

## Pride and Hatred Have No Place in the Kingdom Obadiah 1:1-21

Thank you, Dee. At least one of us has now read Obadiah out loud!

- I am enjoying this series (If you're new...)
- I have only heard a few of these MP preached. (Shane did a wonderful job last week)
- **How many of you have never heard a sermon from the book of Obadiah?**
- Today you are going to hear one! **I can't guarantee that it will be any good, but you're going to hear one!** The best.
- **It's only one chapter** – so you get a breather this week!
- All the **translators** wanted this one! [pray]

One person said to a pastor who was preparing to preach on Obadiah, **"I'm anxious to [see] what you will do with grim o'l Obadiah. Can't imagine preaching anything positive or creative out of that angry tirade. Obadiah is 'minor' not only in length, but also in any inspiration for discipleship today."**

- I can see how you might feel this way at first glance, but I disagree.
- **Obadiah is not on an angry tirade; he is warning, instructing, and giving hope.**
- As **believers**, he gives us important instruction about **life in the kingdom of God.**
- If you're **not a Christian**, Obadiah has an important word for you regarding judgment and salvation. He shows that God knows you, is sovereign over you, but in great love, has made a way for you to be delivered through the Savior — you can be a friend of God, rather than enemy of God through Christ. You can be part of the Lord's kingdom.

**What is this book about?** It's about **judgment** and **salvation**; it's about **pride and humility.**

The great principle of the Kingdom is ***illustrated in this little book:***

<sup>11</sup> For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

As well as **the oft-quoted Proverb:**

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Prov 16:18)

**If you were asked to pick a story or a passage to talk about the sin of pride, I don't think most people would pick Obadiah!** But it's an excellent choice!

What makes Obadiah unique is the **special focus** on God's judgment against the **prideful Edomites.**

- Obadiah turns the spotlight on **an unbelieving people: Edom.**
- **But we don't even know if they heard it or read it.**
- **In addressing Edom, God is writing to his people (Judah), assuring them that He will have the last word on his people's enemies, and grant those who believe a glorious future.**
- **So while it is about Edom, it is a word of assurance to God's people, and a word of warning to all who oppose Yahweh.**

Two parts:

1. **Judgment Against Edom (1-16)**
2. **Deliverance for God's People (17-21)**

The people of Edom under judgment for their pride and mistreatment of God's people.  
The setting: around Babylon captivity in 586.

**Edom** has already popped up in our study of the Twelve (Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11, 'cast off pity').

- They were **enemies of God's people**.
- They represent all who are opposed to God and his people.

**Obadiah** is positioned well, next to **Jonah**.

- **Obadiah** shows us **God's judgment on the nations**.
- **Jonah** shows us **God's salvation among the nations**.
- **Salvation is offered to the world, but not everyone calls upon the Lord for salvation**.

### **Israel and Edom**

To understand the drama between Edom and Judah, **recall their history**. (Gen 25ff)

**About 4,000 years ago or so there were two brothers: Jacob and Esau.**

(Not to be confused with the Jacob and Esau and the show Lost!)

- They were **twins**
- Esau came out first (he was the oldest); Jacob was the younger.
- But **Esau wasn't the favored one**.
- God acts in surprising things in salvation history.
- **Jacob would be the favored one**.

**Like many brothers, these two brothers didn't get along. (25:23, from the womb!)**

**Esau** was actually his dad's favorite.

- **He was a hairy hunter. (Like many of you)**
- He liked to kill stuff. He had all kinds of deer to eat – **burgers, jerkey...**

**Jacob**, however, was a quiet man. He stayed back home usually.

- **He was a mama's boy**.
- He was smart.
- His name means something like **"trickster"** or **"cheats"** "takes by the heel"

In **Gen 25:29-34**, Esau came n from the field when Jacob was cooking some stew.

- Esau was willing to do anything for some soup.
- Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright."
- Esau thought nothing of the birthright, received some bread and stew and handed his privilege status as the firstborn over to Jacob.
- To be the firstborn meant receiving the Father's place, property, and authority as the ruling member of the Family at the time of the Father's death. Esau gave this up.

In **Gen 27:1ff**, Isaac is blind, old, and about to die, and Jacob (the trickster) dresses up like his brother, and tricks his father. His mom encouraged this.

- So he got the blessing instead of Esau.
- Esau didn't like Jacob for stealing this blessing (Gen 27:41).

