

Obadiah 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

God specifies Edom's crime: "For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever." Edom's sin was "violence against thy brother"—Jacob and Esau were twin brothers (Genesis 25:24-26), making Israel and Edom kindred nations. Deuteronomy 23:7 commanded: "Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother." Yet Edom violated this kinship through violence. The punishment: "shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever." Shame replaces pride; permanent destruction replaces presumed security. This teaches that betraying covenant relationships constitutes especially heinous sin—greater knowledge and closer relationship increase accountability (Luke 12:47-48). Edom knew their kinship but chose hostility.

Historical Context

Edom's hostility stretched from Moses's time (refusing Israel passage—Numbers 20:14-21) through monarchy (various conflicts) culminating in celebrating Jerusalem's fall. Psalm 137:7 captures Jewish anguish: "Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it." This sustained malice despite kinship particularly provoked God's judgment. The phrase "cut off forever" was fulfilled—Edom disappeared from history, a warning that God keeps His word.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does betraying family, church, or covenant relationships constitute particularly serious sin?
2. What does Edom's permanent destruction teach about the certainty of divine justice?

Interlinear Text

מִחַמַּת ס	אֶחָי יָדְךָ	יַעֲקֹב ב	תִּכְסֶּה	בוֹשָׁה ה
For thy violence	against thy brother	Jacob	shall cover	shame
H2555	H251	H3290	H3680	H955
וְנִכְרְתָּ	לְעוֹלָם:			
thee and thou shalt be cut off	for ever			
H3772	H5769			

Additional Cross-References

Amos 1:11 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:

Psalms 89:45 (Parallel theme): The days of his youth hast thou shortened: thou hast covered him with shame. Selah.

Genesis 27:41 (Parallel theme): And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

Ezekiel 35:9 (Parallel theme): I will make thee perpetual desolations, and thy cities shall not return: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Psalms 137:7 (Parallel theme): Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.

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