

Not My Problem

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

Obadiah 1 *ESV* 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!"

- Here is what we know about Obadiah. His name means Servant of God and he recorded a vision that he received from God.
- There are 13 (including this one) Obadiah's mentioned in the Bible and none of them really fit in the biblical timeline with Obadiah who is sharing his vision from the Lord in this short book.
- Who is Edom?
 - Edom is the nation that traces its lineage back to Esau (Grandson of Abraham, son of Isaac, brother of Jacob).
 - His name means red ([Genesis 25:25, 29](#)).
 - This nation is a brother nation to Israel.

Deuteronomy 23:7 *ESV* "You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother.

- The Edomites settled in the mountains of Seir, south and east of the Dead Sea. They carved their strongholds into sandstone cliffs. It's difficult terrain; deep gorges, narrow canyon approaches, and peaks reaching 5,700 feet. They were naturally fortified and practically unreachable.
- This vision from God to Obadiah outlines their pride (vs. 1-9) which leads to their treatment of Judah (vs. 10-14) which results in the judgment of God (vs. 15-21)
- This vision likely takes place in 586 B.C. when Jerusalem is destroyed by the Babylonians.
- How does the book of Obadiah impact my life?
 - At the heart of this vision is God's description of and judgment against pride.
 - Pride is not a new problem. The destructive nature of pride is recorded throughout Scripture.
 - Pride is not a problem for someone else.
 - Let's move to the book of James for a moment.
 - This is a letter that is written to the Jewish Christians that have been dispersed because of their belief in Jesus ([James 1:1](#))
 - As you begin to move through the book of James you find that, even in suffering, pride is a problem.

James 4:6–10 *ESV* But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Pride Looks Down

Obadiah 3 *ESV* 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?"

- The geography of Edom gives us a physical picture of the attitude of pride.
 - High in their safe cities, protected by limited access, Edom literally looked down on everything and everyone.

Luke 18:9–12 ESV He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. C.S. Lewis

Pride Deceives

Obadiah 3–4 ESV 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.

- Notice that this conversation in verse 3 takes place in the heart.
- Here’s the promise of pride.
 - I live in the cleft of the rock, up high, nobody can attack me. I’m too high up, I’m too protected. I’m close to the stars.
- In pride we deceive ourselves.
 - Pride deceives us about our ability.
 - In many ways what’s happening in verse 3-4 echo [Genesis 11](#).

Genesis 11:4 ESV Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

Genesis 11:7 ESV Come, let us go down...”

- Pride deceives us about our security.

Obadiah 4 ESV 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.

Pride Is Opposed

James 4:6 *ESV* But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

- God’s opposition is not the opposition of a bully.
- God’s opposition is for our good.
- God’s opposition is just.
 - Remember the context of Obadiah. Judah has been attacked, Jerusalem destroyed, many of your friends and family taken into captivity and your brothers are sitting in their mountain fortress gloating and in some cases using the Babylonians as an excuse to pick your pockets and enslave your people.
- Pride builds a kingdom that proclaims good while destroying everything it touches.

Obadiah 5–9 *ESV*

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? How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures sought out! 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. Will I not on that day, declares the Lord, destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau? And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman, so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.

- The destruction is in wealth, alliances, wisdom, and strength.

The Goodness of Grace

James 4:6 *ESV*

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

- It’s easy to read this verse like separate thoughts, grace over here and opposition over there.
- Grace and Opposition are both the mercy of God applied directly to our need.

Obadiah 3 *ESV*

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?”

Exodus 33:22 *ESV*

and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.