**Jacob flees the country.** And they eventually see each other again.

- They met and parted ways.
- Jacob **settled in Canaan**, the Promised Land.
- Esau went to the south and east of Canaan.
- **Jacob had been renamed "Israel" meaning "he strives with God"** (the history of Israel).
- **Esau was also called "Edom"** (which means **red, for he sold his birthright for some red stew**).
- Edom was southeast of the Dead Sea.

**These two countries came from the same mother.**

- Yet, they were long standing rivals.
- After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, the Edomites refused to let them even walk through their country. (Numbers 20:14ff)
- David won victories over Edom.
- Edomites, Ammonites, Moabites raided Judah during Jehoshaphat
- The conflict continued...
- **Yankees vs. Red Sox; Duke vs. Carolina; Tupac and Biggie, Texas B'bcue Carolina BBC.**

**Israel belonged to God.**

**Edom worshiped false gods.**

- They were Israel's oldest enemies.
- Edom is referred to negatively throughout the OT.
- Read through the OT and you hear oracles against them: (21:11–12), Jeremiah (**49:7–22; this text has striking similarities to Obadiah**), Ezekiel (25:12–14; 35), Amos (1:11–12), and Malachi (1:2–5).

**But this didn't mean Israel could do whatever they wanted, and nor did it mean there was no hope for Edom.**

- If Israel worshiped idols, they would be treated as the Edomites.
- And if the Edomites wanted to worship Yahweh, then they could. And they would be blessed.
- God eventually sent the Assyrians to conquer the NK in 722.
- **And about 150 years later, God sent the Babylonians to conquer Judah.**
- God had been patient with his people.
- But now he sent the **Babylonians would be the spanking spoon of his people.**

**Psalm 137** is a Psalm written while the people were in exile in Babylon.

- V. 4: "Yeah, sing us one of those little ditties."

- v. 7: “Lay it bare; down to its foundations”

**When the Babylonians came in to sack Jerusalem, the Edomites wanted to participate in their downfall.**

- According to Ezekiel 35 they “**cherished perpetual enmity.**” Some people actually enjoy being angry.
- God was not pleased with Edom’s attitude and actions.
- God meant to punish his people w/ Exile, but Edom’s actions were not acceptable.

**God had something to say about Edom’s actions so he gave a word to Obadiah, a prophet who appears with no biography. No mention of Obadiah’s father or the king.**

## **1. Judgment Against Edom (1-16)**

### **A. For Their Pride (1-9)**

**What was the root cause of Edom’s sinful actions? Pride.**

**Edom thought they were something (read v. 1-9)**

**Their **inflated self-estimation led to insubordination.** (Repeat)**

**Edom would not submit to God’s authority— a pattern in humanity.**

**In verse 2, God says he will cut them down to size....**

Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom:

We have heard a report from the LORD,  
and a messenger has been sent among the nations:  
“Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!”

- 2 Behold, I will make you small among the nations;  
you shall be utterly despised.

**Why is this?**

- 3 The pride of your heart has deceived you,  
you who live in the clefts of the rock,  
in your lofty dwelling,  
who say in your heart,  
“Who will bring me down to the ground?”
- 4 Though you soar aloft like the eagle,  
though your nest is set among the stars,  
from there I will bring you down,  
declares the LORD.
- 5 If thieves came to you,  
if plunderers came by night—  
how you have been destroyed!—  
would they not steal only enough for themselves?

- If grape gatherers came to you,  
would they not leave gleanings?
- 6 How Esau has been pillaged,  
his treasures sought out!
- 7 All your allies have driven you to your border;  
those at peace with you have deceived you;  
they have prevailed against you;  
those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you—  
you have no understanding.
- 8 Will I not on that day, declares the LORD,  
destroy the wise men out of Edom,  
and understanding out of Mount Esau?
- 9 And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman,  
so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

**We know that to be prideful is to be sinful; but it seems that we often don't take pride seriously enough.**

If you have been in a small group, you know what the safe sins to confess are.

- “I need to read my Bible longer”;
- “I struggle with pride.” ... “Oh, yeah, we all do.”
- If you say “I’m a porn addict,” that gets people’s attention. People start sliding over. “I’m a liar” sounds awful.
- We will hear testimonies... about turning from all sorts of sins, but rarely “I was so full of myself.”
- We should remember the words of the wise Stott: “**At every point in our Christian discipleship, pride is our greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend**” (Stott)

### **What is pride?**

- We often think of it as ***conceit***. (and it is!)
- We often think of it as ***boasting***. (and it is!)

