



God's Promise to the Proud

Lesson 5 • Obadiah 2-9

God's Promise to the Proud: **PRIDE GOES BEFORE YOUR FALL!**

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

Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; assuredly, he will not be unpunished." Proverbs 16:5

"There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes..." Proverbs 6:16

"...Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate." Proverbs 8:13

"...No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure." Psalm 101:5

"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted." Matthew 23:12

"...for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 1Peter 5:5

"...Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

Even though God will always keep His promise to the proud, there's still time to **HUMBLE OURSELVES** today!

1. The Cause of Edom's Fall: **A PROUD HEART.** (vv. 2-4)

Why Do Proud Hearts Deserve Such Harsh Judgment from the Lord GOD?

➤ Pride is the sin of **SINS**.

Proverbs 6:16-17; 8:13; Psalm 101:5

1. Pride brought down **SATAN** and his demons. *Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:2, 6, 9*
2. Pride brought down **ADAM** and his descendants. *Genesis 3:5*

➤ Pride is a sin of the **HEART**.

*"The pride of **your heart**...You who say **in your heart**..." Obadiah 3*

"The man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve the LORD your God, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel." Deuteronomy 17:12

A Proud Heart Is...

1. Self-**CENTERED**: "I..."
2. Self-**WILLED**: "I will..."
3. Self-**EXALTING**: "I will be like God!"
4. Self-**CONFIDENT**: "Who will bring me down to the ground?"
5. Self-**DECEIVED**: "I am not proud and I will not fall!"

- False sense of **HUMILITY** due to deception of the heart.
"Humility is the strange thing one loses the moment he thinks he has it!"
- False sense of **SECURITY** due to confidence in the flesh.

2. The Certainty of Edom's Fall: ***The WILL of God.*** (vv. 2, 4, 8)

- God's will **DECREES** it! (vv. 2, 4, 8)
- God's Word **REVEALS** it! (vv. 1, 4, 8, 18)
- God's war **FULFILLS** it! (vv. 1, 7-8)

Humble yourself before God and the people He sends to confront or counsel you!

3. The Completeness of Edom's Fall: ***A Total LOSS.*** (vv. 5-9)

- "Friends" will **FORSAKE** you! (vv. 6-7)

Despise you, betray you, and exploit you in due time.

- Flesh will **FAIL** you! (vv. 8-9a)

*"The strongest men in the world are those who are the weak before God;
the greatest men are those who are humble before God; the tallest are those who bend before God!"*
– Richard Halverson, Former Chaplain to the Senate

- Faithfulness of God will **FLATTEN** you! (v. 9b)

Cut-off from their carnal companions and their carnal confidences.

HOPE for the HUMBLER: *SEEK HUMILITY!*

"God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves!" – Evangelist D. L. Moody

- ☐ Humble yourself before God does. *Matthew 23:12; James 4:10*
A person on their face before God doesn't have far to fall!
- ☐ Confess your sins to one another. *James 4:8-9; 5:16*
The smaller we become the more room God has to work!
- ☐ Submit to God and resist the devil. *James 4:6-7*
The person who humbly bows before God is sure to walk upright before men!

OBADIAH

"Servant of Yahweh"

Yahweh's Humble Servant Sees the Fall of
"O Bad Edom" Due to Their Proud Violence! (1a)

HOPE for the HUMBLE & WARNINGS for the PROUD

The Day of the LORD Will Bring "Reap What You Sow" Judgment on All Nations! (vv. 3-4, 10, 15, 21)

