

Edom and Esau –Who are they Today?

Quotes from Yair Davidiy

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Commentary on the book of OBADIAH by Yair Davidiy-Some say that Obadiah prophesied at an early date, others say that he prophesied after the destruction of the First Temple. There is also a strong tradition that he was a righteous convert from Edom and that was how he was able to prophesy so strongly against Edom.

[Obadiah 1:1] *THE VISION OF OBADIAH. THUS SAITH YHWH ELOHIM CONCERNING EDOM; WE HAVE HEARD A RUMOUR FROM THE YHWH, AND AN AMBASSADOR IS SENT AMONG THE HEATHEN, ARISE YE, AND LET US RISE UP AGAINST HER IN BATTLE.* They are going against Edom. Edom is identified as Germany and ancient Rome and sometimes as Europe in general. We are doing work on Edom that may eventually materialize in the form of magazine articles or even a book so for the moment we will not dwell at length on the identifications and possibilities. We have taken Edom to apply to Germany. It is, however, interesting to note that "Edom" means "Red" and Russia too has a name that in some languages connotes "red" and in her Communist phase Russia had a red flag and was known as "Red Russia" and her forces as "the reds". To my mind this prophecy has scenes reminiscent of World War II. Perhaps there will be some kind of re-play? Germany attacked Poland and then conquered most of Western Europe, and then she attacked Russia. At first the oppressed Slavs tended to side with the Germans but Nazi atrocities aroused fierce resistance and a cry went out all over Eastern Europe that a struggle for survival had began.

Obadiah –3-These sections rely on a lot of commentaries. Some of it may seem a little difficult but it is also very interesting and should be worth reading. Esau was the brother of Jacob. The Book of Obadiah condemns Esau for betraying his brother Yisrael. Obadiah says that in the Last Days:

[Obadiah 1:18] *AND THE HOUSE OF JACOB SHALL BE A FIRE, AND THE HOUSE OF JOSEPH A FLAME, AND THE HOUSE OF ESAU FOR STUBBLE AND THEY SHALL KINDLE IN THEM, AND DEVOUR THEM; AND THERE SHALL NOT BE ANY REMAINING OF THE HOUSE OF ESAU; FOR THE YHWH HATH SPOKEN IT.* He says that the House of Joseph shall destroy the House of Esau. Rabbinical sources identified Esau with Rome and with Germany and sometimes with Europe in general. The Talmud says that only Joseph is capable of defeating Esau. The sources do not say that all the Germans are from Esau. The same sources also say that the Germans are descended from Canaanites, from Gopmer, from Togarmah, from Ashkenaz, and so on. There was a tradition that the ruling elements of Rome and Germany were descended from Esau. We must look for a nation that has proven itself capable of defeating Germany and this is what Britain and the USA did do in the Second World War. ML (=M' Am Loaz): Zavoari Shelal: <It is possible that Jacob and Joseph are fire and flame. Jacob occupied himself continuously with Torah and is likened to fire. Joseph conquered his impulse which is the flame and therefore a "h" was added to his name "Yehosef" [instead of "Yosef"] and this is the flame, the flame of Elohim. ML: Ahavat Yehonatan: VaYishalch: <You may ask, Since the House of Jacob is fire they can up Esau and why should they need Joseph? The answer is that the power of Jacob to fight against Esau is applicable only if Esau comes within the boundaries of Yisrael. In order to penetrate the borders of Esau we need Joseph since the seed of Esau falls only before the children of Rachel. The intention here is to Joseph who was born outside of the Land of Yisrael...>Notes from "Daat Sofrim" : <Edom is not a nation of one pure constitution. It is composed of the descendants of Esau and of the Horites who intermingled together. As a result of this foreign qualities were added to those that naturally belonged to Esau. <The prophecy is apparently directed not only to the period when this people [Esau] dwelt in its land but also to the days when it would be assimilated amongst the peoples of the world and fulfils its great role beginning with Rome. . <All the children of Edom who remained in the south of the land of Yisrael were converted to the status of slaves and in this way [it was intended that they be] drawn nearer to the Torah through the Hashmonean dynasty.

