

Turkey in Bible Prophecy



By Peter Salemi



Turkey in Bible Prophecy

Turkey will be a key Player in the upcoming event called the “Great Tribulation.” What will Turkey do to the modern Descendants of Israel? How will God judge Turkey?

The Turks are a partner in NATO. They have a political relationship with the Israelis. The Bible says that these current conditions will end, and Turkey will soon become an enemy of both the USA and the Jews.

Turkey Identified in the Bible.

So where is Turkey in the Bible? Can Turkey be traced back to the Edomites of the Bible?

In the Book of Genesis, Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, one Jacob and one Esau. She asked God what was going on inside her during the time of her pregnancy, and God said, “And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If *it be* so, why *am* I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

“And the LORD said unto her, *Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.*” (Gen 25:22-23). Esau, when he came out was “Red” like a garment (25:25), therefore inherited the name Edom (25:30).

When it came time for the birthright to be handed down, Jacob’s mother Rebekah made sure Jacob received it instead of Esau, see Gen 27. When Esau came after the blessing was given, Esau begged for a blessing as well. Isaac then prophesied, “...*Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;*

“*And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck*” (Gen 27:39-40).

These prophecies were to take place in the end time. Genesis 48 and 49 shows the birthright blessings were to take place in the “latter days.” So there is no reason why this prophecy of Esau shouldn’t take place during the same time.

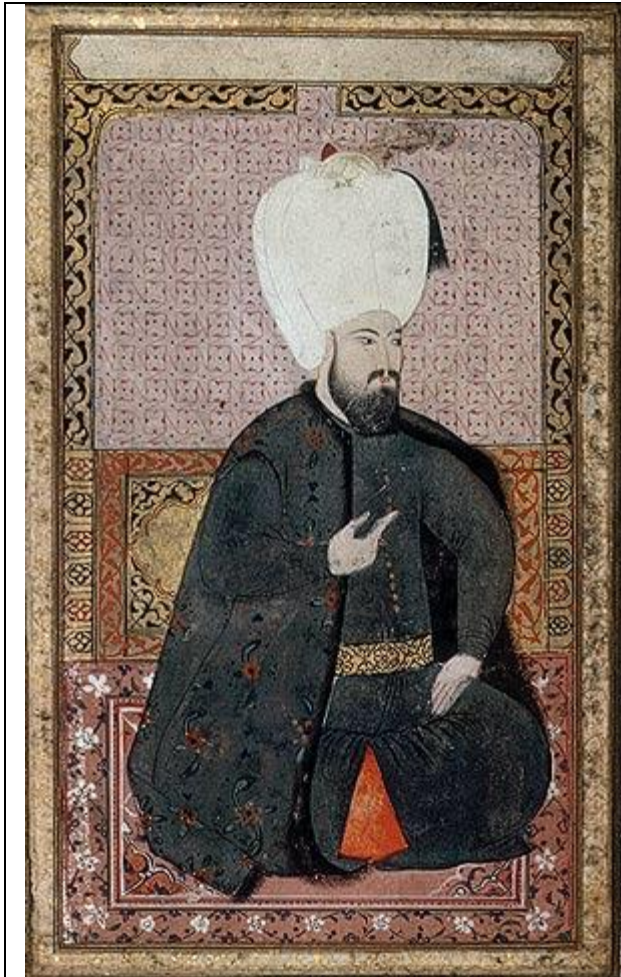
Esau’s blessing is explained, “At length, in reply to the weeping suppliant, he bestows upon him a characteristic blessing. ‘*Away from the fatness.*’ The preposition (מִן *mín*) is the same as in the blessing of Jacob. But there, after a verb of giving, it had a partitive sense; here, after a noun of place, it denotes distance or separation; for example, *Prov 20:3 The pastoral life has been distasteful to Esau, and so it shall be with his race.* The land of Edom was accordingly a comparative wilderness (Mal 1:3). ‘On thy sword.’ By preying upon others.” (Barnes Notes, emphasis added). Esau will be separated from the blessings of Jacob; instead they would be a warrior people, and not a people to be fruitful whatsoever. The rest of this prophecy will be explained later in the article.

Esau married into the Hittite race, “And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:” (Gen 26:34) . The Hittites were a Mongolian race of Kittim mixing with the sons of Heth of Canaan.

