

Obadiah 1–21

Translation, Logoprosodic Analysis, and Observations

Edom's Fall and Israel's Restoration as YHWH's People

Obad 1–21

A. YHWH Declares War against Edom (1–2)

[6.9]

¹ The vision / of Obadiah //

<u> 8</u> 2_	<u> 2</u> 2_ 0
Am 9:14–Ob 1a	23 18 5

Thus says the Lord YHWH / to Edom /
we have heard a report / from YHWH /

18 2	5 0 5
<u> 18</u> 2_	<u> 4</u> 0_ 4
Am 9:14–Ob 1c	32 18 14

And an envoy / has been sent among the nations /

<u> 11</u> 2_	<u> 3</u> 0_ 3
Am 9:14–Ob 1c	35 18 17

Rise up / and let us rise against her ^a for battle //

<u> 21</u> 2_	<u> 4</u> 0_ 4
Am 9:15–Ob 1	32 5 27

² Behold I will make you / small / among the nations //
you are utterly / despised //

16 3	4 4 0
<u> 10</u> 2_	<u> 3</u> 0_ 3
Am 9:14–Ob 2	46 22 24

B. YHWH Declares that He will Bring Arrogant Edom Down (3–4)

[7.5]

³ The arrogance of your heart / has deceived you //
who live in the clefts of Selah / in his lofty dwelling place //

11 2	3 3 0
<u> 17</u> 2_	<u> 5</u> 5_ 0
Am 9:15–Ob 3c	47 17 30

Saying in his heart /

<u> 8</u> 1_	<u> 2</u> 0_ 2
Am 9:15–Ob 3d	49 17 32

Who will bring me down / to earth? //

<u> 13</u> 2_	<u> 3</u> 0_ 3
Am 9:15–Ob 3	52 17 35

⁴ Though you soar like the eagle /

<u> 8</u> 1_	<u> 3</u> 3_ 0
2–4a	23 15 8

Though among the stars / you set your nest /
from there I will bring you down / **ne'um** YHWH //

15 2	5 5 0
<u> 15</u> 2_	<u> 4</u> 0_ 4
2–4	32 20 12

C. *The Destruction of Edom will be Total* (5)

[5.4]

⁵ If thieves come to you / if plunderers by night / O how you are destroyed! /	20 1 _6 2_	4 4 0 <u>5 5 0</u>
	4-5b	21 17 4
Would they not steal (only) / until they had enough? //	_10 2_	<u>3 3 0</u>
	2-5c	44 32 12
If grape gatherers / come to you / would they not / leave gleanings? //	12 2 14 2	4 0 4 <u>3 0 3</u>
	2-5	51 32 19

D. *Edom will be Deceived by Her Allies and Driven from Her Land* (6-7)

[9.6]

⁶ How / thoroughly Esau will be ransacked / and his hidden treasures / searched out //	10 2 _8 2_	3 3 0 <u>2 2 0</u>
	5-6	24 17 7
⁷ To the border / ^a they send you forth / all / the men allied with you / they will deceive you /	10 2 _16 3_	3 3 0 <u>4 4 0</u>
	4-7b	43 32 11
They will overpower you / the men at peace with you //	_15 2_	<u>4 4 0</u>
	1-7c	85 50 35
Those eating bread with you / set an ambush for you / there is no awareness / of it //	18 2 _9 2_	4 0 4 <u>3 0 3</u>
	6-7	23 16 7

E. *You will be Destroyed for Violence Done to Your Brother Jacob* (8-10)

[7.6]

⁸ Will I not / on that day ^a ne'um YHWH // destroy wise men / from Edom /	15 2 _16 2_	5 5 0 <u>3 0 3</u>
	7-8b	26 16 10
And understanding ^a from Esau's mountain //	_15 1_	<u>3 0 3</u>
	6-8	34 21 13
⁹ And your warriors will be shattered / O Teman /	<u>14 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
	7-9a	32 19 13
So that everyone will be cut off / from Mount Esau ^a by slaughter //	9 1 _11 1	3 0 3 <u>3 0 3</u>
	5-9	62 36 26

