

Obadiah: Pride Alert!

The Background and Historical Setting:

1. The date and occasion of Obadiah have been much debated by scholars but it seems preferable to guess a date after the fall of Jerusalem and the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 B.C.
2. Edom, as a nation, was well-established in the area south and east of the Dead Sea by the 13th century BC and dates back to the patriarchal era (see Genesis 36), occasionally being subject to the nation of Judah, especially under David's reign. However, in the early 6th century (ca. 590 BC), it seems that the archaeological evidence points to it as an independent monarchy (since there is no reference to Edom being subjugated to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, along with Ammon, Moab, and Judah in both biblical and extrabiblical texts).
3. The demise of Edom appears to have occurred sometime in the latter portion of the 6th century BC (see Malachi 1, ca. 450 BC, and also cf. Ezekiel 32:29), perhaps at the hands of Nabonidus (556-539 BC), who was the last of the Babylonian rulers. By 512 BC it is all but certain that Petra was occupied by the Nabataeans, a nomadic Arabic that had entered the land, an influence echoed by Nehemiah (ca. 444-432 BC, in Neh. 2:10, 19; 4:3,7; 6:1-15; and 13:1-2,23).

The Book as a Whole:

1. It is the _____ book in the Old Testament and arguably the most _____ of the 12 minor prophets in the Hebrew Bible since it has a single prophecy against Edom.
2. This book's addressing of a nation near Israel is not unique among biblical prophet since "oracles against foreign nations" is a common theme (dozens of times the prophets have a "word for the world").
3. Obadiah emphasizes, along with other prophets, that the key ingredient to avoid God's righteous judgment is to be faithfully living in a covenantal relationship with Him.
4. Edom is liable for their oppressive attitude and actions toward Israel because they knew better and were declaring their priority of prideful self-centeredness and God will act on "the Day of the LORD" to vindicate Himself and His people when Mt. Zion becomes a refuge for the faithful.

The Prophet Himself:

1. Obadiah means "_____ of _____."
2. There are at least 12 other Old Testament characters named Obadiah,

none of which seem to be the prophet of this book.

3. Little is known about this man who was faithful to proclaim God's message to the nation of Edom, the distant relatives of the Israelites. *Do you know how and who and when?*

The Outline:

- I. Pride Leads to a Fall (1-9)
- II. Pride Takes Many Forms (10-14)
- III. Pride Requires God's Forceful Truth (15-21)

The Prophet's Purpose: To Reveal God's Covenant Love by Commanding All in His World to live humbly and faithfully in honoring Him.

Key Verse: "The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'...The Day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return on your own head." (3,15)

Pride Alert! When Pride Prevails...

1. _____ fail (1-14).

- 1) Your relationship with _____ because you really don't believe you _____ Him.
- 2) Your relationship with _____ because you refuse to _____ them.
- 3) Your relationship with _____ because you don't know your _____ purpose.

2. _____ follow (15-21).

- 1) The _____ of the universe has a general _____ about it.
- 2) The _____ of God has an eternal _____ about it.
- 3) The _____ of God has a positive _____ about it.

How shall we then be alert to Pride?

1. Discover and pursue your God-given purpose, which will always center around service to others.
2. Stay mindful of the myriad of forms that pride takes and immediately confess it and ask Holy Spirit to eradicate it from your heart.
3. Pray daily that your only hope will be in Jesus, asking for His Life to increasingly become the only one that others see in you.