But pride is also expressed in two other ways that are too common in our Christian walk:

**#1: *Self-sufficiency*** (“I don’t need God”)

- o **2 things we can do apart from Christ. Hebrew words: Jack and Squat!**
- o A way to know if you are living like this is by checking your level of prayerlessness.
- o Prayerlessness is an expression of pride.

**#2: *Ingratitude*** (“I got where I am without God”)

- Another sign of pride in your life is a failure to give God thanks.

**Notice the root of Edom’s pride:** “the pride of your heart”

Their self-inflated assessment of themselves; their self-sufficiency is expressed in a variety of ways:

***i. They were proud of their security (v. 3-4)***

**3: They lived in rock-protected homes.**

- If you went there, you would see steep cliffs, narrow gorges and high rocky peaks.
- Their cities were on hills, homes in clefts of rocks.
- Sela was the capitol, which means “rock”
- It was sometimes called “the land of Seir” a reddish mountainous area. (Gen 32:3)
- The city of **Petra** is located in that area. It became the capitol of the Nabateans when they later occupied the old land of Edom.
- It's a major tourist destination now. **It typifies Edom.**
- The Nabateans carved the city out of rock...
  - **Picture of Petra.**
  - **Picture of Indiana Jones.**

4: Their location was “among the stars.” So you couldn't penetrate their homeland, nor could you alleviate high enough to it.

3b: “Can anyone bring me down?”

**Last week all stars — pregame speech, “Shotgun.” We lost 11-2.**

Edom was like that impressive team — who will beat us?

4: “I will bring you down.”

This is an important word for us.

- Where is your security? On what/whom are you trusting?
- **Nationally:** Do you think its because you are in American, and you have a large economy and strong military that you are totally safe and secure?
- **Personally:** Doctors? Percentages? Stock market trends? Laws of averages?
- These are blessings for which we should give God thanks, but that's not where are ultimate security comes from.
- If we aren't careful, these things can make us can **proud, cocky, self-assured, and godless.**
- The more you have of these things, the **harder it is to humbly trust God for all of life.**

**Hear this word: God can take us down in a moment. Pride goes before destruction.**

It doesn't matter how strong we think we are. We are no match for Almighty God.

**Think about Jericho? “Look at us! We got a big wall!”**

- What do these former Egyptian slaves have? **Trumpets? Haha!** (Then they threw slushies according to Veggie Tales!)
- **God brought the walls down.**

**Or an illustration from more recent history. Dever writes: It is amazing to see what people proudly put their trust in. You may remember learning about the famous Maginot Line between France and Germany. From 1929 to 1938 the French built a line of defense fortifications along their border with Germany under the direction of French war minister Andre' Maginot. Heavy guns, thick concrete, air conditioned living areas,**



areas for recreation, and even underground railways all assured the French that they would be safe against German aggression. When the German military began to build itself back up under Adolph Hitler, the French smugly thought they could ignore the matter. They had the Maginot line! Of courses, when the Germans finally invaded, they came through Belgium, outflanking the Maginot Line and rendering it utterly useless. It took ten years to build. It took the Germans a few weeks to march around it.

Dever: That's a small picture of what it means to trust anything a part from God. We want our own Maginot Lines....

**It is one thing to take practical measures to secure oneself but it's another to trust in our own ingenuity and productivity rather than God.**

Ultimate security is only found in our God. **He** is our refuge and strength — him alone.

### ***ii. They were proud of their wealth (v. 5-6)***

5: Thieves coming...

6: Esau's "treasures sought out"

### **Edom controlled trade route known as the King's Highway.**

- Copper and iron mines provided a great source of wealth.
- But here the Lord says that everything will be stripped bare!
- Normally thieves leave something behind (ex: [Landon's bicycle and lawn mower](#)), but not Esau.
- "Tell the rich to not be haughty (a temptation), nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches' but God on... (1 Tim 6.17)
- **Wealth can make your arrogant, and it can make it tempting to trust in wealth rather than God.**

### ***iii. They were proud of their connections (v. 7)***

- This too can breed a sense of "**We don't need God; look who are friends are.**"
- Do you trust in your connections more than God?

### ***iv. They were proud of their wisdom (v. 8)***

- Knowing things, and knowing how things work can also breed pride.
- **Why do you need God if you know everything? You don't.**
- "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom..." (Jeremiah)

### ***v. They were proud of their strength (v. 9)***

- If you are physically strong perhaps you think you are unbeatable.
- Think again.
- The story of David and Goliath shows us that the mighty cannot prevail against the Almighty.

