

The Deceitfulness of Pride; *the Prophecy of Obadiah*

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Obadiah 3

Introduction:

The essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that are mere flea bites in comparison. It was through Pride that the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other vice; it is the complete anti-God state of mind. C.S. Lewis, The Great Sin; in "Mere Christianity."

Through His prophet Obadiah, God called out the nation of Edom for their pride (:4) which, like all pride, led to sinful acts and punishment (:10-12). Here is a warning that God's people must not neglect.

Background:

- a. Edomites are the descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob.
- b. Their geographic situation was ideal.
- c. Edomites refused to give passage to the Hebrew exodus.
- d. Edomites supported the Arab invasion of Jerusalem in 844 BC (2 Kings 8:20; 2 Chron. 21:16-17) and the Babylonian invasion in 587 BC (2 Kings 25:1-12; cf. Ps. 137:7-9; Ezek. 25:1-3, 12-14)
- e. King Herod the Great was an Edomite (Idumean).

What did Obadiah say and what is he saying to us?

1. A declaration of doom...I will make you small :1-2
2. A deceived heart ...the pride of your heart has deceived you :4
3. A devastating punishment ...hidden treasures pillaged :6
 - a. Treasured friends betray :7
 - b. Treasured wisdom destroyed :8
 - c. Treasured confidence will turn to fear :9
4. A description of the offense...gloat over your brother :10-14
5. A designer punishment...as you have done, it will be done to you :15-16
6. A delivered people ...Jacob will possess his inheritance :17-21

Conclusion: The Kingdom will be the Lord's :15

God's grand plan is to rule over the nations of the earth from Zion. He will do this in the person of Jesus, the "Son of David". In the meantime God's people watch and wait for the coming of the Lord.

Thinking about Obadiah?

1. In what ways were the Edomites deceived by their own hearts?
2. Do Baptists gloat over Pentecostals, Harvests or Presbyterians?
3. How has God "designed" corrective measures to suit your sin?
4. Why should we be glad that God will be faithful to Jacob?
5. What would the Kingdom of God on earth look like?