

Obadiah

The Perils of Pride

(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

A young woman named Mary asked for an appointment with her pastor to talk with him about a **besetting sin** about which she was worried. When she saw him, she said, "Pastor, I have become aware of a sin in my life which I cannot control. Every time I am at church I begin to look around at the other women, and I realize that **I am the prettiest one in the whole congregation**. None of the others can compare with my beauty. **What can I do about this sin?"**

The pastor replied, **"Mary, your problem is not sin, your problem is you are just mistaken.**

Pride leads to an unjustified sense of personal superiority,

A)And when we feel this way about ourselves, we naturally look down on others and mistreat them

B))The book of Obadiah is a lesson in the Perils of PRIDE.
It opens

The vision of Obadiah.

C)The interesting thing here is we are told nothing about Obadiah but his name and his message.

1))All he is remembered for is his message – **which is wonderful- doesn't matter if they remember the messenger.**

D)What matters is they remember the message!

Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom (We have heard a report from the LORD, And a messenger has been sent among the nations, saying, "Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle"):

² **"Behold, I will make you small among the nations;
You shall be greatly despised.**

C)Who was Edom?

Isaac and Rebekah had twins – Babies struggling – rough pregnancy

A)Rebekah went to the Lord and asked, if all is well why am I feeling this way.

B)The Lord told her – not just two babies inside of you but two nations struggling –

C)Babies were born – the first to come out was red and Hairy – named him **Esau = Hairy red**

D)The 2nd boy came out with his hand on his brothers heel – like trying to pull him back in – so he could be first

1)Named him Jacob – **Heel Catcher** – Imagine if his hand was on his brothers nose – **Nose grabber**

Dispute between the brothers – from the Beginning only got worse later in life

A)Jacob ripped off Esau – Birthright and his blessing - **traded for bowl of beans**

B)Jacob didn't get to enjoy – fled –

C)Later the brothers reconciled – Esau's Descendants became known as the Edomites

The Law of Moses commanded the Jews treat the Edomites like brothers: "You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother" (Deut. 23:7

D)But the descendants of Esau – the Edomites always carried an Animosity against the Jews and used every opportunity to display it.

The book of Obadiah Chronicles a time in Judah's history when the Edomites should of helped their brothers **instead they stood on the sidelines and watched – even ended up helping the enemy!**

The Major Point of Obadiah is a warning against Pride – The pride of your heart has deceived you,

A)Pride is at the heart of almost every sin! Every problem.

The new Marine Corps Colonel, wanting to make a good impression on his first day on the base, got his opportunity when there was a knock on his office door.

He immediately grabbed the phone (though it was not ringing) and said, "Come in!" to the Marine outside his door. He waved the private in with a scowl as he said into the phone, "Yes, general, I understand. Thank you for your confidence in me, sir. I will not let you down."

The colonel hung up the phone, looking smug and feeling great. He snapped at the Marine who stood waiting: "Well? What do you want, private?"

I have come to hook up your phone line sir!

The first sin was not in the garden but in heaven – Pride – Satan- Isaiah 14:12-14

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Someone has an **I** Problem

God says ¹⁵Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

I Is the central letter in the word **PRIDE** as well as the central letter in the word **SIN**

A)Pride is Dangerous because it leads to destruction!

B)When pride comes, then comes shame.- Proverbs 11:2

C)Pride leads to shame- later we fill ashamed for what we did under the influence of Shame.

A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.- Proverbs 29:23

Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.- Proverbs 16:18

Pride is Dangerous because it is Deceptive!

V.3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,

A)One of the reasons Pride is so dangerous is the first thing that goes with pride is your ability to recognize it!

Pride is the only disease that makes everyone sick but the one who has it.

Aa)The proud person is usually the last to know that they had been lifted up with pride.

B)Everyone else CAN see it plainly but the proud person is too proud to see their pride

C)Edom as a nation was full of Pride and in this prophecy Obadiah lays out the Sources of their pride- **5 sources**

#1 Their impregnable Defenses

V.3 You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'

4 Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," says the Lord.