“The Hittites as shown both on their own and on Egyptian monuments were clearly *Mongoloid* in type. They were short and stout, prognathous, and had rather receding foreheads. The cheek-

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

bones were high, the nose was large and straight, forming almost a line with the forehead, and the upper lip protruded. They were yellow in color, with black hair and eyes, and beardless, while according to the Egyptian paintings they wore their hair in pigtails, although this characteristic does not appear in the Hittite sculptures. They would seem to have come, therefore, from the northeast of Mesopotamia, and to have worked south into Palestine and west into Asia Minor” (Jewish Encyclopedia under “Hittites”). *For more details on the Hittites read our booklet China in Prophecy.* Esau also married a daughter of Ishmael, see Gen 28:8-9.



Portrait of Sultan Ahmet I (r. 1603–17), Ottoman period (ca. 1299–1923), early 17th century Turkey.

Early Turks had Mongolian facial features like their ancestors the Hittites.

Kemal Attaturk, the founder of the modern Turkish State was blonde with pale blue eyes. Turks also have these pale features as a result of marriages between the Ishmaelites and the Edomites as well as them being a brother of Jacob, son of Isaac, descended from Abraham.

These are the sons of Esau/Edom:

By Adah (Bashemath): (Hittite)

1. Eliphaz-And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz. And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these *were* the sons of Adah Esau's wife. (Gen 36:11-2).
2. Husham son of Teman son of Eliphaz in the “Land of Temani” (Gen 36:34).

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

By Aholibamah (Judith): (Hittite)

1. Jeush
2. Jalam
3. Korah

By Bashemath (Mahalath): (Ishmaelite)

1. Reuel—"And these *are* the sons of Reuel; Nahath, and Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah: these were the sons of Bashemath Esau's wife." (Gen 36:13).

Gen 36:20-43 The Horites reigned in the land of Seir. Esau however succeeded them and took over that land and destroyed them, see Deuteronomy 2:12.

King Nebuchadnezzar

During the time when Nebuchadnezzar was conquering the known world, God said, "Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck,

"And send them to the *king of Edom*, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah;

"And now *have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon*, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

"And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

"And it shall come to pass, *that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand*" (Jer 27:3, 6-9). Many of the nations heeded the words of Jeremiah. Moab and Ammon avoided destruction and gave in to the rule of Babylon. Some did not like Edom. When Nebuchadnezzar invaded the region he took them into captivity. As a result most of them disappeared from history for hundreds of years. Others were forced by John Hyrcanus "to integrate into not only the Jewish state but also into the Jewish religion" according to Iain Browning in his marvelous work *Petra*, p.30. *These were called the Idumeans*. With the fall of Judah under the Romans, Idumaea disappears from history after 70 A.D.

So where did Edom end up?

One of the leader tribes of Esau was Teman. As quoted above, Husham came out of the "land of Teman." The biblical account of Job records an interesting side note of history. One of Job's friends is mentioned in Job 2:1—Eliphaz the Temanite, the father of the Temanites and the son of Esau. Eliphaz was a leading figure among Esau's descendants (*Ancient History—The First 2500 Years*).

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

Historical sources like *the Early Kings of Persia* by Shea and *Universal History, Volume V*, indicate that many of the Temani ended up in Turkestan, and Central Asia. The rocky plateau was called the “land of Temani.” We find the city of Basra in Iraq—possibly a slight variation of the biblical Edomite city of Bozrah (Genesis 36:33; 1 Chronicles 1:44; Isaiah 34:6; 63:1).

In Central Asia Strabo identifies two tribes, “The country beyond the Strymon, which borders upon the sea and includes the parts about Datum, is occupied by **Odomantes, Edoni**, and Bisaltae, some of whom are an indigenous people, the others came from Macedonia and were under the government of Rhesus...In *Armenia...Odomantis*, and some other places, the latter of the country about Artaxata,) they simultaneously aggrandized themselves, by taking away portions of the territory of the surrounding nations” (vol.1, chp.7 v.36; vol2. chpt.14:5). These lay in northern Greece and Armenia.

