

# OBADIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

31

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

1

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



## OVERVIEW

Obadiah's name means "worshipper of Yahweh" and his writings are one of the few instances where God speaks solely to another culture rather than Israel. At the time, the people of Edom were mocking and harassing God's people, and Obadiah prophesies to them and warns them of their impending punishment. During this time, Judah was very vulnerable to invasion. It had been attacked by the Philistines and also by the Arabians. Edom may never have invaded, but they rejoiced when others would do so.



### WRITTEN

There isn't enough evidence to pin down an exact time, but historians say it is most likely circa 840 BC



### TIME PERIOD COVERED

between 700-575 BC



### AUTHOR

Obadiah

1

### EDOM'S PRIDE PUNISHED

#### OBADIAH 1

Obadiah prophesies that God will punish Edom for gloating over God's people while they suffered. Obadiah teaches that we are mocking God when we gloat over suffering of others.

# OBADIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Obadiah**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Minor Prophecy (Obadiah is the fourth of 12 Minor Prophets)**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**Uncertain, but one date most commonly thought applicable is 590 BC**



#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Obadiah was a popular name during the centuries prior to Christ. In fact, 12 different men named Obadiah are mentioned in the Old Testament! Hence it is very hard to say if any are this prophet. Other than his name, there is no certain information about him.



#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

It is unknown where the book was written, but Edom, the entire prophecy's target, shares a border with the southern kingdom of Judah and is to the east of Egypt.



#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

The author wrote the shortest book in the Old Testament. It is an exclusive prophecy warning the nation of Edom. This gives the prophet common ground with Jonah, Nahum, and Habakkuk, the minor prophets who proclaimed judgments on a foreign nation instead of Israel and Judah themselves.

# JOEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

29

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

3

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



## OVERVIEW

Joel was a prophet of Judah who foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and other events, futuristic by even today's standards. The book speaks to all generations, encouraging all to be ready for the "Day of the Lord." Terms like "the latter rain" and "approaching darkness" come from its texts, which are used by Christians to describe current and near-future trends.



WRITTEN

BC, date unknown



TIME PERIOD COVERED

725 BC- future



AUTHOR

The Prophet Joel

1	COMPARISON OF UPCOMING EVENTS TO A PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS	2	DESCRIPTION, CALL TO RETURN, DAY OF THE LORD	3	JUDGMENT MELTS INTO VICTORY
JOEL 1		JOEL 2		JOEL 3	
Joel prophesies at the time of drought and a plague of locusts, and uses that imagery to inspire fear of an invading army that is "mighty and without number."		Joel continues in his terrifying description of an invading army which all generations should fear, and the Second Coming of the Lord.		Joel prophesies that all nations will be at war, but his people will prevail and be blessed. The Lord will dwell in Zion at the Last Day.	

# JOEL

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Joel

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Joel is the second of 12 Minor Prophets)

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

Uncertain, but since the book's message is universal, it has been applied to all eras, especially those experiencing trouble.



### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

There is a problem dating the Book of Joel. At least four dates have been attributed to it, some hundreds of years apart. The problem arises from the fact that the prophet has very little to say about himself. Many of the prophets name the kings under which they were serving, but Joel does not.

Joel prophesied about destruction that could apply to the Babylonian invasion in 586 BC, or the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, or other traumatic times for Israel. He also prophesied about the Day of the Lord, which is another name for the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore, some of his prophecies seem futuristic.



### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

We don't know where the book was written



### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Joel is most famous for being quoted by Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost. Peter joyfully took from Joel's second chapter:

*And afterward,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
your young men will see visions.  
(Joel 2:28)*

