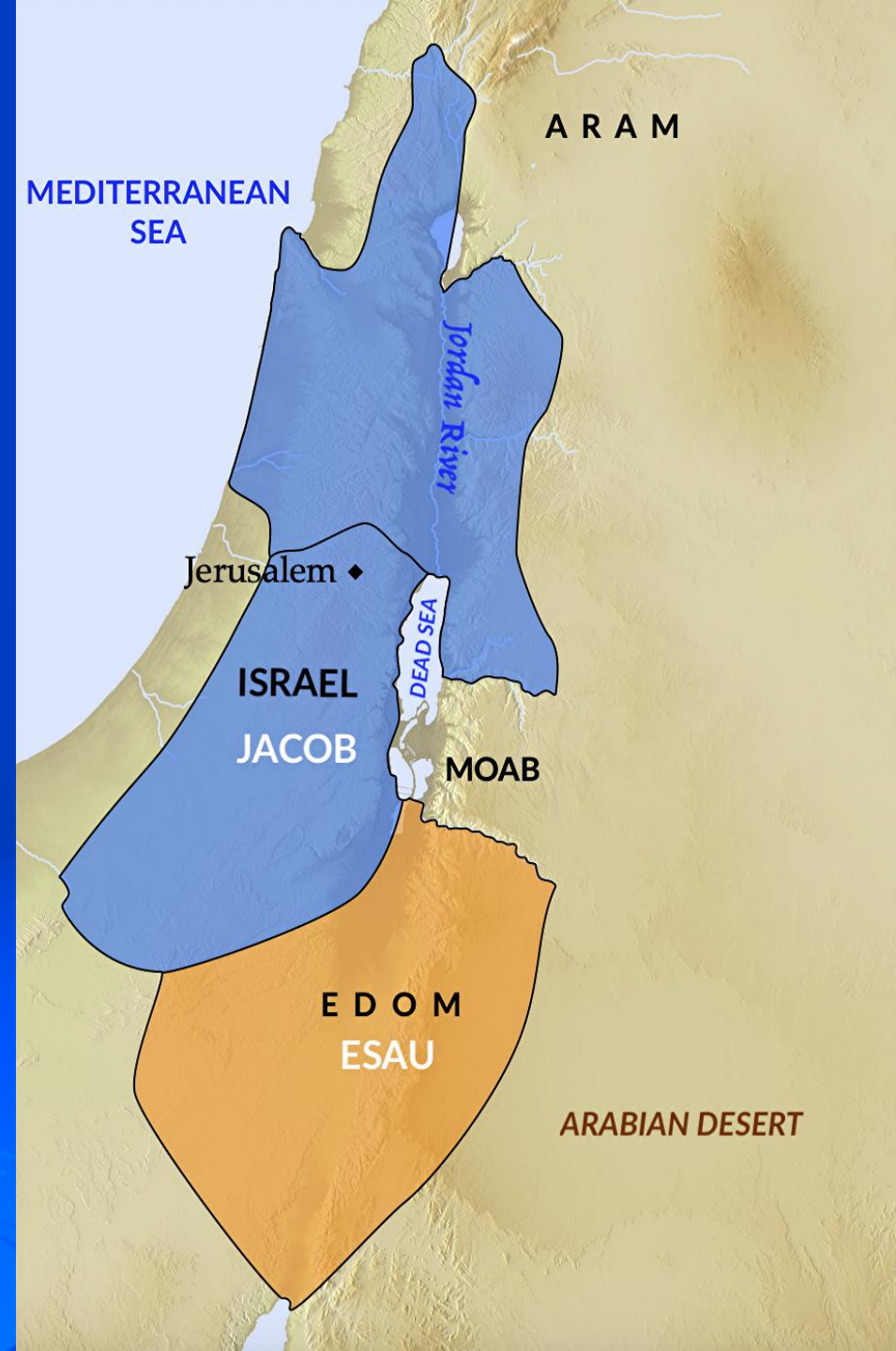


# THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

- ***Oved-Yah*** = worshipper of God or servant of God
- Edom is the primary subject of the Book of Obadiah
- Foundational principle on display:  
The people of God, and those who are not,  
will each experience different results
- Those who are part of the people of God aren't  
necessarily based on Hebrew race or ethnicity
- Romans 9:6