[Note “conversion as slaves” means that they were not made immediately full-fledged Yisraelites. Those who were so converted were only a minority of those in the south and a small portion of the total seed of Edom. Of those who converted many became Christians and the early Christians drew heavily on their ranks. These Edomite Christians later migrated to Germany through the south, especially the regions of Austria and Bavaria. Other Edomites reverted to paganism (or had never stopped being pagans as archaeological evidence indicates) and their descendants are to be found in part amongst the present-day “Palestinian-Arabs” in the Hebron area. They can be met with today. Still others must have become full-fledged converts and as such complete Yisraelites. There is a commandment “Do not despise an Edomite for he is your brother.”]

“AND THE HOUSE OF ESAU FOR STUBBLE”: “Daat Sofrim” emphasizes (1) All prophesies of disaster and punishment are contingent on the culprit not reforming himself BUT if he changes his ways disaster can be averted. (2) It says that “The HOUSE” of Edom will be made an end of, i.e. it will no longer exist as an independent recognizable unit but many individuals from Edom will survive amongst other nations.
Chapter eight.

THE BOOK OF OBADIAH AND DESCENDANTS OF EDOM.

According to one tradition (Encyclopedia Judaica, “Obadiah”) the Prophet Obadiah was a descendant of Esau who converted. He was the only known convert ever to obtain the gift of Prophecy. Obadiah was therefore a suitable vehicle to condemn the descendants of Edom since if he himself chose the right path so could they have done if they so wanted. Obadiah speaks of a future fall and destruction of Edom: Edom’s crime being his participation in persecuting the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Teman was one of the sons of Esau (Edom) and Obadiah exclaims,

“And thy, mighty men O Teman shall be dismayed”
(Obadiah 1; 9).

TEMAN was an ethnic group once scattered here and there throughout the Middle East. The Temenu had had a centre in Gozan in northern Syria on the Khabor River. This was also the area of the Mitanni of “Indo European” culture. These polities were destroyed and their inhabitants moved elsewhere. Later the Neo Assyrians were to deport Yisraelites to these same areas. At all events, the Temenu were to become an important element in ancient Mesopotamia and Babylon 1 and are assumed to have been Aramaic in language and culture. The “Tummana” (i.e. Temeni) were also located in northern Anatolia in Hittite territory whence developed a migration to Germany 2. The early founders of Rome traditionally came from Anatolia 3 and in the later Roman Empire the population of Rome was largely of Syrian, Anatolian, and related Eastern origin 4. In the Book of Maccabees and History of Josephus it is related how both the Spartans of Greece and the Romans of Republican Rome established contact with the then-independent kingdom of Judah and how both claimed to be related to the Jews through a mutual descent from Abraham. Esau and Jacob were twin-brothers sons of Isaac son of Abraham. One authority states that the Romans owe their origins to the Albanes of Latium in Peloponesus (southern Greece) descendants of the Laconian-Spartans and Ausones [from Esau?] migrating to Italy where they intermixed with the Sabines and Ombrians 5. Alexander the Great King of Macedonia and onetime conqueror of much of the then known world claimed descent from the Temenidae descendants of Temenus onetime king of Argos in Greece.

The Temenidae came to Macedon in ca.650 b.c.e. 6. Amongst the Thracian (modern Romania) and Anatolian (modern Turkey) peoples were the Edoni, and Odomants. “Who cut the skin of the membrum of the Odomants?” says a passage from Aristophanes apparently referring to circumcision 7. The Edons and Odomants are believed to have been descendants of Edom 8. The “Kiasos” were a mystical dynasty of the Edones 9 and have a name recalling that of Kas or Kos the national Elohim of Edom*j. Julius Caesar (i.e. Caesar) gave his family name to the Rulers of Rome. In his honor were retained the titles of Kaiser and Czar. Alexander the Great, Caesar, and various of the Roman Emperors are considered by some to have been truly great men who contributed to the advance of civilization. Biblical and Talmudical sources sometimes refer to certain of these individuals and their kin in an apparently positive manner.

The Thracian tribes of Treres and Edones who invaded Anatolia in the late 600s b.c.e. and were allied with a portion of the Cimmerians (Strabo 1.3...21 xiv.4.8) before Madyes the Cimmerian-Scythian drove them out. Many early settlers of Rome and Italy came from Anatolia and Syria. The mythical ancestors of the Thracian Edones and kin were Edonas, Mygdon, Biston, and Odomas¹⁰. Both “Edonas” and “Odomas” are forms of Edom!

