

Obadiah 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

Analysis

God declares Edom's future: "Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised." The phrase "I have made" uses prophetic perfect—future judgment spoken as completed because it's certain. God will reduce Edom from their proud mountain fortresses to insignificance. "Greatly despised" (bazuy me'od) indicates contempt and humiliation. This teaches divine sovereignty—nations rise and fall at God's command. Edom's pride and presumed security will vanish. The same God who exalts humble people humbles the proud (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5-6). Jesus taught that the first will be last, the last first (Matthew 19:30, 23:12). Edom exemplifies the biblical pattern: pride precedes destruction (Proverbs 16:18).

Historical Context

Edom's mountainous terrain provided natural fortifications—cities like Petra carved into cliff faces seemed impregnable. Yet geography couldn't protect against God's judgment. The Nabatean displacement of Edom, followed by Roman conquest, fulfilled this prophecy exactly. Archaeological evidence confirms Edom's decline and disappearance. This demonstrates that human pride and security apart from God are illusions.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What forms of security (wealth, status, education, nationality) do people trust that can vanish instantly?
2. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over nations' rise and fall shape political engagement?

Interlinear Text

הֵן הַ	קֵטָן	בְּהִיטֵי יָדַי	בְּתוֹכָם	בְּזֵי יָדַי	אֶתְּ הַ
H2009	thee small	Behold I have made	among the heathen	despised	H859
	H6996	H5414	H1471	H959	

מְאֹדָּהּ
thou art greatly
H3966

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 23:9 (Parallel theme): The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth.

Numbers 24:18 (Parallel theme): And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

Micah 7:10 (Parallel theme): Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.