¹⁰ Because of violence / to your brother Jacob /	8-10a	<u>13 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
			23 11 12
Shame will cover you //		9 1	2 2 0
and you will be cut off forever //	5-10	<u>10 1</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
			69 41 28

F. You Should Not Gloat Over Judah's Destruction (11-13a) [4.5.5.4]

¹¹ On the day / you stood aloof /		11 2	3 3 0
on the day / strangers carried off ^a his wealth //	9-11b	<u>14 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
			23 15 8

And foreigners ^b entered his gates /	10-11c	<u>13 1</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
			17 12 5

And they cast lots / for Jerusalem /		16 2	4 0 4
you too / were as one of them //	9-11	<u>10 2</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
			34 15 19

¹² Do not gloat over your brother's day / the day of his misfortune /		19 2	6 6 0
and do not rejoice ^a over the people of Judah /	11-12c	<u>12 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
			28 17 11

In the day of their destruction //	8-12d	<u>6 1</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
			46 27 19

Do not boast / in the day of adversity //	12	<u>15 2</u>	<u>5 0 5</u>
			17 12 5

¹³ Do not enter the gate of my people / in the day of their disaster /	12-13a	<u>18 2</u>	<u>6 6 0</u>
			23 18 5

G. You Should Not have Opposed Judah in the Time of Her Calamity (13b-14) [6.7]

You indeed should not gloat /		8 1	4 4 0
over their calamity / in the day of their disaster //		14 2	3 3 0
and do not loot ^a their wealth / in the day of their disaster //	8-13c	<u>17 3</u>	<u>5 0 5</u>
			69 40 29

¹⁴ And do not stand / at the fork of the road /		10 2	4 4 0
to cut down / their fugitives //	12-14b	<u>11 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
			42 32 10

And do not imprison ^a their survivors /		10 2	3 0 3
in the day of their distress //	11-14	<u>7 1</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
			65 39 26

H. *The Day is Near for All Nations to Drink the Cup of YHWH's Wrath* (15–16) [6.9]

15 For the day of YHWH is near / for all the nations //	17 2	7 7 0
as you have done / it will be done unto you /	16 2	4 0 4
your dealings / will return on your own head //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
	13–15	44 27 17

16 For / just as you drank / on my holy mountain /	13 3	6 6 0
all the nations will drink / continually //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
	15–16b	24 17 7

They will drink / ^a and swallow /	10 2	2 0 2
and they will become / as if they never were //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
	15–16	29 17 12

I. *On Mount Zion the Survivors will Dispossess Their Dispossessors* (17–18d) [4.5]

17 And on Mount Zion /	8 1	2 2 0
there will be those who escape ^a and it will be holy //	<u>15 1</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
	15–17b	35 23 12

And the house of Jacob ^b will dispossess /	12 1	3 0 3
those ^a who dispossessed them //	<u>9 1</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
	15–17	40 23 17

18 And the house of Jacob will be a fire /	13 1	4 4 0
and the house of Joseph a flame /	<u>13 1</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
	15–18b	33 23 10

And the house of Esau ^a will be as stubble /	10 1	3 3 0
and they will burn / and they will consume them //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
	15–18d	53 36 17

J. *Israel will Dispossess Edom, Philistia, Ephraim and Gilead* (18e–19) [5.7]

And there will be no survivor / to the house of Esau /	<u>16 2</u>	<u>5 0 5</u>
	13–18e	88 56 32

For YHWH has spoken //	<u>8 1</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
	17–18	32 19 13

19 And those of the Negev will possess / the mountain of Esau /	<u>15 2</u>	<u>5 5 0</u>
		26 18 8

And those of the Shephelah ^a (the land of) the Philistines /	12 1	3 3 0
and they will possess / the territory of Ephraim /	<u>13 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
	14–19c	85 55 30

Indeed (they will possess) / the territory of Samaria //	11	2	3	3	0
and Benjamin / (will possess) Gilead //	12	2	3	0	3
	17-19		49	34	15