Edom was built in the rock hills – Pic of Petra

A)Homes in the cliffs like an Eagles nest –

B))In ancient times the city of Petra was admired by many – it's unique design and the narrow passage that made it easy to defend.

C)It was a city that could hold 1 million people – 1)What was really interesting – is the only way into the city was through a narrow passage way between the rocks – **5-6 men wide**

D)Result Petra could be defended by as little as 20 men! –

1)Sit back and pick off the enemy

E)MC Hammer – Can't touch this ! – Edom – {Parachute pants

After Edom fell the city remained a mystery for over 1,000 yrs until it was rediscovered in 1812 by a Swiss Explorer named Johann Ludwig Burkhardt

A)Today Petra is Empty and nothing but a popular tourist destination

B)The Edomites took pride in their Impregnable defenses – unique city

#2 They took pride in their Wealth V.5,6

“If thieves had come to you, If robbers by night—
Oh, how you will be cut off!—

Would they not have stolen till they had enough?

If grape-gatherers had come to you,

Would they not have left some gleanings?

6 “Oh, how Esau shall be searched out!

How his hidden treasures shall be sought after!

A)Interesting – because of the Impregnable defenses of the **Rock city of Petra** – other neighboring nations – used them like a bank – storing their wealth

B)The Edomites took pride in their wealth and God is saying you are going to lose it all!

1)Worse than if a thief came. – A thief can only take so much – but they were going to lose it all!

C)Also gleaners in the field – they would always leave some left overs - Not this time

D)God is saying nations are going to come against you and they will not leave a grape

E)**Interesting to note** – when Burkhardt rediscovered the city he found enough buildings to house a million people,

1)but not one artifact of value, - **All gone like God said it would be**

Wealthy City – Impregnable City - Impregnable to everyone but God!

A)**Rich Farmer** – Took pride in his wealth – tonight soul is required and you are not rich toward God!

B)**Can't take it with you!**

We are going to take the next 3 together – V.7-9

#3 Edom Prided herself in her strong alliances!
V.7

#4 Pride in their Wisdom. V.8

#5 Pride in their Military V.9

V.7 All the men in your confederacy Shall force you to the border; The men at peace with you Shall deceive you *and* prevail against you. *Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it.*

V.8 “Will I not in that day,” says the LORD, “Even destroy the wise *men* from Edom, And understanding from the mountains of Esau?”

Edom was known for her wisdom

A)Dignitaries traveled from neighboring nations to consult with the wise men of Edom

B)In their Wisdom – they **made alliances** with other nations – God said all your alliances will turn on you!

C)**Deceive you and prevail against you** – those you feast with will end up trapping you.

D)Happened first with the Babylonians who the Edomites helped come against Israel

1)They ended up being the Babylonians next victims

When their alliances backfired and they turned to their Military it was too late as we read in V.9 Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau May be cut off by slaughter.

As I read this it is hard to not draw a comparison with America

A)Hard not to wonder if America is headed toward a similar fate.

B)As a nation in recent years – our political leaders have been carried away by a pride in our wisdom and superiority.

C)We live in what has been called “**an age of diplomacy**”

1)Recent yrs our elected officials have prided themselves in the ability to negotiate deals with other nations – Iran treaty – one example

D)Many in the political world – think that is going to come back and bite us

1)That is exactly what happened to Edom – those they thought were their friends turned on them.

Here is the problem I have with every politician today – is they have forgotten what made American great in the Beginning –

A)It was so important that we printed it on our money! – **IN GOD WE TRUST!** – FORGOTTEN THAT!

B)It is not our Military might – not our wealth – not our wisdom –

1)It was our believing in God, our trust in God.

