah

At the close of the age, the Beast Power, with the aid of the peoples listed in Psalm 83 as directly related to or closely associated with Esaw, will take possession of the land of Yisra'el. At some time after this, the Beast's alliance with Esaw's descendants will be terminated. Not until after the overthrow of Yisra'eli leadership will the Antichrist make known his intentions to require his Islamic allies to convert from Islam and worship him.

1:8 On that day, says Yahuwah, I will destroy the wise out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esaw. (NRS)

Fear of Yahuwah

Yahuwah associates wisdom and understanding with having the fear of Yahuwah.

PSA 111:10 The fear of Yahuwah is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments...

PRO 9:10 The fear of Yahuwah is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Kadosh One is understanding.

Yahuwah instructed Yisra'el in the need to show proper fear and reverence of Him by carefully following His instructions:

DEU 4:6-8 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has Yahuwah so near to it, as Yahuwah our Aluhym is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Obeying Yahuwah's instructions establishes wisdom and understanding. To properly understand the point of 1:8, we need to consider what Yahuwah inspired Yirmeyahu to record about wisdom in Edom.

JER 49:7 Against Edom. Thus says Yahuwah of hosts: — Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?

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Yirmeyahu indicates that Esaw's descendants will have lost wisdom prior to the time of the end. Since wisdom and understanding will be absent in Edom, Yahuwah is announcing here in 1:8 His intention to destroy that which Esaw's descendants promote as wisdom and understanding: the religion they are attempting to force on the rest of the world. During the Day of Yahuwah, Yahuwah will eradicate the twisted reasoning that has become so deeply ingrained in the minds of those who have followed the religion of Esaw. Islam is that religion; it categorizes women as nothing more than animals, as things to be used and abused by Islamic men; it does not tolerate non-Muslims and encourages violence against them. Those who practice it are willing to sacrifice the lives of their children in order to inflict bloodshed and suffering on others.

1:9 Your warriors shall lose heart, O Teman, and not a man on Esaw's mount shall survive the slaughter. (TNK)

Lose Heart

The examples of robbers and grape harvesters used earlier to symbolize the taking all of Esaw's wealth were used in Yirmeyahu's account to symbolize the taking all of Esaw's men:

JER 49:8-9 Turn and flee, hide in deep caves, you who live in Dedan, for I will bring disaster on Esaw at the time I punish him. If grape pickers came to you, would they not leave a few grapes? If thieves came during the night, would they not steal only as much as they wanted? (NIV)

JER 49:10-11 But I have made Esaw bare; I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself. His descendants are plundered, his brethren and his neighbors, and he is no more. Leave your fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let your widows trust in Me.

The outcome of Yahuwah's wrath against Esaw will be the eradication of all the adult males that have been responsible for the perpetuation of hatred and bloodshed against Yisra'el, and who have enslaved their own women and children through Islam's Sharia law. By the removal of the adult males, the fatherless children and widows will be set free from the shackles of Sharia slavery and be allowed to seek Yahuwah unimpeded.

JER 49:20-22 Therefore, hear what Yahuwah has planned against Edom, what He has purposed against those who live in Teman: The young of the flock will be dragged away; He will completely destroy their pasture because of them. At the sound of their fall the earth will tremble; their cry will resound to the Red Sea. Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down, spreading its wings over Bozrah. In that day the hearts of Edom's warriors will be like the heart of a woman in labor. (NIV)

1:10 For your violence against your brother Ya'aqob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.

Violence

The violence used against his brother was and continues to be murder.

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AMO 1:11 Thus says Yahuwah: —For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword, and cast off all pity; his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever.

EZE 35:2-6 Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it, and say to it, —Thus says Master YAHUWAH: —Behold, O Mount Seir, I am against you; I will stretch out My hand against you, and make you most desolate; I shall lay your cities waste, and you shall be desolate. Then you shall know that I am Yahuwah. Because you have had an ancient hatred, and have shed the blood of the children of Yisra’el by the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, when their iniquity came to an end, therefore, as I live, says Master YAHUWAH, —I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; since you have not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue you.