**Think about this collection: They had national security; they had financial security; they had friends to help; they had wisdom; they had might.**

**Can you identify?**

### **God Humbles the Proud**

National Security (vv. 3–4)

“I will bring you down.”

Financial Security (vv. 5–6)

Your treasures will be taken away

Connections (v. 7)

Your allies will deceive you.

Wisdom (v. 8)

Your wise men will be destroyed.

Armies (v. 9)

Your mighty men will be destroyed

**One of the purposes of passage like this is to keep us from falling.**

- **It is to keep us from having an inflated vision of ourselves.**
- **It does Not mean we should think low of ourselves.**
- **Humility is not self-loathing.**
- **Romans 12:3, right after saying, “renew your mind” Paul says “think of yourself with sober judgment.”**
- **That is, think rightly about God and about yourself.**
- **Walk humbly in the fear of God.**
- **Walk humbly in gratitude toward God.**
- **Walk humbly in prayer to God.**
- **Walk humbly seeking to glorify God (John 3:30)**

### **B. For Their Mistreatment of Jacob (10-16)**

<sup>10</sup> Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,  
shame shall cover you,  
and you shall be cut off forever.

- Violence: cruelty, oppression, hate.

### **Four Ways They Mistreated Judah**

#### ***i. By Standing aloof (v. 11)***

<sup>11</sup> On the day that you stood aloof,  
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth



and foreigners entered his gates  
and cast lots for Jerusalem,  
you were like one of them.

- **They stood in calloused non-involvement.**
- **Standing aloof. Doing nothing to help.**
- **Instead of offering aid to those in need, they did nothing.**
- **Oppression is not just inflicting pain; it's having the ability to do something but not acting.**
- **“Let us do good to everyone” (Gal 6:10)**
- **“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it” (Prov 3:27)**

### **ii. By Gloating (12-13a)**

12 But do not gloat over the day of your brother  
in the day of his misfortune;  
do not rejoice over the people of Judah  
in the day of their ruin;  
do not boast  
in the day of distress.

13 Do not enter the gate of my people  
in the day of their calamity;  
do not gloat over his disaster  
in the day of his calamity;  
do not loot his wealth  
in the day of his calamity.

- **This is more malicious.**
- **They rejoiced at Jacob's downfall.**
- They would have been the *Pharisees wanting to stone the adulterous woman*
- They are just like those who love juicy gossip about another brother or sister's wrong doing or failings.
- They are like those who take delight in the downfall of others.
- If your response to the sin of someone else is “Well, I'm better than that. I haven't done that.” Then God help us.
- Do not gloat over the sins of others.
- Kids, Don't enjoy seeing your siblings get disciplined. You should grieve and check your heart.

### **iii. By Looting (13b)**

13 Do not enter the gate of my people  
in the day of their calamity;  
do not gloat over his disaster  
in the day of his calamity;

do not loot his wealth  
in the day of his calamity.

**They have seized possessions.  
They are taking an active role in the evil.**

#### ***iv. By Enslaving (14)***

**This is ruthless exploitation.**

<sup>14</sup> Do not stand at the crossroads  
to cut off his fugitives;  
do not hand over his survivors  
in the day of distress.

**As Judah's fugitives were fleeing, they were either cutting them down, or seizing them and returning them to the enemy.**

#### **Result: Judgment (15)**

<sup>15</sup> For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations.  
As you have done, it shall be done to you;  
your deeds shall return on your own head.

- **God says, what Edom did to Judah would be done to them.**
- **The judgment will fit the crime.**
- **Your deeds will be turned on your own head.**
- **That happened. They were eventually destroyed through a series of invasions.**

#### **Judgment On All God's Enemies (v. 16)**

<sup>16</sup> For as you have drunk on my holy mountain,  
so all the nations shall drink continually;  
they shall drink and swallow,  
and shall be as though they had never been.

- **This word of judgment in verse 15 moves out to a final circle of judgment to include all who have been enemies of God.**
- "drinking" refer to wrath.
- Jerusalem drank God's judgment; but the nations will endure this unless they bow the knee to Yahweh.
- This is picked up in the NT, as Jesus talks about drinking the "cup."
- He took the cup of God's judgment in Jerusalem, so that we will never have to!
- **This is how you avoid the judgment of God by trusting in the sin-bearing substitute, Jesus Christ.**

## #2: Deliverance for God's People (17-21)

Israel's restoration is foretaste of final, ultimate restoration of all who are in Christ.

