

# Obadiah 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Edom's specific betrayal: "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." When Jerusalem fell to Babylon, Edom "stood on the other side"—passive spectators at best, hostile participants at worst. "Strangers carried away captive his forces"—Babylon conquered Judah. "Cast lots upon Jerusalem"—dividing spoils. "Even thou wast as one of them"—Edom acted like pagan enemies rather than showing kinship loyalty. This passivity in others' suffering, or worse, participation in it, provoked divine judgment. James 4:17 states: "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Edom knew they should help relatives but chose complicity.

## Historical Context

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Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem (586 BC) involved brutal siege, starvation, destruction of temple, mass killing, and exile. Edom's response—standing aside or celebrating—revealed their true character. The principle applies today: claiming faith while ignoring suffering brothers and sisters denies the gospel (1 John 3:17-18). Christ identifies with His people such that helping or ignoring them means helping or ignoring Him (Matthew 25:31-46).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How do we "stand on the other side" when fellow believers or vulnerable people suffer?
2. What does it mean to be complicit in evil through passivity rather than active opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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בַּיּוֹם	עַמְדָה	מִנְגָּד	שָׁבַת	בַּיּוֹם	מִנְגָּד	שָׁבַת
In the day	that thou stoodest	H5048	In the day	carried away captive	H7617	
H3117	H5975		H3117		H7617	
that the strangers	his forces	and foreigners	entered	into his gates	H5921	
H2114	H2428	H5237	H935	H8179		
upon Jerusalem	and cast	lots	at the	even thou wast as one	H1992	
H3389	H3032	H1486	H1571	H859	H259	

## Additional Cross-References

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

**Nahum 3:10** (Parallel theme): Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

**Joel 3:3** (Parallel theme): And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

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