1:11 On the day that you stood aside, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth, and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Yerushalayim, you too were like one of them. (NRS)

Like One of Them

Historically, this happened at the time Nebuchadnezzar conquered Yerushalayim and took the Yahuwdim into exile.

PSA 137:7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom the day of Yerushalayim, who said, —Raze it, raze it, To its very foundation!

1:12-13 Do not gloat over your brother when disaster strikes him [NKJ: in the day of his captivity; TNK: on the day of his calamity], **or rejoice over Yahuwdah on the day of his ruin** [NKJ: distress], **or enter My people’s gates on the day of their calamity. Do not join in the gloating when calamity overtakes them, or seize their treasure** [NKJ: substance; TNK: wealth] **on the day of their calamity.** (REB)

Gloating

Esaw’s descendants have been guilty of this in the past, so Yahuwah warns them not to repeat their despicable conduct when the occasion arises at the close of the age. However, Yahuwah reveals that they will not heed this admonition any more than they have heeded any others in their deluded pride.

EZE 36:1-5 And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Yisra’el, and say, —O mountains of Yisra’el, hear the word of Yahuwah!’ Thus says Master YAHUWAH: —Because the enemy has said of you, —Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession, ‘ therefore prophesy, and say, —Thus says Master YAHUWAH: —Because they made you desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people—therefore, O mountains of Yisra’el, hear the word of Master YAHUWAH! Thus says Master YAHUWAH to the mountains, the hills, the

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rivers, the valleys, the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all around—therefore thus says Master YAHUWAH: —Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession, with whole-hearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country.

1:14 Do not stand at the crossroads to cut down [NKJ: cut off] his fugitives, or betray the survivors on the day of distress. (REB)

At the Crossroads

In the Olivet Prophecy, Amanuwal warns all who will be in Judea to get out when they see Yerushalayim surrounded by the armies of the Beast (LUK 21:20-21). Since Yahuwah warns Esaw's descendants not to interfere with this exodus, it is clear that due to their hatred some of them will try to interfere.

1:15 For the day of Yahuwah draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. (NAS)

The Day of Yahuwah

The Day of Yahuwah is the time of Yahuwah's vengeance on the disobedient, on all who do not fear Him. Therefore, Edom must feel that vengeance.

ISA 63:1-4 Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?—I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? —I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.

ISA 34:5-8 For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment. The sword of Yahuwah is filled with blood, it is made overflowing with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For Yahuwah has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. The wild oxen shall come down with them, and the young bulls with the mighty bulls; their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust saturated with fatness. For it is the day of Yahuwah's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

Esaw's descendants will be required to receive the same treatment they have exhibited toward others.

GAL 6:7 Do not be deceived, Yahuwah is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

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NUM 32:23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against Yahuwah; and be sure your sin will find you out.

JAM 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.

1:16 For as you have drunk on My Kadosh mountain, all the nations around you shall drink; they shall drink and gulp down, and shall be as though they had never been. (NRS)

As You Have Drunk

Just as Esaw will drink to celebrate the expulsion of most of the Yahuwdim from the land of Yisra'el when the times of the Gentiles begin (LUK 21:24), so Esaw and all of the other nations who trespass on Yahuwah's land will be required to drink from Yahuwah's cup of fury.

JER 25:15-16, 21-27 For thus says Master Yahuwah of Yisra'el to me: —Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them...Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon; all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastlands which are across the sea; Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who are in the farthest corners; all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed multitude who dwell in the desert; all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes; all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. Also the king of Sheshach shall drink after them. Therefore you shall say to them, —Thus says Yahuwah of hosts, the Aluhym of Yisra'el: —Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.

EZE 35:7-15 Thus I will make Mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it the one who leaves and the one who returns. And I will fill its mountains with the slain; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those who are slain by the sword shall fall. I will make you perpetually desolate, and your cities shall be uninhabited; then you shall know that I am Yahuwah. Because you have said, —These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess them, ' although Yahuwah was there, therefore, as I live, says Master YAHUWAH, —I will do according to your anger and according to the envy which you showed in your hatred against them; and I will make Myself known among them when I judge you. Then you shall know that I am Yahuwah. I have heard all your blasphemies which you have spoken against the mountains of Yisra'el, saying, —They are desolate; they are given to us to consume. ' Thus with your mouth you have boasted against Me and multiplied your words against Me; I have heard them. —Thus says Master YAHUWAH: —The whole earth will rejoice when I make you desolate. As you rejoiced because the inheritance of the house of Yisra'el was desolate, so I will do to you; you shall be desolate, O Mount Seir, as well as all of Edom all of it! Then they shall know that I am Yahuwah.

