

Commentary on Obadiah

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Some scholars have interpreted the book of Obadiah as an expression of despicable “Jewish nationalism,” but its message actually has much more to do with divine justice regarding two related people groups in conflict, Judah and Edom. The book remains poignantly relevant today as it reminds us that in the face of injustices at the international level, God can be unrelenting.

Introduction

Author, Date, and Historical Context

With only 21 verses, Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. In its entirety it offers a prophecy against Edom that has nearly identical parallels with passages in other prophetic books (Is 25:12–14; Jer 49:7–22; Am 1:11–12; Jl 1–3). The book’s introduction is extremely brief: “The vision of Obadiah” (v. 1). In other

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