Croesi believed that Scheria of Greek mythology was in Thrace and that the name derived from Mount SEIR which in the Bible is associated with Edom (e.g. Genesis 33; 16) and often used as synonymous with it... Thrace adjoins Macedonia, which may explain an implied connection with the family of Alexander. In Talmudic literature Edom is known for being warlike and it is said that no war can be won without his presence ¹¹. In other words the military talent of the children of Esau may on occasion be put to good effect. A small group of the descendants of Esau may also have been present amongst the Celts and in pre Norman Normandy ¹². Also amongst the Jews there may be some descendants of Edom. Nevertheless, Rome (whatever “Rome” is) and Germany are the entities in which the characteristics of Edom reach full expression and wherein they must be countered. Other sources ¹³ identify the Germans with Canaanites or with Gomer and so the suggested Talmudic identification of Germany and Rome with Edom may well hold only for a dominating element amongst the elite who at crucial moments determine the direction of the whole. The descendants of Esau (Edom) in Thrace may well have gravitated to Germany. From Thrace there was a large scale migration into Germany and the ancient Thracians and Germans possessed similar characteristics. Some German scholars today trace the origin of the German native masses to Thrace ¹⁴. Quite a few Roman Emperors and much of Rome’s best troops also came from Thrace.

The ancient Thracians spoke a language said to have been very similar to those tongues later spoken by the Baltic peoples. Late Latin sources place the YDUMAE, Letting, Salons, and Wends in the region of Livonia (Prussia, Latvia, and Lithuania) and Estonia ¹⁵. The Anglo-Saxon poem “Widest” also recalls the Idumingas ¹⁶ in the Baltic area and these are apparently identical with the Ydumae. The Ydumae belong to Edom. From this region came many of the Slavicised and Baltic tribes who moved into Prussia and eastern Germany and became Germanified. Also in this portion of the Baltic coast was established the order of Teutonic Knights (ca. 1100 -1525 c.e). This organization was Germanic in personnel and orientation and conducted a policy of conquest and extermination against non Germanic peoples whilst “Germanizing” their own non Germanic Prussian subjects. Originally an esoteric monastic group, the Teutonic Knights later became Lutheran. They had had the aim of extending German influence and culture whilst spreading the Catholic Faith or exterminating non-believers. Some believe them to have continually exerted an influence on German policy.

In the Middle Ages the Holy Roman Empire controlled much of Central Europe. It was essentially Germanic. Its Emperors were constantly struggling with the Pope in Rome not over policy but rather over who between the two would have primacy over the other. It is interesting to note that the major Phoenecian city of Tyre actually consisted of two parts one on the coast and one on an isle of the shore. According to the Phoenecian historian, Sanchuniathon, Tyre (i.e. apparently the coastal part) was founded by twins; one being the tent-maker Sameroumous (i.e. Samaria or Northern Yisrael) and the other was the hairy Ousooos meaning Esau (cf. Genesis 25; 25-27). Important families from Tyre settled in Italy and according to the Romans there were also such colonies in Germany.

Craig Martin White ¹⁷ brings evidence suggesting that descendants of Esau-Edom were also present amongst Turkish and Central Asian Mongolian peoples. These alternative identifications do not contradict our own claims but rather complement them. At all events, in our opinion, EDOM today is to be found primarily in Germany. Ramban (Nachmanides, Rabbi Mosheh ben Nachman, 1194-1270, Spain; from “The Book of Redemption”, chapter 1.): “The vision of Obadiah ...the house of Joseph refers to the Ten Tribes ...who were exiled and still are in their place of exile, the exile of Zarephath and Canaan which are in the farthest north...”

A definite message is derivable from the above Commentators taken as a complementary whole. The import may be understood to be that the Lost Ten Tribes are still in exile in the Land of France from (including or bordering upon) Germany which includes amongst its composite ethnic elements those who descend from the ancient Canaanites. A Canaanite (or other) descent for part of the Germans does not contradict their belonging to Edom, since the identification with Edom relates to the leading classes, elite dominating groups, and national imposed character whereas the other is concerned more with straightforward general physical descent.