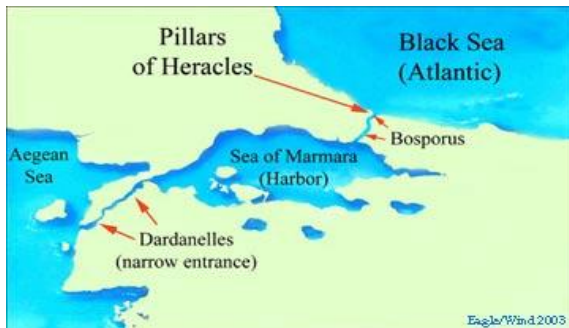
Peter Delev in his article “The Edonians” says that the Odomantes and Edoni share common ancestry, and therefore related. The ruling family of the Osmanli Turks was the Ottomans who descended from the Odomantes. “Ottoman” is an English derivation of the word “Osman.” “Osman” comes from the Turkish word “as’-man,” which is derived from the Turkish name “Othman.” Othman was the founder of the Ottoman dynasty.

The Bible speaks of “O TEMAN” (Obadiah 9). These Ottoman Turks descend from the Odomantes or the Temani of Edom. These Osmani Turks are the “Oghuz Turks...and one clan from them were the Seljuk’s...[and] Osman, a Turk who may have been an Oghuz” (The Penguin History of the World, J.M. Roberts, pp.360-61, 372-73).

A descendant of Husham was Alhidun who had two sons, firstly Tur, who ruled over the Edomites in Central Asia. This may be the origin of the name Turkestan, Turk. or Turanian. The second son was Irege. Irege’s son Manouger was surnamed Phirouz, the, “Perses” of Greek legend. Omar (Gen 36:11), is a very common name among the Turks. Turkey is modern day Edom!

Edom’s location is also described in the Bible in the end time, “Thou shouldest not have entered into the *gate of my people* in the day of their calamity...Neither shouldest thou have stood in the *crossway*, to cut off those of his that did escape...” (Obadiah 13, 14). Turkey’s location is at the “crossroads of Europe and Asia” and makes it a country of significant geostrategic importance (*sources, Mango, Andrew (2000). Ataturk. Overlook; Shaw, Stanford Jay; Shaw, Ezel Kural (1977). History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey; Vol.1, Empire of the Gazis. the rise and decline of the Ottoman Empire, 1280-1808. Cambridge University Press*).

Turkey in Bible Prophecy



Map of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

This crossway is called the “gate of my people.” Edom would control the gate that once belonged to Britain-Israel.

Daniel 11:41 also places them in the Middle East at the “time of the end” (Dan 11:40).

Isaac’s Prophecy

Isaac promised Esau a Birthright. Isaac said, “Behold, thy dwelling shall be [away from] the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; “And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck” (Gen 27:39-40). The dwelling of Esau, Turkey lacks natural raw materials and resources. It is a barren rocky land, “And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness” (Malachi 1:3).

The Turkey would make their gain and livelihood *by the sword, by warfare*. Israel would gain dominion by produce, commerce and trade. The passages are all in contrast between Israel and Esau. During the Seljuk Empire, the Turks “...began the translation into Turkish the major works of Arabic and Persian scholarship...” These works of course encouraged conquest and war. During this time between the 10-12th centuries A.D. many lands in the Middle East were conquered by them, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Asia Minor etc...(See *The Penguin History of the World, J.M. Roberts, pp.361*). These conquests created the “Second Turkish Empire.”

Also during the reign of the Ottomans, they created a “special corps” called the “Jannisaries” these were “obedient and ruthless,” these “were the instrument by which the Turkish government maintained a hold on its mixed populations” (*The Middle East: a physical, social, and regional geography By William Bayne Fisher, pp.166-67*). By the sword it maintained its empire!

Then the prophecy says, “shalt serve thy brother [Israel]...when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.” When the Turks conquered, this “opened Asia minor to the settlement of the Turks” (ibid, p.361). Because of their “dominion” and persecuting pilgrims on the way to the Holy Land, this “touched off [a] crusading zeal in the west” (ibid,

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

p.361). Turkey had their dominion, and there they stayed even till today in Asia Minor. The crusades were mainly composed of Israelites in Britain, France, “Anglo-Norman Nobles” (*The companion to British history* By Charles Arnold-Baker, p.380).

Turkey however “broke” that “yoke” of the crusades off their neck. In the “final crusade to the Middle East...the Egyptian Sultan and his general Baibans drove the Christians out of Palestine to stay until 1917” (*God Cares*, p.294, C. Mervyn Maxwell). The Turks also took Constantinople in 1453, and went right to the gates of Vienna in the late 1600’s.

