

The Consequence Of Pride

Text : **Obadiah 1-4**

INTRODUCTION :

A. About Obadiah

1. The name “Obadiah” means .. I am a servant of God.
 - a. It was a common name in O.T. times. (**Comparable to : John, Jim, Bill etc.**)
 - b. “Obad = servant ; I = I ; ah = God
 - c. All names ending in “ah” or “el” refer to God.
2. Shortest book in the Old Testament.
 - a. It’s called a “Minor Prophet” because of it’s length.
 - b. Minor Prophets are just as valuable as the “Major Prophets.”
3. The opening statements establish it as an inspired message from God.
 - a. **“The vision of Obadiah”**
 - b. **“Thus says the Lord concerning Edom –”** (and ambassadors sent)

B. It is a prophecy concerning judgment on Edom.

1. Edom is the nation which is the descendants of Esau. (Cf. – **Mal. 1: 3**)
 - a. **Read ... Gen. 25: 27-34**
 - b. Edom means “red.” (As well, Esau was ruddy {*red*} & rocks of Edom were red)
 - c. Esau was a profane person (**Heb. 12:16**) and Edom became a symbol of the same.
2. Edom was located just south of Judah.
 - a. Very mountainous
 - b. Long narrow country (100 miles X 20 to 40 miles wide)
 - c. It went south to the Gulf of Aqaba. (**In the N.T. the area is called “Arabia.”**)
3. The capitol of Edom was Petra. (**265K people**)
 - a. It is said to be as old as time.
 - b. City carved into the side of a limestone cliff.
 - c. Could only be approached via a very narrow passageway.
4. It has two large prosperous cities.
 - a. Petra (Sela) was on the north-south trade route. (**commerce & Banking**)
 - b. Bozrah (**Famous for exporting ... woven products & dyed garments**)

TRANSITION :

Their prosperity and security lead them to the pride that brought them down.

I. The arrogance of their hearts deceived them.**A. Pride is above all else a self-deception.**

Obadiah 3-4 The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?' ⁴ "Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

B. Pride makes it difficult to look at one's self honestly.

1. **Gal. 6:3-** For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

* **GOD CREATED US TO SERVE HIM !! We are but caretakers of His earth.**

2. **I Cor. 3: 18-** Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. (**Rom. 12:3** ... more highly than ought)

C. Christians cannot view themselves as people of the world views themselves.

1. **James 5: 1-2** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. **2** Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. (**Nothing temporal lasts.**)
 - a. The rich think they are blessed, but they have an obstacle placed before them.
 - b. **Luke 18:25-** For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.
2. **James 1: 9-11** But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; **10** and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. **11** For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.
 - a. Life on earth is brief.
 - b. It does not reflect eternal realities.
 - c. **GRACE** is the great leveling force of eternity. (**All are equal before God.**)
3. **REMEMBER** ... **Luke 17:10** ... Every man will stand before God hat in hand.
The very best one can be is an unprofitable servant.

II. Arrogance of the heart (*pride*) causes one to view other people incorrectly.**A. Pride is a very “ME” centered emotion.**

1. We live in a very me-centered society.
2. We Americans realize that we consume more than the rest of the world combined, **but** we feel no guilt at the disparity ... Our attitude is **“I’m worth it.”**
3. The average American’s life is spent in pursuit of personal prosperity.

B. Conversely ... God has commanded the Christian to focus his life outward.

1. **Phil. 2: 5-8** ... We must have an attitude of serving and sacrificing for others.
2. Jesus demonstrated this attitude during His ministry on earth.
 - a. **Remember ... John 13**
 - b. They were arguing who is will be great in the kingdom, **but Jesus washed.**
 - c. Peter was so proud; he wanted to refuse to allow his feet to be washed.
3. Pride prevents one from viewing others as more important.

C. Pride is the very antithesis of love.

1. **I Cor. 13: 4-5** Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,
2. **I Cor. 8:1-** Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
3. Love recognizes the needs of others and responds to them. **I John 3:17 / James 2: 15**

D. It is very difficult to live in our culture and not be affected by it.

1. Capitalism is all about striving for personal gain.
 - a. We look down on those who do not have the motivation to keep striving.
 - b. Parents feel the responsibility to teach their children to participate in the system.
2. Democracy encourages one to think about his rights.
 - a. When the scriptures were written the concept of democracy was not yet existent.
 - b. The king had all authority and determined what could be done.
3. Americans have a bad reputation around the world.
 - a. We are viewed as an arrogant people.
 - b. **“The Ugly American” ... Loud, demanding, feel superior, etc**

III. Arrogance of the heart (*pride*) causes one to view GOD incorrectly.

A. Our text reveals the Edomites felt they were beyond God's ability to control.

1. **Obadiah 3-4** The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?' ⁴ "Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.
2. Eve was led astray in the garden when the devil appealed to her pride.
 - a. *"You could be as wise as God."*
 - b. Sin still follows that same basic format.

I John 2: 15-16 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (*From the prince of this world ... Satan*)
3. The people before the flood thought they were above God's control.
 - a. **I Pet. 3:20 -cf- 2 Peter 2:5**
 - b. They were warned, but did not humble themselves before God. (**repent**)
4. Mankind didn't even learn his lesson after the flood.
 - a. **Gen. 11:4-** They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."
 - b. They were determined to be above God's ability to flood them.

B. Mankind **STILL** has not learned their lesson. (**Pride is rebellion & rejection**)

1. The builders of the Titanic learned this lesson the hard way.
2. So called scientist start from the assumption that God does not exist.
 - a. They deny the scriptures.
 - b. They deny miracles.
 - c. They deny creation.
3. Most people refuse to accept God's authority to regulate their lives.
 - a. Attitude = *"It's my life and I'll do whatever I choose."*
 - b. Moral values are up to each individual. (**People are reduced to the level of dogs.**)

IV. Arrogance of the heart (*pride*) puts people in conflict with God.

A. Pride has brought down the most powerful world leaders.

1. Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?
 - a. **Exod 5:2**
 - b. Look where he ended up; at the bottom of the Red Sea.
2. King Nebuchadnezzar was warned to repent and be kind to the poor, but did not,
 - a. **Dan. 4: 29-30** Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. **30** The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'
 - b. We all remember that he spent 7 periods of time eating grass.
 - b. All through history leaders have fallen due to pride.

* **We must all remember that it is God who gives and God can take away.**

B. God is repulsed by the arrogance of pride.

1. **Prov. 6: 16-17** There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: **17** Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, (**Pride is listed first.**)
2. **Prov. 6: 13-** The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.
3. **Psa. 101: 5-** No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

C. God will punish the proud.

1. **Prov. 16:5-** Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.
2. **Prov. 16:18-** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

CONCLUSION :

- A. **Pride : Deceives us, distorts our views of God & of others and brings punishment.**
- B. **James 4:10-** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
- C. We all know this. It is simple, but so very hard to do.
- D. The Christians must swim against the current of our culture.
- E. We need to work together on this ... mutual accountability helps.