K. YHWH's Kingdom will Extend from Phoenicia to the Negev (20-21) [9.6]

²⁰ And the exiles < in Halah> ^a / of the children of Israel / ^b	17	2	5	5	0
who are (among) the Canaanites / as far as Zaraphath /	12	2	4	4	0
	12-20b		135	92	43

And the exiles of Jerusalem / who are in Sepharad //	17	2	4	4	0
they shall possess / the / cities of the Negev //	13	3	4	0	4
	20		17	13	4

²¹ The deliverers will ascend / Mount Zion /	16	2	4	4	0
	20-21a		21	17	4

To judge / the mountain of Esau //	9	2	4	4	0
	18-21b		64	49	15

And the kingdom / shall belong to YHWH //	16	2	3	0	3
	19-21		46	36	10
	1-21		291	174	117

289 = 17 x 17 and 172 = 43x2x2 {43 = 17+26} Without 1:1a **289 172 117**

Scansion in Accentual Stress Units:

$$(6.9).(7.5) . (5.4).(9.6) . (7.5).4.5.5.4.(5.7) . (6.9).(4.5) . (5.7).(9.6)$$

$$= (15 + 12) + (9 + 15) + (12 + 18 + 12) + (13 + 9) + (12 + 15) = 51 + 42 + 51 = 144$$

Notes:

- v 1^a Reading *tīp̄hā* in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 7^a Reading *munah* preceded immediately by *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- v 8^a Reading *tīp̄hā* in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 9^a Reading *tīp̄hā* in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 11^a Reading *geršayim* in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 12^a Reading *mērəkā* followed immediately by *ga'ya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- v 13^a Reading *mērəkā* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- v 14^a Reading *mērəkā* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- v 16^a Reading *munah* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- v 17^a Reading *tīp̄hā* in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 17^b Reading *pašta* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 18^a Reading *pašta* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 19^a Reading *pašta* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- v 20^a Reading *ḥālah hazzeh* ("of [this] Halah") in place of *hahēl-hazzeh* ("this army") in BHS, as in RSV. The people of Northern Israel were exiled to Halah according to 2 Kings 17:6 (cf. 1 Chron 5:26). If we read *haḥalah zeh* here [cf. *hannegēb* ("the Negev"), *haššəpēlāh* ("the Shephelah"), *haggil'ād* ("the Gilead")], perhaps we have here a reference to a geographical region rather than a specific city.
- v 20^b Reading the sequence of *ʔazlā* followed by *məhuppaḳ* in BHS as disjunctive.

Summary of the Logoprosodic Analysis

1. Obadiah has 11 strophes: 1–2, 3–4, 5, 6–7, 8–10, 11–13a, 13b–14, 15–16, 17–18d, 18e–19 & 20–21.

A	1–2	2 balanced triads + pivot:	$[8 + 18 + 18] + 11 + [21 + 16 + 10]$	=	$44 + 11 + 47$	morae
B	3–4	3 balanced triads + pivot:	$[11 + 17 + 8] + 13 + [8 + 15 + 15]$	=	$36 + 13 + 38$	morae
C	5	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[12 + 15] + 10 + [12 + 14]$	=	$27 + 10 + 26$	morae
D	6–7	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[(10 + 8) + (10 + 16)] + [15 + 18 + 9]$	=	$44 + 15 + 42$	morae
E	8–9a	2 balanced dyads:	$[15 + 16] + [15 + 14]$	=	$31 + 29$	morae
	9b–10	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[9 + 11] + 13 + [9 + 10]$	=	$20 + 13 + 19$	morae

X	11	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[11 + 14] + 13 + [16 + 10]$	=	$25 + 13 + 26$	morae
	12–13a	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$[(13 + 6) + 12] + 6 + [15 + 18]$	=	$31 + 6 + 33$	morae

