

## Introduction

- Why? Someone unknown...? **God's** words...
  - his name simply means "**servant of Yahweh**"
  - (some wonder whether he was the leader of the third set of troops sent out by Ahab after Elijah, **1 Kings 18**)
- A reversal of fortunes:
  - for the nations
  - for God's people
  - cf Claus Von Bulow attempted murder of his wife Sunny (by Insulin injection): guilty at first trial, then retrial and acquittal... film with Jeremy Irons and Glenn Close... he reversal of fortunes from penniless, guilty prisoner to free, wealthy man. She from well off heiress to coma...
- Background to Edom (descendants of Esau) and Israel (descendants of Jacob), and the animosity right from when they were brothers
  - including refusal to let the people of Israel pass when they were en-route from Egypt to Israel
  - for Edom, though agriculturally poor, stood on the great ancient trade route from Africa/Egypt to Asia/Babylon, Persia, India... and could tax any through traffic...
  - reputed to have treasures stashed away in cave hideouts that they'd never let any visitors see...
- Immediate context is the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586, and Edom's behaviour at that point
  - catching people on the road, party in the ruins of Jerusalem, etc

## Reversal of Fortunes for Edom

- Judgement is coming on the day of the Lord
- There is a final day of reckoning, when every rebellion against God will be held to account
- That is true for our family, our loved ones, our colleagues, our country, the obviously evil, the anti-Christian Imam somewhere imposing Sharia law on local Christians, for the MPs pushing for the exclusion of Christian standards in our society, even for those who seek to pull the Church of God away from God's word...
  - **for all nations...**

## Reversal of Fortunes for Israel

- For God's people
  - partial fulfilment in the return from exile in Babylon, restoration of Temple, etc
  - but there is more promised in Obadiah's vision than was ever fulfilled in human history (extent and security of the of kingdom, small size of the Temple - so people who remembered the old Temple wept...)
- There is a future promise here too, embedded in the physical is the promise of God's full rule yet to come...

## This is a Reversal of Grace

- The Cross!!