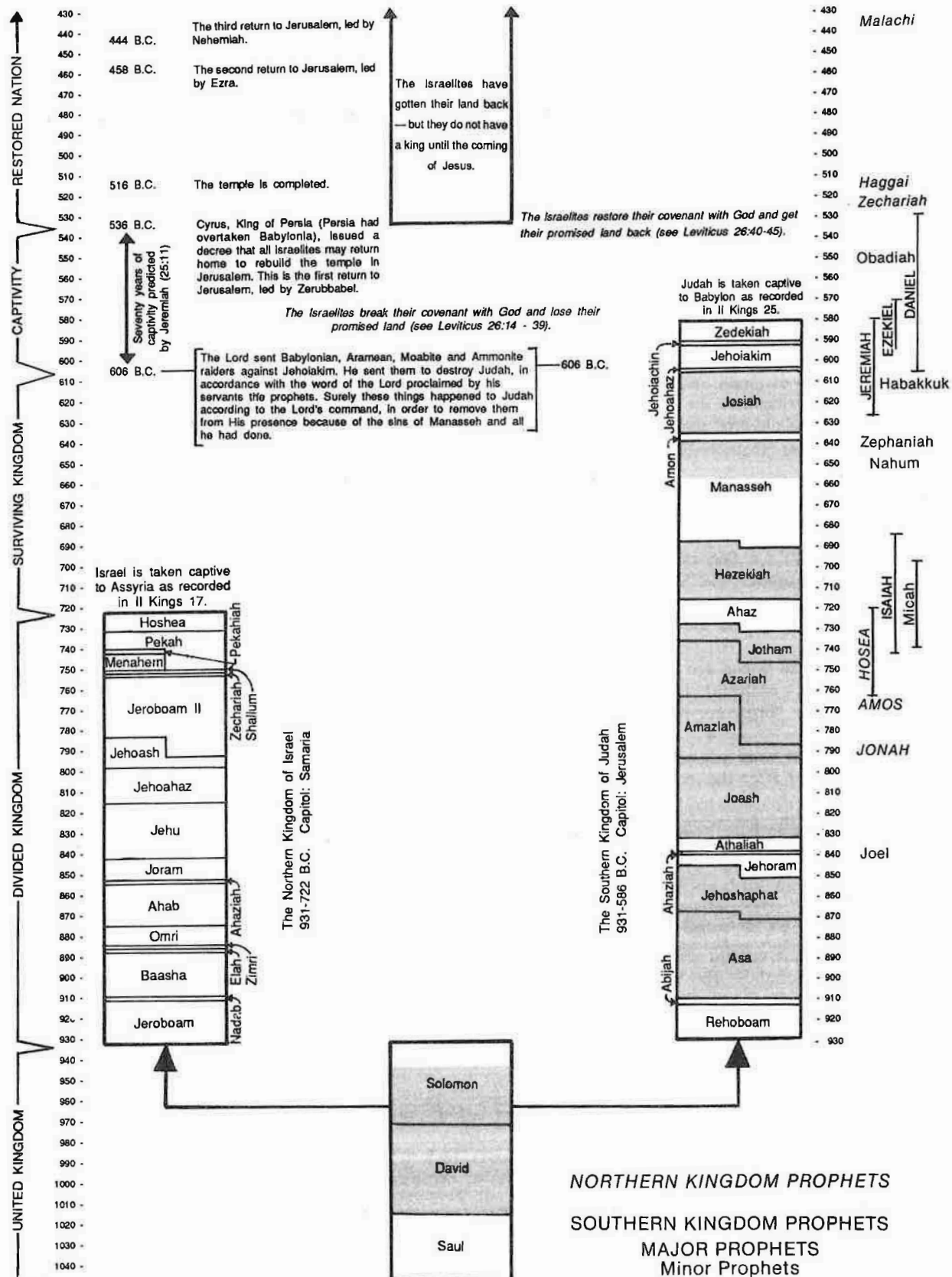
This verse is also popular among today's Pentecostal and Charismatic fellowships that enjoy the spiritual gifts such as dreaming, prophesying, and seeing visions.

**TIMELINE OF THE MINOR (& MAJOR) PROPHETS**  
**All dates are B.C. (Before Christ) & many are approximate**

Date	Book	Written to	Event
845?	Obadiah	Edom	
835?	Joel	Judah	
755	Jonah	Ninevah (Assyria)	
755	Amos	Israel & surrounding nations	
752	Hosea	Israel, with some to Judah	
739	Isaiah (Major)	Primarily to Judah, some to Israel	Assyria destroys Israel (northern kingdom), only Judah left
735-698	Micah	Judah & Israel	
722			
654	Nahum	Ninevah (Assyria), comfort for Judah	
630/25	Zephaniah	Judah & surrounding nations	
627-585	Jeremiah (Major)	Judah & surrounding nations	
	Also Lamentations		
609/07	Habakkuk	Judah	
605			Babylon takes control of Judah; 1st deportation of a few hundred (?) of the nobility from Judah (including Daniel)
597			2nd deportation from Judah of 10,000 (including Ezekiel)
593-571	Ezekiel (Major)	Jewish Exiles in Babylon, with messages for Judah & surrounding nations	
586			Babylon destroys Judah; 3rd & final deportation
540?			Decree of Cyrus to release the Jew from exile begun, then later discontinued, then resumed
530's	Daniel (Major)	Jewish Exiles in Babylon, future generations	
539			1st return of Jews to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel
538			Persian kings: Cambyses, Smerdis, Darius
520	Haggai	Judah	
520	Zechariah	Judah	
483			King Xerxes of Persia [Esther made Queen about 479]
465			King Artaxerxes (till 425)
458			2nd return of Jews to Jerusalem under Ezra
444			3rd return of Jews to Jerusalem under Nehemiah
431	Malachi	Judah	



# The Prophets' Place in History



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Post-exile Prophets