- Once again we see extravagant language at the end of the prophets, which point to an even greater future than the return of exile.
- The promises extend well beyond earthly rulers, as Obadiah poetically and prophetically gives us a glimpse of new creation to come, under the rule of King Jesus.

**17:** God will return those fugitives to a holy **Mount Zion**.

- A picture of restored **people** and restored worship

**18:** A word of reunification of Judah and Israel who will punish Edom, judgment compared to fire.

**19-20:** With the punishment of Edom completed, areas occupied by Israel will be enlarged...

- **The Negeb: far south**
- **Esau: southeast east,**
- **Philistines: to the west**
- **Gilead: to the east,**
- **Zarephath is far north, coast between Tyre and Sidon (1 Kings 17).**
- **Sepharad is debated....**
- **God's will return to possess the land that had been taken from them**
- **The B.C. Promised Land became an image for the new and greater Promised Land: the new creation (see Heb. 11:16).**
- **Total restoration is coming for God's people in Christ.**

**21:** God's **kingdom** will be restored.

Saviors to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau (a way to say "beyond Jerusalem")

God's glory, his kingdom, will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

God's kingdom: **That is, God's people living under God's rule, in God's place.**

Zion — those living in Christ — now will be part of that kingdom (Heb 12).

*Deliverers/Saviors*, ones who bring salvation (**Ne. 9:27**), will come "up to" Jerusalem.

- Hebrew Bible, last verse 2 Chronicles 36:23, "Let him go up." (Those leaving captivity and going to Jerusalem to rebuild)
- Gospels, Jesus goes "up to Jerusalem" (as he heads for the cross, quoted in multiple places like Matthew 20:18:
- "See we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death."
- *The Ultimate Savior* came.

- He came not to crush but to Save; he will come again to reign as the rightful king of the kingdom in a new creation, a new Eden.
- **All who are poor in spirit inherit this kingdom — those who humbly receive his forgiveness and new life.**
- He is the ‘King of Kings and Lord of Lords’ who ‘will reign forever and ever’ (Rev. 11:15)

The brackets of Obadiah: (1, 21): **the Lord** is Sovereign over Edom and Israel, and all the nations of the earth.

- We will be His people, living in his place, under his rule — forever.

A kingdom that cannot be shaken is where we are headed in Christ. (Heb 12:18-28)

### **Final Reflections**

#### **1. Do not live as an enemy of God, but as a friend of God.**

- Through faith in Jesus, enemies become friends. (Romans 5:8)
- Phil 3 — many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; they glory in shame... their end is destruction.
- But Christ has made a way — through his humility, we can know God.
- Heaven will be filled with once enemies of God and his people, like Edom, who are now sons and daughters of God, children of the living God.

#### **2. Walk humbly with God.**

- How?
- The funny thing about humility is that when you pursue it, you may miss it...
- You **actually have to gaze on something else — someone else — Christ.**
- I learned a new word this week ... **epiphenomenal.**
- Definition = a secondary phenomenon (epi), that arises from a primary phenomenon.
- Humility is **epiphenomenal.**
- **Jonathan Edwards: “The only way...is to look at Christ. To look at our humility is to make it vanish; to look at the infinitely lovely God, supremely manifest in Christ, is to bring humility in the back door of the heart.”**

#### **3. Recognize that the Lord reigns over all.**

- Obadiah leaves us marveling at the sovereign power of God over the nations.
- He towers over the mighty; over all individuals and nations.
- **You can’t build a house above him; can’t have enough wealth and power to avoid him; we must all bow before him — one day everyone will.**
- This is both warning and comfort.
- Warning to all who have not bowed the knee to Christ, and a comfort to those who have.

#### **4. Remember that the Lord will have the last word on injustice.**

- Racism, land grabbing, trafficking... oppression
- Remember **Psalm 73** – why do the wicked prosper? They may for a season, but their day is coming.

- **2 Timothy 4:14** Alexander — “Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.”
- Therefore we can practice Romans 13, and leave vengeance to the Lord.
- The Lord’s vengeance is perfect justice.
- **While we should do justice, reflecting the Lord’s character, we do so with hope, knowing that one-day there will be no more injustice.**

Now you’ve heard a sermon on Obadiah ... May God make us humble people as we gaze on our Savior King, as people who have inherited the kingdom.