

Obadiah: The Dangers of Pride

Obadiah is the _____ in the Old Testament. He served the Lord as a _____ prophet. The book begins with immediate, devastating judgment for Edom and ends with a promise of Israel's restoration and victory. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother, and they were Israel's enemy. In many ways, the Edomites thought they could escape God's judgment.

"Obadiah was a _____ name in Israel-it means '_____ of Yahweh.' But in the Old Testament, no one with that name matches the time and circumstances of the prophet Obadiah. He appears to have written from the vicinity of Jerusalem sometime after the destruction of the city by the Babylonians (586 BC) but before the invasion of Edom by the Babylonians thirty-five years later." Obadiah did his work for the Lord and faded into the background. A servant labors for God's _____, not for his or her personal fame.

The prophecy of Obadiah is about two nations and two brothers: Israel and Edom and Jacob and Esau. Jacob and Esau illustrated division in their mother's womb (Gen. 25:22). Rebekah loved Jacob, and Isaac loved Esau (Gen. 25:28). The Bible offers readers "interpretational constants" (pictures, metaphors, similes, etc.). Oil is a symbol of the _____; wine is a symbol of _____; leaven is a symbol of _____; and Jacob and Esau are symbols of the _____ and of the _____. Are the flesh and the Spirit at peace or at war?

What is the enemy's goal? He wants to _____, _____, and _____ (Jn. 10:10). He is the father of all _____ (Jn. 8:44). He desires to _____ people (1 Pt. 5:8).

- "No one will ever _____."

Numbers 32:23 – *But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.*

- "I can't _____ over."

1 John 1:9 – *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- "There's no way _____."

1 Corinthians 10:13 – *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

- "I can _____ this on my own."

Proverbs 11:2 – *When pride comes, then comes disgrace...*

Proverbs 16:18 – *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

Proverbs 29:23 – *One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.*

Edom struggled with _____. What was Obadiah's message to Edom? He said, *"The vision of Obadiah. 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!" Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised. 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?" 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"* (Obad. 1:1-4).

Pride is manifested in different ways in the book of Obadiah and in the lives of believers.

- _____ (Obad. 1:3-4)
- _____ (Obad. 1:10)
- _____ (Obad. 1:11)
- _____ (Obad. 1:12-13)
- _____ (Obad. 1:14)

Galatians 6:6-8 – *Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

How can people sow to the Spirit (Jacob) and not to the flesh (Esau)?

- God's _____
- God's _____
- God's _____
- God's _____
- God's _____

James 1:22-25 – *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

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Obadiah is the **shortest book** in the Old Testament. He served the Lord as a minor prophet. The book begins with immediate, devastating judgment for Edom and ends with a promise of Israel's restoration and victory. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother, and they were Israel's enemy. In many ways, the Edomites thought they could escape God's judgment.

"Obadiah was a **common** name in Israel-it means '**servant** of Yahweh.' But in the Old Testament, no one with that name matches the time and circumstances of the prophet Obadiah. He appears to have written from the vicinity of Jerusalem sometime after the destruction of the city by the Babylonians (586 BC) but before the invasion of Edom by the Babylonians thirty-five years later." Obadiah did his work for the Lord and faded into the background. A servant labors for God's **glory**, not for his or her personal fame.

The prophecy of Obadiah is about two nations and two brothers: Israel and Edom and Jacob and Esau. Jacob and Esau illustrated division in their mother's womb (Genesis 25:22). Rebekah loved Jacob, and Isaac loved Esau (Genesis 25:28). The Bible offers readers "interpretational constants" (pictures, metaphors, similes, etc.). Oil is a symbol of the **Holy Spirit**; wine is a symbol of **joy**; leaven is a symbol of **evil**; and Jacob and Esau are symbols of the **flesh** and of the **Spirit**. Are the flesh and the Spirit at peace or at war?

What is the enemy's goal? He wants to **steal, kill, and destroy** (John 10:10). He is the father of all **lies** (John 8:44). He desires to **devour** people (1 Peter 5:8).

- "No one will ever **know**."

Numbers 32:23 – *But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.*

- "I can't **start** over."

1 John 1:9 – *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- "There's no way **out**."

1 Corinthians 10:13 – *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

- "I can **handle** this on my own."

Proverbs 11:2 – *When pride comes, then comes disgrace...*

Proverbs 16:18 – *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

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Edom struggled with **pride**. What was Obadiah's message to Edom? He said, "*The vision of Obadiah. 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!" Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised. 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?" 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*" (Obadiah 1:1-4).

Pride is manifested in different ways in the book of Obadiah and in the lives of believers.

- **Self-sufficiency** (Obadiah 1:3-4)
- **Violence** (Obadiah 1:10)
- **Indifference** (Obadiah 1:11)
- **Gloating** (Obadiah 1:12-13)
- **Exploitation** (Obadiah 1:14)

Galatians 6:6-8 – *Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

How can people sow to the Spirit (Jacob) and not to the flesh (Esau)?

- God's **grace**
- God's **Spirit**
- God's **Word**
- God's **people**
- God's **purpose**

James 1:22-25 – *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*