OBADIAH.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Division.)

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For the Canonical order and place of the Prophets, see Ap. 1, and p. 1206.
For the Chronological order of the Prophets, see Ap. 77.
For the Inter-relation of the Prophetic Books, see Ap. 78.
For the Formula of Prophetic utterance, see Ap. 82.
For References to the Pentateuch by the Prophets, see Ap. 92.
For the Inter-relation of the Minor (or Shorter) Prophets, see pp. 1206 and 1207.

The Minor Prophets do not profess to be chronological. The order seems to be logical; hence, Obadiah corresponds with Joel, and takes up Joel's theme, and shows (by contrast) what Joel's "day of the Lord" shall be for Israel's enemies. See pp. 1206-7. Edom is the one enemy in Joel (3. 19) as in Obadiah: indeed, from the first, Gen. 27. 39, 40 was fulfilled (see notes on 1 Kings 22. 47 and 2 Kings 8. 20-22. 2 Chron. 21. 8-10). After that we find prophecies against Edom (Isa. 34. 6-17. Jer. 49. 17-22. Ezek. 25. 12-14. 35; and Obadiah).

The correspondence between Jer. 49 and Obadiah may be thus shown:

| 1. -1, 2 = 14, 15. | 1. 6 = 11. 10. |
| 2. 3, 4 = 16. | 2. 8 = 11. 7. |
| 3. 5 = 8. | 3. 9 = 11. 22. |

The two prophecies are independent and original. There is no need to discuss which of the two quoted the other, or whether both refer to an earlier prophet. All beyond the Scripture record is conjecture.

That Obadiah gives details which are complementary may well be explained by the Fig. Hystérēsis (Ap. 6).

For the partial fulfilment of the prophecy, see the notes.

The prophecy of Obadiah is undated; but, from the internal evidence, referred to above, it was almost certainly subsequent to the captivity of Jehoiachin (409-8 a.c.), or to the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, and the end of Judah. This would bring it to either 482 a.c. or 472 a.c.
1 THE vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom; "We have heard a rumour from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, 'Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.'

2 Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the rock, whose habitation was high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

4 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.

5 If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off! would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave some grapes?

6 How are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!

7 All men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.

8 Shall I not in that day, saith the Lord, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

9 And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

10 For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

11 In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.

12 But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah 11 in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly 11 in the day of distress.

13 Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of My people 11 in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction 11 in the day of their calamity; nor hast thou laid hands on their substance 11 in the day of their calamity.

14 Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain 11 in the day of distress.


1 Obadiah = Servant of Jehovah. Cp. 1 Kings 18. 3. Thus saith, &c. The words of this prophecy, therefore, are not Obadiah's, but Jehovah's. Cp. vv. 18, 19.

2 Behold. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6. Calling attention to the words of Jehovah.


4 Though, &c. The words of Jehovah.

5 set thy nest among the stars. Fig. Hyperbole. Ap. 6. saith the Lord = [is] Jehovah's oracle.

6 If . . . ! Fig. Erotesis. Ap. 6.


8 the men, &c. = the men who were wont to salute thee and. Some codices, with three early printed editions and Syr., read this "and" in the text.


10 thy violence, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 27. 41-44, Deut. 25. 7). Cp. 92.

11 in the day. See Ap. 18. Note the Fig. Epetitio (Ap. 6) in vv. 12, 13, 14. strangers = aliens.

12 thou shouldest not have looked on, &c. All these are Prohibitives in Heb.; i.e. they are addressed to Edom as from a spectator looking on and saying; "Look not thou," &c. children = sons.


14 into his gates. Heb. text = gate; but Heb. marg., with some codices and two early printed editions, read "gates" (pl.).

15 thou shouldest not have looked on, &c. All these are Prohibitives in Heb.; i.e. they are addressed to Edom as from a spectator looking on and saying; "Look not thou," &c. children = sons.

16 stood in the crossway. Referring to some antecedent event by Fig. Hysteresis (Ap. 6).

Crossway = fork of the roads, or a mountain pass.
OBADIAH.

VER. 15.

15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen; ye have drunk upon My holy mountain, and devour them; and they shall possess their houses; and the house of Jacob shall be continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

VER. 21.

15 the day of the LORD. See note on Isa. 2. 11, 17. The prophecy is now enlarged, and includes all the nations who were Israel's enemies.

as = according as. This prophecy was fulfilled, so far as Edom was concerned, later on (see 1 Macc. 5. 4, 65. Josephus, De Bell. iv. 5); likewise will the judgment on all the nations be literally fulfilled.

16 holy. See note on Ex. 3. 5.

continually. Some codices, with four early printed editions (one Rabbinic in marg.), read "round about".

swallow down: or, stagger. Only elsewhere in Job 6. 3.

as though, &c. Solemn and noteworthy words.

17--21 (A), p. 1244. ISRAEL. RESTORATION.

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