Ezekiel’s Prophecy & World War One

Ezekiel prophesied that Israel would take back the Middle East from Esau. “Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them;

“Therefore thus saith YHWH GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword.

“*And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD*” (Ezekiel 25:12-14). This certainly did not happen in Ezekiel’s day. The Expositor’s Bible Commentary states: “Other passages in the O[ld] T[estament] indicate that...[Edom’s] punishment would be executed by Nebuchadnezzar (Jer 9:26; 25:21; 27:1-11). Certainly Ezekiel 32:29 and Malachi 1:2-5 assume that Edom’s desolation was past. However, God also declared that he would execute his vengeance on Edom in return for its vengeance on Judah and would do so through the instrumentality of Israel. *The historical context of Ezekiel’s day precluded this event from happening at that time. However, Ezekiel and other prophets declared that Israel would possess Edom in the end time as well* (cf. 35:1–36:15; Isa 11:14; Dan 11:41; Amos 9:12; Obad 18)” (note on Ezekiel 25:12-14, emphasis added). This part of the prophecy had to occur at a later time.

The Belfour Declaration in 1917 “welcomed Jews into Palestine...But there were...deep misgivings among the Arabs [&Turks]. Frustration and racial tensions erupted and anti-Jewish demonstrations in 1920, 1921 and 1929 when nearly 900 Jewish settlers were nearly killed or wounded” (*Lawrence James, The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*, pp.406-7). These Turks [Teman] and Arabs [Dedan] were against the Jews [Judah] immigrating to the home land, therefore God took vengeance on Edom-Turkey by the hand of Israel-Britain. The Battle of Jerusalem occurred during the British Empire’s “Jerusalem Operations,” against the Ottoman Empire, when fighting for the city developed from 17 November, continuing after the surrender until 30 December 1917, to secure the final objective of the Southern Palestine Offensive during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of World War One. World War One, Jerusalem was taken from the Turks, and put into the possession of Britain by General Allenby. The Empire disintegrated, and Arabs states became British Protectorates.

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

Obadiah's & Jeremiah's Prophecy

The Book of Obadiah deals with Turkey in the end time. The time setting is obvious, in the end of the chapter Israel is coming back to the land, and “And *saviours* shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the **kingdom shall be the LORD'S**” (v.21). The kingdom of God is set up, and the “saviours” of Israel, the resurrected church of God will judge Esau.

However we must link Jeremiah's prophecy with Obadiah's to understand its progression from the fall of the Ottoman Empire to its present state and its future.

Let's begin in verse one, “The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour [lit. “report”] from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.” Jeremiah 49:14 concerning the judgment of Esau states the same thing, “I have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, *saying*, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle”

K& D writes, “The plural שָׁמַעְנוּ (*we* have heard) is communicative. The prophet includes himself in the nation (Israel), which has heard the tidings in him and through him. This implies that the tidings were of the greatest interest to Israel...The next clause, ‘and an ambassador,’ etc., might be taken, as it has been by Luther, as a statement of the import of the news...The plural *nâqūmah* (let us rise up), in the words of the messenger, may be explained on the simple ground that the messenger speaks in the name of the sender. *The sender is Jehovah, who will also rise up along with the nations for war against Edom, placing Himself at their head as leader and commander* (compare Joel 2:11; Isa 13:4-5). אֶל־עֵדוֹם, against Edom, construed as a land or kingdom, *gener. faem*. The fact that it is the nations generally that are here summoned to make war upon Edom, *and not only one nation in particular...*” (emphasis added). The messenger most commentators say is an angel of God stirring the nations to go against Edom. God uses Israel as his battle-axe against wicked nations, see Jeremiah 51:20. God led a great assembly of nations with the British, to conquer the Ottoman Empire in world war one. “In 1900, at the dawn of a new century in the 700th year of its existence, the Ottoman Empire began to die a violent, climactic death. The forces that destroyed this old and once powerful state catapulted the Middle East, Europe, and indeed the world, toward increased instability and chaos” (*article, The Fall of Ottoman Empire, Roger Lee*).