Day of Doom					Day of Discipline					Day of Destiny																			
1		Proud Edom			9		10		Humbled Judah		14		15		The LORD Reigns Over the Proud and the Humble			21											
The Lord GOD will use the nations to destroy proud Edom on their future day (1x) of doom. Everyone will be cut from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.					The Lord GOD used the nations to humble Israel/Jacob, but Edom/Esau will reap what he has sown on the day (10x) of his brother's misfortune, destruction, distress (2x), disaster (3x).					The Day of the Lord is the future day (1x) of final judgment for all nations. The Kingdom of the LORD will come and bring "reap what you sow" judgment of wrath for the proud and reward for the humble.																			
FALSE SENSE of SECURITY					JUST SENTENCE of SEVERITY					TRUE STATE of SOVEREIGNTY																			
1a		1:b		2		4		5		9		10		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21	
The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom—		Edom's Doom COMMANDED		Edom's Doom CERTAIN		Edom's Doom COMPLETE		Edom/Esau Does SHAMEFUL VIOLENCE to HIS BROTHER, JUDAH/JACOB		PIVOT		Reap the CUP of ETERNAL WRATH		Reap the FIRE of ETERNAL JUDGMENT		Reap the PROMISES of the ETERNAL KINGDOM		The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to rule over the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the LORD's!											
		"We have heard a report from the LORD" an envoy has been sent among the nations: "Arise and let us go against her in battle—		Despised (2) "Behold, I will make you small among the nations." Deceived (3) "Who will bring me down to earth?" Downfall (4) "Though you build high like the eagle, though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD!"		Treasures Pillaged (5-6) Treaties Broken (7) "Will I not on that day," declares the LORD, destroy..." (8a) Trust Shattered (8b-9a) Total Slaughter (9b)		God's JUDGMENT (10) You will be shamefully cut off forever for the violence done to your brother, Jacob. Edom OBSERVED (11) You stood aloof while strangers and enemies attacked the city of Jerusalem—you too were as one of them. (11) Edom GLOATED (12) Do not (3x) sneer while watching the suffering of the sons of Judah. Edom LOOTED (13) Do not (3x) selfishly exploit the people of Yahweh in their weakness. Edom MURDERED (14) Do not (2x) stand to slaughter or enslave the survivors who try to escape. God's JUDGMENT (15) You with all the nations will suffer My wrath continually just as My people suffered it temporarily on My holy Mount Zion as you celebrated over them.		Day of the LORD Draws Near on All Nations "As you have done, it will be done to you." "Reap What You Sow" Judgment		The Extent Because the nations drank in victory on God's holy mountain, they will drink the cup of God's wrath and become as if they never existed. BUT on Mount Zion will be those who escape, and it will be holy. The house of Jacob —Israel's remnant— will repossess their possessions and their dispossessors . Israel REDEEMED!		The Execution Then the house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame. BUT the house of Esau will be stubble and consumed by fire until the house of Esau has no survivors, "for the LORD has spoken!" Israel REUNITED!		The Effect All Israel Will Possess All the LORD's Promises • SOUTH: Negev will possess mountain of Esau • WEST: Shephelah the Philistine plain • EAST: Also possess Ephraim and Samaria Benjamin Gilead • NORTH: Exiles of Israel and Judah from Zarephath (far north) will possess the Negev. The final conquest of Promised Land/Mount Zion by restored Israel in the coming Kingdom! Israel RETURNED!													
The Lord GOD will call the NATIONS to destroy EDM.					The Lord GOD disciplined JUDAH with OTHER NATIONS but EDM/ESAU took advantage of JUDAH/JACOB.					The LORD God judges ALL NATIONS but saves REMNANT of ISRAEL.					ISRAEL possesses LAND/NATIONS and the LORD rules His KINGDOM!														
FUTURE PREDICTION NOW FULFILLED and STILL TRUE of EDM – "Petra" is a tourist attraction!					RECENT PAST that is OUR FAR PAST and STILL TRUE of ISRAEL– under divine discipline!					FAR FUTURE PREDICTION yet to BE COMPLETELY FULFILLED but PARTIALLY FULFILLED with the 1st COMING of the LORD God, Jesus Christ, who is the HUMBLE SERVANT and the EXALTED SOVEREIGN!																			
DAY		8 "Will I not on that day, declares the LORD, destroy wise men from Edom...?"					11 on the day that you stood aloof...on the day that strangers carried off... 12 Do not gloat over your brother's day, the day of his misfortune, in the day of their destruction...do not boast in the day of their distress 13 Do not enter the gate of My people in the day of their distress do not gloat over their calamity on the day of their disaster Do not loot their wealth in the day of their disaster. 14 Do not stand in the fork of the road to cut down their fugitives; and do not imprison their survivors in the day of their distress.					15 For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your head.																	
TRIUNE GOD		1 Thus says the Lord GOD...a report from the LORD		4 "I will bring you down," declares the LORD. 8 "Will I not on that day," declares the LORD,								15 For the day of the LORD draws near on all nations		18 For the LORD has spoken		21 and the kingdom will be the LORD'S.													
EDOM/ ESAU JUDAH/ JACOB		1 concerning Edom		4 who live in the clefts of the rock (Sela?) 6 O how Esau will be ransacked 8 wise men from Edom from the mountain of Esau mighty men...dismayed, O Teman 9 in order that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau				10 your brother Jacob 11 And cast lots for Jerusalem 12 your brother's day...sons of Judah 13 Do not enter the gate of My people				16 you drank on My holy mountain 17 But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, and it will be holy the house of Jacob will possess		18 the house of Jacob will be a fire the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau as stubble		19 Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, areas of Philistines, Ephraim, Samaria Benjamin in Gilead 20 exiles of Israel & Jerusalem 21 deliverers ascend Mt Zion to judge the mt. of Esau, kingdom will be the Lord's													

