

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

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

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

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

בִּי וּם	עֲמַדְךָ	מִן גֹּד	בִּי וּם	שָׁב וְת	
In the day	that thou stoodest	H5048	In the day	carried away captive	
H3117	H5975		H3117	H7617	
זָרִים	חֵיל וְ	וְנִכְרִים	בָּאוּ	שָׁעַר וְ	יָעַל
that the strangers	his forces	and foreigners	entered	into his gates	H5921
H2114	H2428	H5237	H935	H8179	
יְרוּשָׁלַם	יָד וְ	גֹבֶל ל	גַּם	אֶת ה	כָּאֵחַ ד
upon Jerusalem	and cast	lots	H1571	H859	even thou wast as one
H3389	H3032	H1486		H259	H1992

Additional Cross-References

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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