“Behold, I have made thee *small among the heathen*: thou art *greatly despised*.” (Obadiah 2; Jeremiah 49:15). The Turkish Empire is but a tiny fraction of what it once was. “By 1900, the Ottoman Sultan could claim rule over a domain that stretched from the deserts of Libya in Africa to the snow-covered mountains of Armenia and Kurdistan. This ruler controlled the oil fields and marshes of southern Iraq and the mountain valleys of Bosnia on the Austrian border. The Sultan's flag flew along the shores of the Adriatic Sea near Italy in Europe and down to the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula in West Asia. ***Between these geographic extremes, lay a vast and diverse empire containing multiple ethnic and religious groups, many of whom disliked each other more than they disliked Turkish rule.*** These groups, over the hundred years prior to 1900, had begun to identify themselves as distinct national groups rather than as subjects of the Ottoman Empire.

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

“The disintegration of the Turkish Ottoman Empire accelerated in the Twentieth Century. By 1923, the Ottoman Empire was destroyed, replaced by a significantly *smaller country simply known as ‘Turkey;’ a nation stripped of most of its non-Turkish lands and peoples.*” (*ibid, emphasis added*). What a perfect fulfillment of prophecy. The Ottoman Empire was “despised” by all and then stripped of all of its possessions and made “small” among the nations.

After the Ottoman Empire lost its great status and became the “Sick Man of Europe,” a hatred and dread for the Turkish people remained. This was a lingering of ethnic and religious loathing against a people of unknown background; It was a vile revulsion by Christians against the Muslim Turks—a people that did not profess a belief in Jesus. “The Turk is a great barbarian,” stated 16th century German humanist John Adolph Muelich. In the German language, turken (“to Turk”), still means “to hoax, to deceive.” So the Turks even to this day are greatly “despised.”

“The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation *is* high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

“Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.” (Obadiah vv.3-4; Jeremiah 49:16). Like all empires, they all think they are exempt from destruction, and collapse. They are deceived, and full of pride, and think who can bring this great empire down.

“If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave *some* grapes?

“How are *the things* of Esau searched out! *how* are his hidden things sought up!” (Obadiah vv.5-6; Jeremiah 49:9-10). Clarke’s Commentary says, “That is, if thieves entered thy dwellings, they would not have taken everything; they would have laid hold on thy wealth; and carried off as much as they could escape with conveniently; if grape-gatherers entered thy vineyards, they would not have taken every bunch; some gleanings would have been left.” But Esau would be stripped of everything. The Turks were stripped of all of their possessions (as quoted above). Nothing was left to them but their home country left small and despised among the nations.

Jeremiah adds, “...his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he *is* not...*Leave thy fatherless children*, I will preserve *them* alive; and let thy widows trust in me.” (49:10-11).

The Bible in Basic English translates the latter end of verse 10 as, “and there is no help from his neighbours.”

Gill identifies his neighbors as, “... his brethren, the Ammonites and Moabites; and his neighbours, the Philistines; or as many as were with him, and belonged unto him” Modern-day Jordan, Syria, and Palestine were all possessions of the Ottoman Empire.

Gill continues to say that, “*So Kimchi and Ben Melech say this phrase is in connection with the Jer 49:11.*” (*ibid*). And that his neighbors and brethren “*say to him [Esau] what follows: ‘leave thy fatherless children’*” (*ibid*). *His friends the Syrians and the people of Jordan say to Edom that they would take care of who is left of the Ottoman Turks in their lands.* The Palestinians in the East, who were under Jordanian control in Palestine, are the remnants of those Ottoman Turks.

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

Edom dwelling in Palestine in the Prophecies of the Bible:

“In that day will *I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen*, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

“*That they may possess the remnant of Edom*, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.” (Amos 9:12). The Tabernacle of David was in Jerusalem and the Palestinians control much of it.

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea [Edom], *which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey.*” (Ezekiel 36:5). They have made Palestine “...desolate, and swallowed you up on every side, that ye might be a possession unto the residue of the heathen,” (Ezekiel 36:3). The Jews came and changed the Holy Land into a place that now “blooms” in the desert. Fought off the enemies that surrounded her, and eventually Edom will not possess parts of Jerusalem any longer when Jesus comes.

Isaiah 11:14 reveals Edom in the east side of Palestine with Ammon and Moab, “But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.” (Isaiah 11:14).

