**Obadiah**

**Pride Comes Before the Fall**

**What you need to REMEMBER:**

In the middle chapters of the book of Genesis there’s a fascinating account of rival twin brothers. In fact, Esau and Jacob’s contentious relationship began in their mother’s womb. It seems the preborn siblings fought for position to see who would come into the world first and thus inherit the prime position in the family. Their in-utero conflict was also an omen of what was to come. Esau was born minutes earlier than Jacob, giving him favored status. He grew to be an impulsive ‘man’s man,’ while Jacob was an insecure ‘mama’s boy.’ There was much contentious drama in their dysfunctional family. Though Esau held the position of primogeniture, in a moment of hunger, he impetuously traded his position for a bowl of chili.

After a maturing, coming-of-age experience that involved a wrestling match with an angel of the Lord, Jacob’s name was changed to “Israel,” which means “one who struggles with God.” Which is fitting name for the nation that bears his name. Esau ended up separating from the family and his descendants formed the rival nation of Edom.

Esau and Jacob’s combative relationship which began in the womb, lasted their whole lives, and continued by proxy, through the centuries by the mutual hatred of the Israelites and the Edomites.

**What you need to KNOW:**

Centuries later, the Edomites aligned themselves with the Babylonians as they ransacked Jerusalem and joyfully joined in. Even though God allowed the Babylonians to destroy the city as a form of judgement for their unbelief and wayward behavior, He did not look favorably on the pride, gloating and participation of the Edomites. As a result, He had the prophet Obadiah foretell that the nation of Israel would eventually be reestablished, but that the centuries old feud would finally be put to an end with the destruction of the nation of Edom. ***“Because of your violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.” (vs. 10)***

Beyond the historical aspects of Obadiah’s prophesies, this book demonstrates God’s preservation of His people and that all people are held accountable to His moral standards. The book of Obadiah also explains why you’ve never been to an Edomite restaurant.

**GET GOING!**

**Take a leisurely stroll through the shortest book in the Older Testament.**