E'	13b–14	2 balanced dyads:	$[22 + 17] + [(10+10) + (10+7)]$	=	$39 + 37$	morae
D'	15–16	triad & quatrain in balance:	$[17 + 16 + 14] + [(13+12) + (10+12)]$	=	$47 + 47$	morae
C'	17	balanced dyad:	$[(8 + 15) + 21]$	=	$23 + 21$	morae
	18a–d	2 balanced dyads:	$[13 + 13] + [10 + 15]$	=	$26 + 25$	morae
B'	18c–19a	balanced dyad + pivot:	$[16 + 8 + 15] + (12+13)$	=	$24 + 15 + 25$	morae
	19b–e	2 balanced dyads:	$[12 + 13] + [11 + 12]$	=	$25 + 23$	morae
A'	20	2 balanced dyads:	$[17 + 12] + [17 + 13]$	=	$29 + 30$	morae
	21	balanced dyad + pivot:	$[16 + 9 + 16]$	=	$16 + 9 + 16$	morae

- The 1st strophe (1–2) is a single part with five subdivisions: 1a, 1bc, 1d, 1e and 2.
 - Amos 9:15–Ob 1 **23** words
 - Amos 9:14–Ob 2 **46** (= **23** x 2) words
- The 2nd strophe (3–4) is a single part with four subdivisions: 3a–c, 3d, 4a and 4bc.
 - Amos 9:15–Ob 3 **52** (= **26** x 2) words and **17** words before *atnach*
 - 2–4 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
- The 3rd strophe (5) is a single part with three subdivisions: 5ab, 5c and 5de.
 - 2–5 **51** (= **17** x 3) words and **17** words before *atnach*
- The 4th strophe (6–7) is a single part with four subdivisions: 6, 7ab, 7c and 7de.
 - 5–6 **17** words before *atnach*
 - 6–7 **23** words
- The 5th strophe (8–10) has two parts with six subdivisions: 8ab, 8c, 9a, 9bc, 10a and 10bc.
 - 6–8 **34** (= **17** x 2) words
 - 5–9 **26** words after *atnach*
 - 5–10 **69** (= **23** x 3) words
- The 6th strophe (11–13a), the middle strophe, has three parts: 10–11a, 11b–c and 12.
 - 9–11 **34** (= **17** x 2) words
 - 12 **17** words
- The 7th strophe (13b–14) is a single part with two subdivisions: 13bc and 14.

- 9–13 **69** (= **23** x 3) words
 - 12–14 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words before *atnach*
9. The 8th strophe (15–16) is a single part with three subdivisions: 15, 16ab and 16cd.
- 13–15 **17** words after *atnach*
 - 15–16 **17** words before *atnach*
10. The 9th strophe (17–18d) has two parts with four subdivisions: 17ab, 17c, 18ab and 18cd.
- 15–17 **40 = 23 + 17** [compositional formula]
11. The 10th strophe (18e–19) has two parts with five subdivisions: 18e, 18f, 19a, 19bc and 19de.
- 17–18 **32** (= 2x2x2x2x2) words
 - 17–19 **34** (= **17** x 2) words before *atnach*
12. The 11th strophe (20–21) has two parts with five subdivisions: 20ab, 20cd, 21a, 21b and 21c.
- 20 **17** words
 - 19–21 **46** (= **23** x 2) words

Observations

1. The eleven strophes in Obadiah may be outlined in a nested menorah pattern on prosodic grounds as follows:

Menorah Pattern of Obadiah: Edom's Fall and Israel's Restoration as YHWH's People

A	YHWH declares war against Edom	[6.9] 1–2
B	YHWH declares that he will bring arrogant Edom down	[7.5] 3–4
C	The destruction of Edom will be total	[5.4] 5
X	Edom's time has come to drink the cup of YHWH's wrath	— 6–16
C	On Mount Zion the survivors will dispossess their dispossessors	[4.5] 17–18d
B	Israel will dispossess Edom, Philistia, Ephraim, and Gilead	[5.7] 18e–19
A	YHWH's kingdom will extend from Phoenicia to the Negev	[9.6] 20–21

Central Core: Edom's Time has Come to Drink the Cup of YHWH's Wrath (Obad 6–16)