C) Interesting side note: Once you get past the \$100 bill it no longer says that – **500 and above – it was left off**

1)Why? After make \$500 we are self sufficient

Edoms Pride and trust were in

#1 Their impregnable Defenses V.3-4

#2 They took pride in their Wealth V.5,6

#3 Edom Prided herself in her strong alliances!
V.7

#4 Pride in their wisdom. V.8

#5 Pride in their Military V.9

A)History of nations that have defied or abandoned God – Egypt – Babylon – Greece – Rome – all have succumbed to the same fate –

B)Is America headed down that same path?

C)**Pride in our Wisdom and power makes us do dumb things**

A large company, feeling it was time for a shakeup, **hired a new CEO**. This new boss was determined to rid the company **of all slackers**. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning on a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business! The new CEO walked up to the guy leaning against the wall and asked, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young fellow looked at him and replied, "I make about **\$600 a week**. Why?"

The CEO then handed the guy \$1200 in cash and screamed, "**Here's 2 weeks pay, now get out and don't come back.**"

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Can anyone tell me what that goof off did here?"

From across the room came a voice, "**He was the pizza delivery guy from Domino's.**"

D)Pride causes us to Overact and do dumb things!

Now in this next section the Lord does something that is really helpful by giving us the Evidence of their Pride.

A)Summed up in the way they Devalued others – especially their brethren the people of Israel V.10-13

“For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.

11 **In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces,**

When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem— Even you *were* as one of them.

12 **“But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah**

In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly In the day of distress.

13 **You should not have entered the gate of My people**

In the day of their calamity.

Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction

In the day of their calamity,

Nor laid *hands* on their substance

In the day of their calamity.

Pride causes people to Devalue others: Forget a very important principle of Scripture

A)In Genesis 1:26 God made a very important statement about Humanity

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

B)This is what theologians have referred to as the Imago Dei – Mankind uniquely created in the image of God.

C)Created with a Moral compass – created to live in relationship – 1st with God and 2nd with each other.

1)Created to live for eternity!

In the very beginning God was saying – Mankind was special!

A)All of mankind - All Created in the image of God – no one is better

B)Pride led some men to begin to think – they were created more special than others – led to things like slavery and social injustice

C)Racism plaguing our country today.

D)We devalue other human beings

Proverbs 13:10 Says pride is the root of all contention

A)When you are fighting with your wife – when you are struggling with your husband

B)When you don't get along with your neighbor or someone else in the body of Christ – **Pride is at the ROOT OF THAT!**

1)It is pride that thinks I can take something because I deserve more than someone else.

C)The Pride of the Edomites was evidenced by the way they devalued the people of Israel **V.10 They treated the people of Israel with Violence**

B)V.11 When the Babylonians invaded Israel the Edomites stood by and watched

1)V.12 They rejoiced in their misfortune -

Do you ever do that? When you see a brother or sister going through a tough thing –

A)Maybe even caused by their own sin – or bad decision

B)You think – they are just getting what they deserved – Pride

1)Aren't you glad God doesn't treat you that way?

C)Sometimes it is easy to see someone in the body who is lifted up with Pride –

1)You see the direction they are headed

D)Do you pray for them – or after it happens are you gloating – I saw that happening a mile a way.

They devalued Israel

- Being Violent toward them V.10
- They stood by and watched V.11
- They rejoiced in misfortune V.12
- They took advantage of their vulnerability V.13

Heard of the statement hitting someone while they are down.

A)When the Babylonians invaded and the Israelites fled – the Edomites saw it as an opportunity to go in and take their stuff!

B)This happens in many forms today: when you don't value another person because you think you are better than them it is easy to do this

C)Someone is down – fallen on hard times and they need to sell things – because they are desperate – instead of giving what it's worth – negotiate

1)I got this guitar for \$100 – really worth \$600 – but they really needed to sell it

D)When Jacob was down – Edom took advantage of them

They Devalue others

They showed violence against Judah V.10

They stood by and watched V.11

They rejoiced in misfortune V.12

They took advantage of their vulnerability V.13

They lacked Mercy V.14

**You should not have stood at the crossroads To cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained
In the day of distress.**

When the Babylonians hit that land it was brutal

A)Jewish people are fleeing with their babies in their arms – running toward Petra – hoping to escape and find Mercy and refuge amongst their brethren

B)Only to be turned away – or turned in

C)At this point in his prophecy – Obadiah – interjects an important Biblical principle -

D)The Principle of Sowing and reaping V.15-16
**“For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near;
As you have done, it shall be done to you;**

Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.
16For as you drank on My holy mountain,
So shall all the nations drink continually;
Yes, they shall drink, and swallow,
And they shall be as though they had never been.