# THE TERRITORY OF EDOM

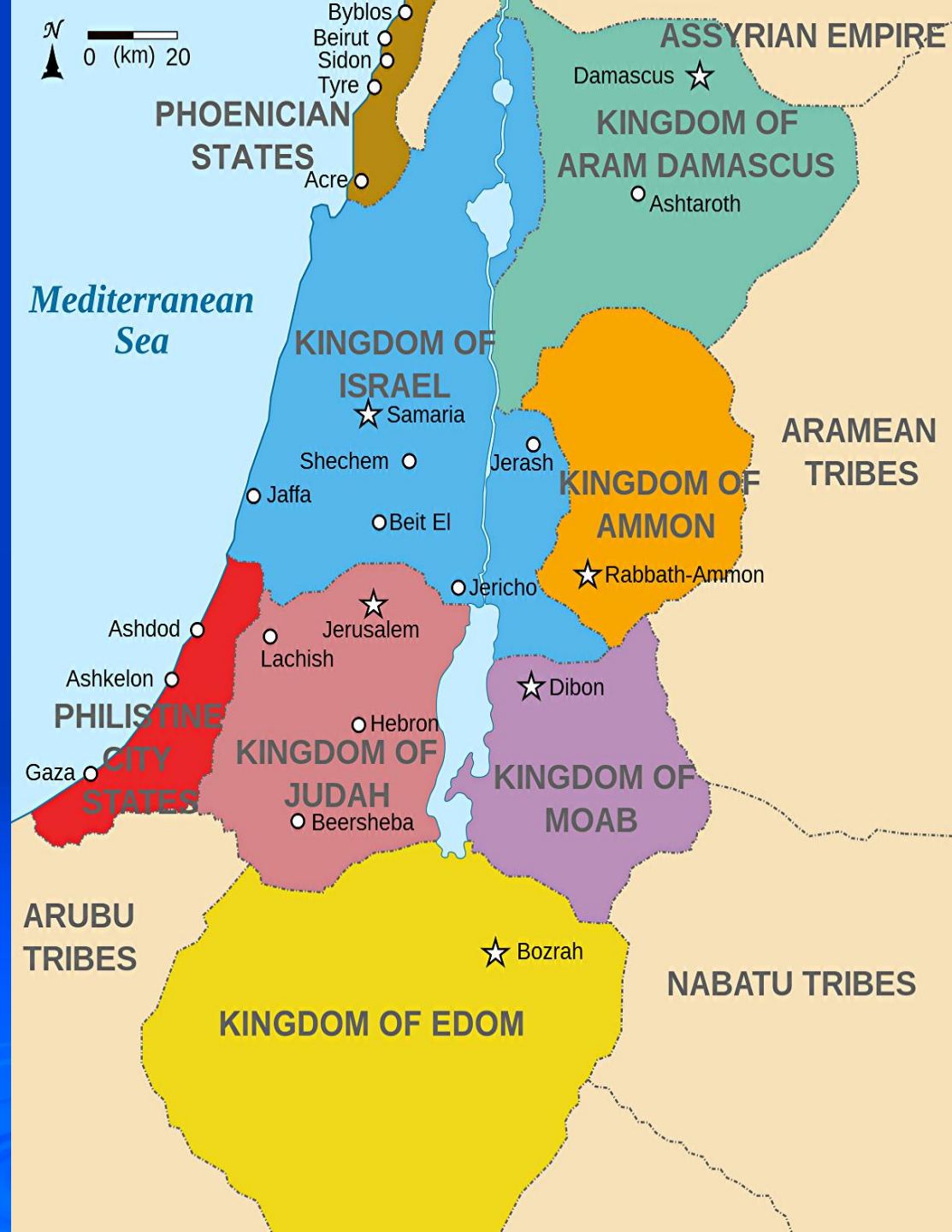
- Edom holds special significance to God
- Edom, Land of Edom, Field of Edom, Seir, Mt. Seir, Land of Seir
- Seir probably the first name given 14<sup>th</sup> cent B.C.
- Common translation error
- **Aram רם Edom דם**
- Boundaries only roughly defined, and they changed over time





# EVOLVING EDOM

- National capitals were often “unofficial”
- Area of Edom settled by 2200 B.C.
- By mid-1800 B.C. that civilization was already destroyed
- 14<sup>th</sup> century renewal
- Edom, Moab and Ammon prospered
- Gen. 36 tells us much about Edom and Esau
- Edom had natural resources and trade routes





# WHO WERE THE AMALEKITES?

1 Sam. 15:2 - 3

- Esau is the father of Edom, grandfather of Amalek
- Both had a desire to destroy Jacob (Israel)
- Amalek infiltrated by the *Nephilim*
- God singled Amalek out for extinction
- Most Palestinians are to some degree related to Esau





- King David conquered Edom, made them a vassal state
- Edom eventually overthrew the rule of Israel, but it lasted only 50 years
- Edom next became a vassal state of Assyria
- 6<sup>th</sup> cent B.C. Edom joined Babylon against Judah
- 4<sup>th</sup> cent B.C. Nabateans moved in (Petra established)
- 1<sup>st</sup> cent B.C. Roman Empire conquered Nabateans and incorporated Edom into the province of Arabia Petraea

# KING HEROD: IDUMEAN



- Esau = Edom = Idumea
- Jews in 2<sup>nd</sup> cent B.C. forcibly converted Edom from worshipping Qos to the Hebrew faith
- Idumeans fought against Rome in 70 AD, siding with Zealots, also fighting against mainstream Jews!
- Idumea (and Edom) fade from history, but have emerged at times, including in our time as the Palestinians





- Obadiah probably written 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. after Babylon conquered Judah
- Edom helped Babylon
- Obadiah prophesied that Edom would have the same thing happen to them that they did to Judah
- **God-principle**: Israel is God's people. Whoever harms Israel is fighting against God.