Israel “flies upon the shoulders of the Philistines” this means, “This expresses an attack made unexpectedly on one *from behind*. The image is the more apt, as the *Hebrew* for ‘shoulders’ in Num 34:11 is used also of a *maritime coast* (‘side of the sea’: *Hebrew*, ‘shoulder of the sea,’ *Margin*). They shall make a sudden victorious *descent upon their [the Philistines] borders southwest of Judea*” (*JFB Commentary*). *The Philistines are the Palestinians in the Gaza strip today!* Here it pictures, “Israel plunges down like an eagle from the height of its mountain-land” (K& D Commentary). The Israelites on their way back to the Promised Land will descend by air into Gaza, and then after landing go to Jerusalem to meet the King Jesus Christ.

Then it says, “they shall spoil them of the east together” in contrast to the West obviously *means East in the Promised land*. The West Bank where many Palestinians that descend from Edom live today.

Then, “they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.” (11:14). These two phrases, “they shall spoil them of the east together:” are tied together meaning those of the east of Palestine together with the people of Moab and Ammon, and Edom—many Edomite [Palestinians] live in Jordan today.

The word “together” is “yachad” (Strong’s #3162) meaning “... properly a unit, that is, (adverbially) unitedly: - alike, at all (once), both, likewise, only, (al-) together, withal.” So with the people in East Palestine united together with the peoples of the East. So these three groups of peoples are in the “east” in this prophecy, east of the Promised Land, where Syria, Jordan, and Edom (many of the Palestinians live in Jordan) are! Israel will take over or spoil their lands, and the remnants of these people will be under Israel’s rule.

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

At the end of the book of Obadiah, the *lands* of Edom in east Palestine are taken and given to Israel. The inhabitants of Esau are dwelling, “And *they of* the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and *they of* the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin *shall possess* Gilead.

“And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel *shall possess* that of the Canaanites, *even* unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which *is* in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south” (Obadiah 19-20).

This identification of the Palestinians becomes clearer from a careful reading of Obadiah 19. It is speaking of territories—that those who control particular territories in the Holy Land will come to possess additional territories there. In context, we can see that Israelites in this verse are retaking areas that the Edomites have stolen. Fascinatingly, the areas listed as doing the taking here are areas that are today populated by Jews. *The areas being taken back* are now populated by Palestinians—thus apparently identifying the Palestinians as Edomites, at least in large measure. Notice: “The South [the Negev, now held by the Israelis] shall possess the mountains of Esau [southern Jordan and perhaps the area of Hebron, the southern West Bank now populated by Palestinians], and the Lowland [the Shephelah, or lower hills between the central hill country to the east and the coastal plain to the west, now populated by Jews] shall possess Philistia [most of which is now the Gaza Strip, territory now held by Palestinians]. They [the Jewish Shephelah inhabitants] shall possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria [the northern West Bank, now occupied by Palestinians]. Benjamin [the area around Jerusalem, presently held by the Israelis] shall possess Gilead [northern Jordan many Palestinians dwell there with Ammon].” *The Palestinians in the Gaza strip are of the Philistines, but in the east, those Palestinians are of the remnants of the Ottoman Turks.*

Obadiah C'ont...

“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.***” (Obadiah v.7). Turkey established Multi-Culturalism in its empire. Minorities maintaining their culture and heritage, yet under the flag of Ottoman rule, paying their taxes and obeying the law. It was a confederate of states within the state. “However the fragmentation of the empire into ethnically based nation states in the late 19th century, followed by the events of WWI, and the Turkish war of independence, meant the republican Turkey strived to achieve a unitary state and looked upon non-Turkish nationalism within Turkey as a threat” (Turkey, By James Bainbridge, p.51). It was this that ultimately brought down the Turkish Empire. Lack of unity, hatred for the Turks in its own realm, a truly amazing fulfillment of this prophecy.

“Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise *men* out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?” (Obadiah v.8; Jeremiah 49:7). Another cause for the decline of the empire was decline of the Sultans. An unbroken succession of ten great Sultans led the Ottomans to acquire in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries a vast empire. 17 sultans after Suleyman (from 1566 to 1789) were, with few exceptions, men of little ability, training, or experience, and some were incompetent, even mentally defective; their average rule of 13 years was less than half that of the first 10 sultans. Not only were most inexperienced and

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

incompetent, many were minors under the influence of the Queen Mother (Valide Sultan) and harem favorites, giving rise to palace cliques and intrigue. For several decades in the first half of the 17.th century, women of the palace exercised such influence that the period is called “The Sultanate of the Women”

Jeremiah adds, “Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time *that* I will visit him.” (49:8). Dedan is Arabia. This describes the Arab revolt against the Ottomans in 1916. Saudi Arabia wanted to be united and independent of the Turks. They dwelt deep in their country, established it, and of course Turkey collapsed as an empire after World War One, “And thy mighty *men*, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter” (Obadiah v.9).