Don Isaac ben Yehudah Abarbanel, (1437 1508, Spain) has a somewhat different explanation than the others. On some points his commentary is worthy of consideration in the light of the above: “Zeraphath is France and so too the exile of Sepharad is Spain...and let you not err just because Zeraphath [i.e. France] is spoken of and Angleterre [i.e. England] is not recalled, for there too did the exiles go, for lo and behold, that island is considered a part of Zarephath and in the beginning belonged to it and in their ancient books they call it the Isle of Zarephath [i.e. of France] even though it later separated itself from Zarephath [France] and became a kingdom in its own right. “....And maybe the intention is too to those Children of Yisrael who completely left Religion due to the weight of troubles and persecutions and they remain in France and in Spain in their thousands and tens of thousands, huge communities. They shall return and request the YHWH their Elohim...” (Abarbanel on Obadiah).

The Talmud (Megilla 6) infers that Edom went to Germany and Roman Italy. The Talmud (Baba Batra 123; b) also says that only the descendants of Joseph are capable of conclusively defeating Edom and that the Prophecy of Obadiah refers to such an event. Historical evidence shows the Yisraelite Tribes of Joseph (Ephraim and Menasseh) to have ultimately converged in the British Isles and North America. The above explanation of Joseph versus Edom as depicted in the Book of Obadiah actually describes the result of future conflict between JOSEPH (primarily Britain and the U.S.A) and the Lost Ten Tribes in Zarephath (France and the north) on one side against the forces of Edom (Romanised Europe) led by Germany on the other.

[Amos 1:6] THUS SAITH THE YHWH; FOR THREE TRANSGRESSIONS OF GAZA, AND FOR FOUR, I WILL NOT TURN AWAY THE PUNISHMENT THEREOF; BECAUSE THEY CARRIED AWAY CAPTIVE THE WHOLE CAPTIVITY, TO DELIVER THEM UP TO EDMO:

Gaza was a major city of the Phillistines. A portion of the LTTS were forcibly taken overseas in ships by Phillistines and Phoenecians and re-settled. “Edom” was linked with Assyria. In modern terms Edom represents primarily Germany and Rome. I believe Edomites and Hittites to have also settled amongst the Japanese. It is interesting to note that the Japanese and Germans are the major fundraisers for the Palestinians.

Ezekiel 32:22] ASSHUR IS THERE AND ALL HER COMPANY: HIS GRAVES ARE ABOUT HIM: ALL OF THEM SLAIN, FALLEN BY THE SWORD:<<ASSHUR IS THERE>>: “Ashur” is Assyria. The Scythians, Babylonians, and Medes were destined to destroy Assyria which disappeared. A small group of Nestorian Christians still exist in Syria and Iraq and these claim Assyrian ancestry. A few cities in West Germany had traditions that they were founded by Assyrians. There are archaeological proofs of some Assyrian presence in the west. In some cases this evidence is due to exiled Yisraelites and others who had served in Assyrian armies. Otherwise the Assyrians themselves were also to some degree in the region. Bar Hebraeus (an early Christian historian of Jewish origin who had access to ancient traditions) recorded the Arab tradition that Nineveh (the former capital of Assyria) had been founded by “Germanika”, i.e. that there was a link between Assyria and the Germans. Craig White (surfer1@t...) wrote an interesting and informative book on this. British Yisraelites and offshoots of the Armstrong movement and others made a big thing of the possibility of identifying modern Germany with Assyria in Biblical prophecy. There may be something in this but we associate Germany more with descendants of Edom. We do not say that all Germans are descended from Esau. We believe rather that a not insignificant proportion of Germans are of Edomite descent and these, at critical moments, can determine national policies and national sentiment in such a way that Biblically speaking the nation can be associated with Edom as a whole.

Esau was the forefather of many ruling elites in Europe. The West European peoples include both descendants of Yisrael and of Esau (also known as Edom), and in some respects at certain times Esau is predominant. Both Ishmael and Esau (Genesis 27:41) have an eternal enmity against the descendants of Yisrael. In many ways Iraq today is merely a puppet representing deeper darker forces striving to destroy the Chosen Peoples of Judah and Joseph. Joseph received the rights of the firstborn son of Yisrael (Genesis 49:26 1-Chronicles 5:1). The two sons of Joseph were Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim would become a multitude of nations (48:19), malo hagoim (i.e. fullness of the nations) and rule over other peoples (Targum Onkelos). Manasseh would also become great after Ephraim (48:19)... Edom, (Psalm 137:7) meaning Europe, is linked with Babylon. In Biblical Prophecy one name can have several meanings. Babylon represents certain powers in Europe as well as the real physical entity of the Babylonian Empire whose ancient capital was only a few miles away from Bagdad in Iraq today.