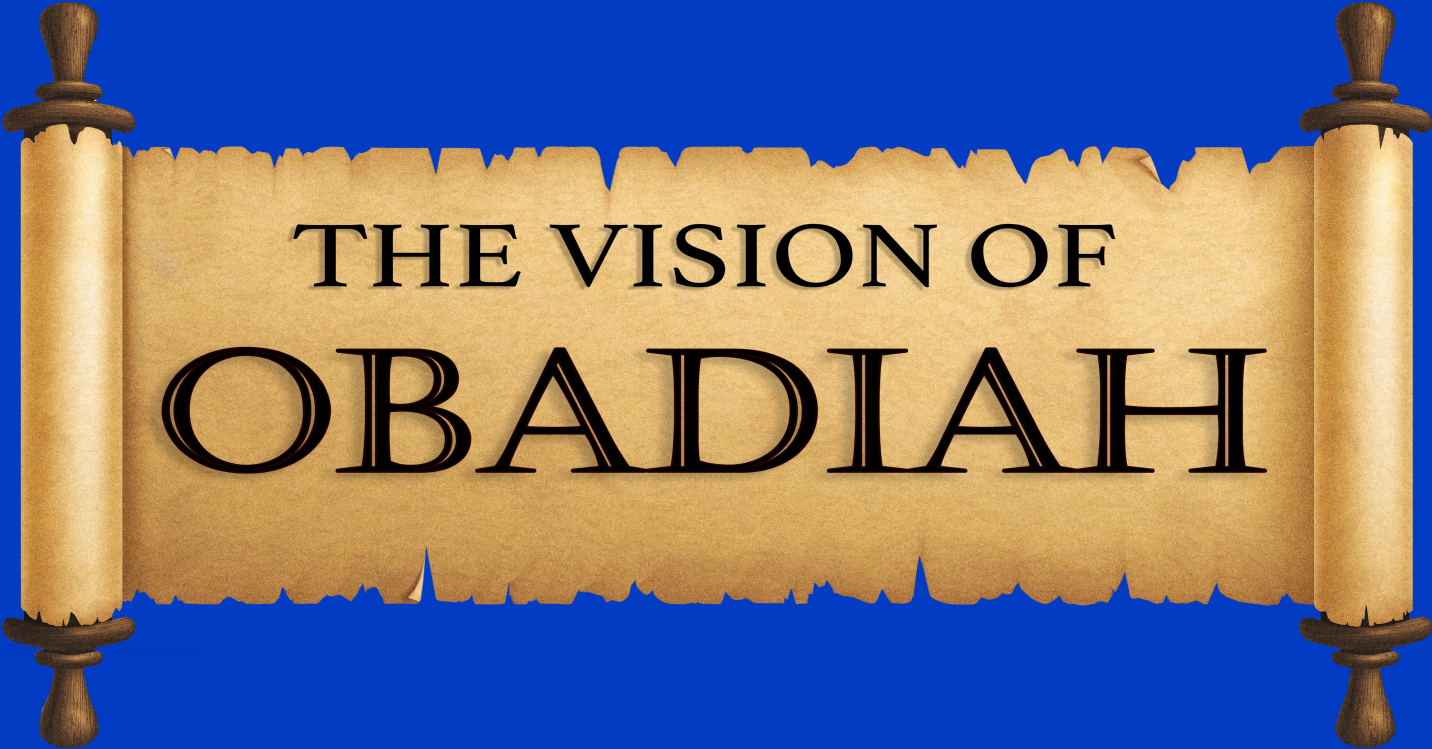


# STRUGGLING WITH HEBREW POETRY

- Hebrew Bible translated to Greek in 200's B.C.
- Constantinian Church adopted the LXX (Septuagint)
- Hebrew poetry not like Western poetry where rhyming is the norm
- Thought-rhythm and word-play characterizes Hebrew poetry
- Doom against Edom expressed in the concept of The Day of The Lord







THE VISION OF  
OBADIAH

- ***Hazon ovad-yah*** = Obadiah's vision
- What is a Superscription and why does it matter?
- “Something written above or outside something else”
- 4 possible types of information:
  - 1) Personal name      2) Genre classification
  - 3) Liturgical directions      4) Technical notations

# THE MESSENGER FORMULA



- ***Koh*** = thus, what follows                      ***amar*** = spoke
- 3 parties always identified:
  - 1) the messenger, 2) the sender, 3) the recipient
- ***Hazon oved-yah koh amar adonai Yehoveh le edom*** = Obadiah's vision; thus spoke the Lord Yehoveh to Edom