Reap what you sow

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”- Galatians 6:7

Great verse to hear when you have been merciful but it is not a great verse to hear when you have been cruel.

Golden rule: He who has the most gold wins – wrong one

Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you- Matthew 7:12

God says because you didn't show mercy – you will be completely destroyed

Evidence of their Pride – they completely devalued the people of Israel
Close:

There was a day in history when two kings confronted one another for the first time.

A)One was an earthly king. He sat that day at the pinnacle of power. His name was Herod Antipas.

B)Herod was a son of Herod the Great, who was an Edomite or (as the NT has it) an Idumean.

C)Herod the Great had slaughtered the babes of Bethlehem in his desire to exterminate Christ.

1)His successor, Antipas, with whom we are concerned, was no better.

2)He had beheaded John the Baptist

Antipas had everything he wanted. His income, expressed in American money, would be in excess of 6 million dollars a year.

A)All the pleasures of life were his. In his pride he so devalued other human beings – If anyone stood in his way ... life would be lost!

B)The motto of his reign was: “What will it profit me?”

C)The other king was Jesus.

He was the King of Kings, one who, according to the flesh, was the natural heir to David's throne

A) and who, according to his divine nature, was the supreme King over all the kings of this earth.

B)But he did not look like a king. He stood in humble clothing. He had been rejected.

1)Within hours he was to die a felon's death.

C)If Jesus had wanted to he could have called forth legions of angels who would have vindicated his cause instantly

1)and have swept the usurper Herod from the throne.

D)But Jesus did not want the throne in that way.

1)He did not want the throne until you and I could share it with him. To make that possible he would die.

E)Herod's motto “What does it profit me?”

1)Jesus' motto “What can I do that will be the greatest possible benefit to others?”

Herod propped himself up in his pride and lost everything – Eventually banished to Lyons France where he lost everything.

A)Jesus lowered himself so that you and I could be exalted

B)Jesus – Cross – your punishment – pain – ROSE

1)So you could share IN HIS LIFE

C)He calls his followers – Be others centered – Deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow me

D)Cross was an instrument of death – brought life to others

1)Humble ourselves – Die to our way – our Pride – our rights – in order to help others be blessed.

E)Cross is an instrument of death – that made a way for others to live

Two ways to live:

A)Herod's Way: You will live for self: You will end up thinking yourself better than others and mistreating them.

B)Jesus way! Jesus lived for the glory of God – He died to himself – so that others would live

C) Jesus Rose and is going to come again – set up his kingdom –

C) Obadiah finishes his prophecy – Word of Hope for Israel's Future in V.17-21

“But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance,
And there shall be holiness;
The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

¹⁸ The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame;
But the house of Esau *shall be* stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall *remain* of the house of Esau,” For the LORD has spoken.

The South shall possess the mountains of Esau,
And the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim
And the fields of Samaria. Benjamin *shall possess* Gilead.

And the captives of this host of the children of Israel
Shall possess the land of the Canaanites As far as Zarephath.

The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
Shall possess the cities of the South. ²¹ Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion
To judge the mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

Jesus is going to restore Israel's possessions

Jesus will restore their land – mountains of Esau,
the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim
And the fields of Samaria. Gilead.
Shall possess the land of the Canaanites
As far as Zarephath.
The cities of the South.

The Places he mentions in these verses are the very places in dispute today

A) When Jesus returns - Sets up his kingdom – they will all be restored to Israel

B) Jesus is coming back – Are you Ready?