A	Edom will be deceived by her allies and driven from her land	[9.6] 6–7
B	You will be destroyed for violence done to your brother Jacob	[7.6] 8–10
X	You should not gloat over Judah's destruction	[4.5.5.4] 11–13a
B	You should not have opposed Judah in the time of her calamity	[6.7] 13b–14
A	The day is near for all nations to drink the cup of YHWH's wrath	[6.9] 15–16

2. In terms of the 291 words in Obadiah, the **arithmological center** falls on the word **לְבָנֵי** (“to/over the sons [of Judah]”) in the first half of verse 12, with 145 words on either side. The **meaningful center** is found by adding 6 words on either side of the **arithmological center**, as follows:

בְּיוֹם אַחִיךָ בְּיוֹם נִכְרָו On your brother's day, the day of his misfortune,
 וְאַל תִּשְׂמַח לְבָנֵי יְהוּדָה Do not rejoice over the sons of Judah.

ביום אבדם In the day of their destruction,
ואל תגדל פיך Do not boast.

In this instance, the **concentric compositional formula** is:

$$291 = 139 + 13 + 139 \text{ [word count— for Obadiah]}$$

This **meaningful center** may be expanded to include 8 words on either side of the **arithmological center**, as follows:

ואל תרא ביום אחיך Do not gloat over your brother's day,
ביום נכרו On the day of his misfortune,
ואל תשמח לבני יהודה Do not rejoice over the sons of Judah.
ביום אבדם In the day of their destruction,
ואל תגדל פיך ביום צרה Do not boast in the day of their destruction.

In this instance, the **concentric compositional formula** is:

$$291 = 137 + 17 + 137 \text{ [word count— for Obadiah]}$$

3. The 54-word **meaningful framework** (with the 22-word framework highlighted in gray) reads as follows:

1 חזון עבדיה The vision of Obadiah:
כה־אמר אדני יהוה לא־רום Thus says the Lord YHWH to Edom:
שמועה שמענו מאת יהוה A report we have heard from YHWH,
וציר בגוים שלח And an envoy has been sent among the nations
קומו ונקומה עליה למלחמה Arise and let us go against her for battle
הנה קטן נתתיך בגוים Behold I will make you small among the nations
בזוי אתה מאד You are greatly despised.
זרון לבך השיאך The arrogance of your heart has deceived you

וגלת החל־הזה לבני ישראל And the exiles of this army of the children of Israel
אשר־כנענים עד־צרפת Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zaraphath
וגלת ירושלם אשר בספרד And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
ירשו את ערי הנגב They shall possess the cities of the Negev
21 ועלו משעים בהר ציון And the deliverers will ascend Mount Zion
לשפט את־הר עשו To judge the mountains of Esau
והיתה ליהוה המלוכה And the kingdoms will belong to YHWH.

4. Summary of the concentric compositional formulae:

$$291 = 139 + 13 + 139 \quad \text{word-count}$$

$$291 = 137 + 17 + 137$$

{with others in between}

II C ⁵ ʾim gannābīm bāʾû ləka † ʾim šôḏəḏê laylāh †
 ʾêk nidmētāh † hălôʾ yigñəbû dayyām ^
 ʾim bōṣərīm bāʾû lāk † hălôʾ yašʾrû ʿōlēlôṭ :

D ⁶ ʾêk nehprəsû ʿēsāw † nihʿû maspūnāyw :
⁷ ʿad-haggebûl šilləhûka † kōl ʾansê ḥərîṭeka †
 hiššîʾûka yākəlu ləka ʾansê šəlōmekə ^
 laḥməka yāsîmû māzôr taḥṭeka † ʾen təḥūnāš bô :

III E ⁸ hălôʾ bayyôm hahûʾ nəʾûm yhwĥ ^
 wəhaʾəḇadati ḥākāmîm mēʾədôm † ûṭəḥūnāh mēhar ʿēsāw :
⁹ wəḥattû gibbôrêka tēman ^ ləmaʿan yikkāreṭ ʾiš mēhar ʿēsāw miqqāṭel :
¹⁰ mēḥāmas ʾāḥîkā yaʿāqōḇ təkassəkā ḥûšāh ^ wənikrattā ləʿōlām :