EZE 36:6-7 Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Yisra'el, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, —Thus says Master YAHUWAH: —Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have borne the shame of the nations. Therefore thus says Master YAHUWAH: —I have lifted My hand in an oath that surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own shame.

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1:17 But on Zion's mount a remnant shall survive, and it shall be Kadosh.... (TNK)

A Remnant

This refers to the descendants of Yisra'el who survive the Day of Yahuwah and return to the land of Yisra'el. This event can occur only at the conclusion of this age, as we see in Yoel.

JOE 2:30-32 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and terrible day of Yahuwah. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of Yahuwah shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Yerushalayim there shall be deliverance, as Yahuwah has said, among the remnant whom Yahuwah calls [REB: there will be a remnant as Yahuwah has promised, survivors whom Yahuwah calls].

1:17 (cont.) ...The House of Ya'aqob shall dispossess those who dispossessed them. (TNK)

1:17 (cont.) ...and the house of Ya'aqob will possess its inheritance [MOF: regain their heritage]. (NIV)

House of Ya'aqob

From the following verse and the events prophesied to occur within the land of Yisra'el at the close of the age, it would seem that —the house of Ya'aqob probably refers to the Yahuwdim.

JOE 3:1-2, 6-7 For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Yahuwdah and Yerushalayim, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Yahoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Yisra'el, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land...Also the people of Yahuwdah and the people of Yerushalayim you have sold to the Greeks, that you may remove them far from their borders. Behold, I will raise them out of the place to which you have sold them, and will return your retaliation upon your own head.

1:18 The House of Ya'aqob shall be fire, and the House of Yosef flame, and the House of Esaw shall be straw; they shall burn it and devour it, and no survivor shall be left of the House of Esaw—for Yahuwah has spoken. (TNK)

—The House of Yosef refers to the tribes of the Northern Kingdom. This indicates Yahuwah will require the descendants of the kingdoms of Yisra'el to meticulously remove every descendant of Esaw from the land of Yisra'el and disperse them throughout other nations, to prevent them from forming any national identity.

EZE 25:14 —I will lay My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Yisra'el, that they may do in Edom according to My anger and according to My fury; and they shall know My vengeance, says Master YAHUWAH.

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JER 49:17-18 —Edom also shall be an astonishment; everyone who goes by it will be astonished and will hiss at all its plagues. As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring cities, says Yahuwah, —No one shall abide there, nor shall a son of man dwell in it.

1:19 People from the Negev [NKJ: South] will occupy the mountains of Esaw, and people from the foothills [NKJ: Lowland] will possess the land of the Philistines [Gaza Strip]. They will occupy the fields of Ephrayim and Shomeron [West Bank area], and Benjamin will possess Gilad [northern Jordan/southern Syria]. (NIV)

All Edomites Area

All of the territories occupied by the descendants of Esaw will be inhabited by descendants of the tribes of Yisra'el.

1:20 Exiles from Yisra'el will possess Kanaan as far as Zarephath, while exiles from Yerushalayim who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negeb [NKJ: South]. (REB)

Exiles

The descendants of Yisra'el that are now in exile will return to the land and take possession of it from one end to the other.

1:21 Then saviors [NAS: deliverers] shall come to Mount Zion to judge [TNK: wreak judgment on; NIV: govern] the mountains of Esaw, and the kingdom shall be Yahuwah's.

1:21 Those who wield authority on Mount Zion will go up to hold sway over the mountains of Esaw, and dominion will belong to Yahuwah. (REB)

Those in authority on Mount Zion at the time when Yahuwah's kingdom is established on earth will be those who are in the First Resurrection (REV 20:4-5). They will prevent any attempt by the remnant of Esaw's descendants to circumvent Yahuwah's decree.