

# “AS YOU HAVE DONE, SO SHALL IT BE DONE TO YOU!”

## The Book of Obadiah

**Who wrote The Book of Obadiah?**

The Book of Obadiah was written by the prophet Obadian. Nothing is known about his life.

**How did The Book of Obadiah get its name and/or what does that name mean?**

The Book of Obadiah is named after its author. The name Obadiah means “Servant of Yahweh.”

**When did these events take place?**

Obadiah's prophecy was probably written shortly before 586 B.C.

**For more about The Book of Obadiah:**

See page 959 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Did you, or someone you know ever stand up to a bully? You know, the kid who always pushed everybody around and loved to intimidate you just by threatening to do something. After a while, everyone got so used to it that he or she pretty much always got their way when they were around. Eventually, though, someone just figured enough was enough. It came to the point where the risk of getting hurt in the challenge outweighed the treatment he or she kept dishing out.. Besides, after the retaliation was over, everyone agreed that “the bully had it coming” and they deserved to finally get a taste of their own medicine.

The Book of Obadiah is a story just like that. The people of Edom (which was eventually called Idumaea) were nothing but bullies to the Israelites. For hundreds of years, from this small state to the south of Judah they intimidated and harassed God’s Chosen people. They would ransack their towns and assault the Jews with no threat of retaliation from the Jews. Like the bully at school, no one stood up to them.

Not until Obadiah. His prophecy is all about the coming vengeance against Edom. Obadiah makes it very clear in Verse 15 that “what goes around comes around” in the words, “As you have done, so shall it be done to you, . . .” But he also reveals to the Israelites that there is hope, and that this hope springs out of God’s ultimate fairness. After all, like the class bully, even though he or she may get away with their behavior for a long time, most of the time what is fair and what is right win in the end.

**Interesting Fact:** The Book of Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament.. It contains only twenty-one verses which dwell on the vengeance against Edom.

**Bonus Point:** Where in Obadiah is the “golden rule” stated in reverse?