

# Obadiah 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.

## Analysis

**All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee**—Edom's allies (אַנְשֵׁי בְרִיתְךָ, *anshei veritecha*, "men of your covenant") will betray them. "Brought thee to the border" means either escorted you to expulsion or brought you to the brink of destruction. Those who seemed peaceful (שְׁלוֹמֶךָ, *shelomecha*, from שָׁלוֹם/*shalom*) will deceive (הִשִּׁיאוּךָ, *hissi'ukha*—the same root as "deceived" in verse 3 about pride) and overcome you.

**They that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee** (לַחֲמֶכָּה יָשִׁימוּ מָזוֹר תַּחְתֶּיךָ, *lachmekha yasimu mazor tachteka*)—those sharing table fellowship, bound by hospitality's sacred obligations, will set traps. "There is none understanding in him" (אֵין תְּבוּנָה בּוֹ, *ein tevunah bo*)—Edom lacks discernment to recognize betrayal. This teaches that pride blinds to danger, false alliances provide no security, and God orchestrates judgment through unexpected means. Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18 apply similar language to Judas's betrayal of Christ—showing that even the Messiah experienced what Edom would: betrayal by close associates. Yet Christ's betrayal accomplished salvation; Edom's brought judgment.

## Historical Context

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Edom formed alliances with various powers—sometimes with Assyria, sometimes Babylon, later with other Arab tribes. These political calculations seemed wise but proved futile. When Babylon destroyed Jerusalem (586 BC), Edom apparently cooperated, believing this secured their position. Yet within generations, former allies turned against them. The Nabateans, who may have initially seemed peaceful trading partners, eventually displaced Edom entirely. No human alliance can protect against divine judgment. The principle applies today: trusting political, economic, or social alliances more than God leads to disappointment and destruction.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What false securities (political parties, economic systems, social networks) might you trust more than God?
2. How does pride blind people to coming betrayal, danger, or judgment?
3. In what ways does Christ's experience of betrayal by a close associate demonstrate His identification with human suffering while accomplishing redemption?

## Interlinear Text

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עַד H5704	הַגֵּב וְלֹ H1366	שָׁלַח וְ H7971	כָּל H3605	אֲנָשִׁי H582	בְּרִיתָךְ H1285
thee	even to the border	have brought	All the men	of thy confederacy	
הַשִּׂיא וְ H5377	יָכַל וְ H3201	לְךָ H0	אֲנָשִׁי H582	שָׁלָמָה H7965	
with thee	have deceived	thee and prevailed	All the men	that were at peace	
לַחֲמֹךְ H3899	יָשׁ יָמוֹ H7760	מָזוֹר H4204	תַּחֲתֶיךָ H8478	אֵין H369	
against thee	they that eat thy bread	have laid a wound			
תַּבּוּיָהּ H8394	בּוֹ H0				
under thee	there is none understanding				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 41:9** (Parallel theme): Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

**Jeremiah 30:14** (Parallel theme): All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased.

**Jeremiah 49:7** (Parallel theme): Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?

**John 13:18** (Parallel theme): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.