X ¹¹	wəʾal ʿāmāḏəkā minneḡed † wənokrîm bāʾû šəʿārāyw †	bayôm šəḥôṭ zārîm ḥêlô ^ gam-ʾattāh kəḥad mēhem :
	wəʿal-yərûšālam yaddû gōrāl †	bayôm nokrô †
¹²	wəʾal-tereʾ bayôm-ʾāḥîkā † wəʾal-tîsmah [libnê]-yəḥûḏāh † wəʾal-taḡdēl piḳā bayôm šārāh :	bayôm ʾəḇḏām ^

E ¹³ ʾal tāḥôʾ ḥəšaʿar-ʿammî bayôm ʾêḏām †
 ʾal-têreʾ ḡam-ʾattāh bəraʿātô bayôm ʾêḏām ^
 wəʾal-tišlahnāh bəḥêlô † bayôm ʾêḏām :
¹⁴ wəʾal-taʿāmōḏ ʿal-happereq † ləḥakrîṭ ʾet-pəlîṭāyw ^
 wəʾal-tasḡēr sərîḏāyw bayôm šārāh :

IV D ¹⁵ kî qārōḇ yôm yhwĥ ʿal kol haggôyîm ^
 kaʾăšer ʿāsîṭa yēʿāsēh lāk † ḡamūləka yāšûḇ bəroʾšeka :
¹⁶ kî kaʾăšer šəṭîṭem ʿal har qodšî † yištû kol haggôyîm tāmîḏ ^
 wəšātû wəlāʿû † wəḥāyû kəlôʾ ḥāyû :

C ¹⁷ ūḇəhar šîyôn tihyeh pəlêṭāh wəḥāyāh qōḏeš ^
 wəyārəḡû bêt yaʿāqōḇ † ʾet mōrāsēhem :
¹⁸ wəḥāyāh bêt yaʿāqōḇ ʾeš ūḇêt yôsēp lehāḇāh †
 ūḇêt ēsāw ləqas † wəḏələqû ḇāhem waʾăkālûm ^

V B	<p><i>wəlō' yihyeh sārîd ləbêṭ 'ēsāw †</i></p> <p>19 <i>wəyārəšû hanneḡeb 'et 'ēsāw †</i></p> <p><i>wəyārəšû 'et səḏēh 'eprayim †</i></p> <p><i>ûbinyāmin 'et haggil'ād :</i></p>	<p><i>kî yhwh dibbēr :</i></p> <p><i>wəhaššəpēlāh 'et pəlišṭîm †</i></p> <p><i>wəet səḏēh sōmərôn ^</i></p>
A	<p>20 <i>wəḡālūt <haḥēlāh zeh> †</i></p> <p><i>wəḡālūt yərûšālaïm 'āšer bispāraḏ ^</i></p> <p>21 <i>wə'alû mōšî'im bəhar šîyôn †</i></p> <p><i>wəhāyətāš la-yhwh hamməlûkāš :</i></p>	<p><i>libnê yisrā'el 'āšer kəna'anîm 'ad šorpāt †</i></p> <p><i>yirəšû 'et 'ārê hanneḡeb :</i></p> <p><i>lišpōṭ 'et har 'ēsāw ^</i></p>

7. The 78 **briques** are distributed in 11 strophes in Obadiah are as follows:

$$(7 + 7) + (6 + 7) + (7 + \boxed{5 + 5}) + 7 + (7 + 6) + (7 + 7) = 27 + 24 + 27 = 78$$

The **arithmological center** of Obadiah falls between the words *libnê* (“to the sons of”) in the first half of v 12, with 145 words on either side. There are 144 SAS units, 78 briques, 26 versets, 11 strophes, and 5 (or perhaps 3) cantos. The **arithmological center** is in the middle, canto, the middle strophe, the middle two versets, the middle six **briques**, and the middle eight SAS units.

8. Bibliography: {to be added later}

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