Our Time

These next verses are for our time. How do we know? We see Israel and Judah, [The Jews] in Palestine and Jerusalem, being carried away, and called the time of their “calamity,” which is the great tribulation. Added here will be Ezekiel 35. This chapter is the exact same time setting as Jeremiah and Obadiah.

“For *thy* violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.” (v.10). Violence, or warfare against the USA and the British (Jacob). Turkey will be in a United States of Europe, or the Beast Power led by Germany, and they will fight against, and put into captivity the American and British forces stationed in Israel, see Daniel 11:45. A great transition will take place from the “Potter’s clay” phase to the “Miry clay” phase of the last resurrection of the Roman Empire in league with the Miry clay nations of Ham, (Egypt, the Palestinians of the west, Libya, Africa). *Read our booklet Who, What is the Beast for more details.*

Ezekiel 35 says, “Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir [Edom], and prophesy against it...Because thou hast had *a perpetual hatred*, and hast shed *the blood of* the children of Israel by *the force of the sword in the time of their calamity*, in the time *that their* iniquity had an end:” (vv.2, 5). The Palestinians [Edom] hate the Jews, hate the West, and many of the Turks feel the same way. Notice the time setting, the day of their “calamity” the time when their “iniquity had an end” the time of the Great tribulation called “Jacob’s trouble.” (Jer 30:7).

Obadiah v.11 makes it more clear, “In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, *in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.*” The Beast power led by Germany (Assyria) will invade Israel and Jerusalem, and Turkey since they are not of Ham, we know now will be part of those ten kings with the Beast. Notice that Israel [Britain and America] are in Jerusalem. After NATO breaks apart, American and Britain stay in Jerusalem to guard and defend it.

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

“But thou shouldest not have looked on the day *of thy brother* in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over *the children of Judah in the day of their destruction*; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

“Thou shouldest not have entered into the *gate of my people in the day of their calamity*; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid *hands* on their *substance in the day of their calamity*;

“Neither shouldest thou have *stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape*; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did *remain in the day of distress*.”

(vv.13-14). The “gates” of Israel, are the “gates” of their enemies (Genesis 24:60), God promised would come upon Abraham’s seed as one of the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These are the great passes like the Bosphorus Dardanelles, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Crete and Malta. All these great gates that have belonged to Britain and America. These are taken in the day of “their calamity,” “Jacob’s trouble,” the Great Tribulation. Turkey and the Palestinians take away their gates, lays hands on their “substances” or, Gill says, “or ‘on their forces’ (x); they laid violent hands on their armed men, and either killed or took them captive: and they laid hands on their goods, their wealth and riches, and made a spoil of them.”

The “crossway” is the Bosphorus Dardanelles, which Turkey possesses now. They use this to stop any American or British forces escaping the war and delivering them up to be either killed or to be made captive.

Notice that the “children of Judah” are also being attacked alongside the House of Israel Israel occupies Judah to defend them in Daniel 11:45. Then Judah and Israel will be taken captive at the destruction of Jerusalem (Rev 11:13).

Ezekiel 35 says, “Because thou hast said, *These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas the LORD was there*:

“Therefore, *as I live*, saith the Lord GOD, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to *thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them*; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee.

“And thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD, *and that I have heard all thy blasphemies which thou hast spoken against the mountains [Kingdoms] of Israel*, saying, They are laid desolate, they are given us to consume.” (vv.10-12). these two nations obviously are the house of Israel and Judah whom they fight against as Obadiah reveals. Once the Israelites are taken away into captivity they feel that they have the right to the land. The doctrine of the Palestinians is to drive the Jew into the sea, and get rid of Western influence out of Palestine. “As thou didst rejoice at the inheritance of the house of Israel, *because it was desolate*,” (Ezekiel 35:15). When the western nations fall they will rejoice.

“For the day of the LORD *is* near upon all the heathen: *as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head*.” (v.15; Ezekiel 35:15). Notice the time setting, “the day of the Lord.” This is the second coming of Jesus, and the wrath of God. What they have done to Israel, it shall be done unto them by the hand of the Israelites and God.

“*For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been*.”

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

(v.16). Now God turns to Edom in Palestine in the West Bank and Jerusalem. They have “drunk” upon the Holy Mountain of God. This means that the temple of God will be rebuilt. At that time Jerusalem will be protected by the NATO armies see Daniel 11:45. Then when the tribulation begins, and the armies of NATO collapse and Britain and America's armies are led into captivity, God says “as ye have drunk” speaking to the Israelites of drinking God's wrath (Jer 25:17), “*so shall all the heathen drink continually.*” Other prophecies reveal that the wrath of God will begin at the temple and then spread to the whole house of Israel. This event will kick off the great tribulation (see Ezekiel 5:4; chapter 9; Matthew 24:15, 21; 2Thessalonians 2; Rev 11:1-2).

“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.” (v.17). Jesus will come to Mount Zion and make it holy again by his presence, (Rev 14:1). Then Jacob will possess Jerusalem once again. Here begins the great exodus from slavery and captivity to the Promised Land.

“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 LORD hath spoken it.*” (v.18). The context is Israel coming back to the promised land (see v.19). In the Promised Land, all the Edomites that are there the House of Israel will destroy. Those *outside* of Palestine (Isaiah 11:14), shall Israel Rule over. What of the rest of Edom/Turkey?

Jeremiah 49 says the same, “For I have sworn by myself, saith the LORD, that Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes

“Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof.

“As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.” (v.13, 17-18; Ezekiel 35:1-4, 6-9, 15).

Turkey shall be overthrown, and none of the house of Esau shall remain. The possessions in the Promised Land will be given to Israel as shown above in Obadiah vv. 19-20. None shall “remain,” means, “As a people and a nation they shall be totally destroyed. This is the meaning; it *does not signify that every individual* shall be destroyed.” (Clarke's Commentary).

Gill says, “[so] general should be the destruction of the Edomites.” Nations will remain at the second coming, *but there will be no nation of Esau*, just *individuals*, as other scriptures show will serve the Israelites, (Isaiah 11:14).

Ezekiel 35:9 says, “I will make thee perpetual desolations, and thy *cities shall not return*: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.” The nation of Esau shall be forever destroyed, and there shall be no restoration, they shall remain scattered individuals at the second coming of Jesus.

These individuals shall be “stubble” meaning, “house [nation] of Esau shall be weak as stubble; and they shall have power over them,” (Gill's Commentary).

Turkey in Bible Prophecy

Second Coming of Jesus and Esau

Observe that in Ezekiel 25 God punishes the Ammonites, Moabites and Philistines so that they will come to know He is the true God (verses 5, 7, 11, 17)—and consider that they will not come to truly understand this until the time of Christ’s return. Of course, it should be remembered that the rulers of these peoples in Ezekiel’s day would have understood it in a limited sense—as God had warned them through Jeremiah that they would either submit to Nebuchadnezzar or suffer sword, famine, pestilence and the yoke of slavery (see Jeremiah 27). Nevertheless, none of these peoples really came to understand who the true God was at that time.

In Ezekiel 25, however, before Edom “knows” the true God Ezekiel 35:9. Edom, “They shall know My vengeance” (verse 14). In an end-time context, God is saying that Edom will experience firsthand the full extent of the wrath of God *personally* to the point where there will be no one left but scattered individuals.

Isaiah 63:1-6 also shows Jesus’ second coming and his dealing with Edom, “Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. “Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? “I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

“For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

“And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

“And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.” (See also Isaiah 34:6). Clearly the second coming of Christ (Rev 19:15).

People ask “Who *is* this that cometh from Edom”? From his victory of “smiting the nations” Jesus executes vengeance on Edom.

Christians come with Christ with the armies of Heaven, and Obadiah says, “And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD’S” (v.21). Isaiah 63 and Obadiah are speaking of the same event of Christ and his chosen ones judging Esau and executing vengeance on them. Esau’s nation will cease to exist in the Kingdom of God, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; When the whole earth rejoiceth [second coming of Jesus and the Kingdom of God], I will make thee *desolate*.” (Ezekiel 35:14).

The majority will die under the wrath of God. Whoever is left remaining of Esau will serve the Israelites as slaves, *the same way Esau did in the Tribulation to Israel*. These that remain will know the true God, but their inheritance will cease to exist. This is the coming judgment of Turkey and the Palestinians in the West Bank.