HOPE for the Humble and Warnings for the Proud!

The Day of the LORD Will Bring “Reap What You Sow” Judgment to All Nations! Key Verses: 3-4, 10, 15, 21; Proverbs 16:18; Matthew 23:12; James 4:6-10

- NAME** Obadiah: “**Servant of Yahweh.**” Servant can also mean “worshiper.” 13 men have this name in the OT. Each one lived up to his name as a faithful servant of Yahweh. It’s possible this is merely a description of his role as a prophet, since Yahweh’s favorite term for His prophets was: “*My servants the prophets.*” In any case, “this particular Obadiah lived up to his name in a special way as a man in the prophetic serve of his God” (Allen, NICOT, 144).
- DATE** Two possible dates: Early date of **c. 845 BC** or later date after Judah’s fall in **586 BC** but before Edom’s fall to Babylon in **553 BC**. If the early date is correct, then Obadiah is the earliest of the writing prophets and a contemporary of Joel as well as the prophets Elijah and/or Elisha. Based on the earlier date, some have suggested this Obadiah is the same as King Ahab’s steward (1 Kings 18:3–16; 9th century B.C.). But Ahab’s steward faithfully *protected persecuted prophets* and was *not a prophet himself*.
- PLACE** Obadiah prophesied to Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Like all the prophets (except Hosea from the Northern Kingdom) he was likely from Judah and an eyewitness to the violence done to Jerusalem (vv. 10-14) by Edom, their neighboring nation and blood relatives. Depending on the date, he either prophesied during the early days of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah that occurred after the death of King Solomon (931 BC) or soon after the Fall of Jerusalem (586 BC) and the exile of Judah by the Babylonians. Regardless of the date, the Edomites (descendants of Esau) took advantage of Judah (decadents of Esau’s twin brother, Jacob) as Jerusalem was attacked. They were passive observers who gloated, looted, and then actively participated in the slaughter of Jerusalem’s survivors.
- CANON** Canonically the fourth Minor Prophet listed in English Bibles as well as in the Jewish Book of the Twelve. Chronologically, either **the first of all the Writing Prophets** (Early Date) or **the last of all the 12 Minor Prophets** after the Fall of Jerusalem around the time of Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel (Later Date). Following the early date, Obadiah is the first to predict the coming Day of the LORD but unlike his contemporary Joel he focuses specifically on the violence done by the nation of Edom to Judah, their neighboring nation and blood relatives. Thus, the first of all the writing prophets predicts the final fulfillment of the prophetic blessings and curses on the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah: Esau/Edom and Jacob/Israel (See Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-46; 35:1-15; 36:1-43.).
- PURPOSE** A vision filled with warnings for proud nations like Edom (and fleshly people like Esau) who show a lack of love for the hopeless and helpless, especially doing violence to God’s people. But there’s hope for the humble who persevere though hard times of persecution and wait patiently for the coming of the Day of the LORD. Then they will join the Lord GOD (v. 1) in bringing down the proud nations and will inherit the fullness of His promises in His Kingdom (vv. 15-19)! Obadiah predicts both a *near future fulfillment* of the Day of the LORD for Edom (v. 8) and the *far future fulfillment* at the coming of the Messiah with His kingdom (v. 21).
- FOCUS** “*For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head*” (v. 15). Pride comes before a fall but there’s hope for the humble on the Day of the LORD (vv. 3-4, 10, 21)! The Hebrew understanding of a “day” comprised an evening and a morning – a night and a day. The Day of the LORD is first a time of darkness (judgment) and then a time of light (salvation). Obadiah 15-21 includes both a night of judgment for the proud nations (*especially Edom*) and a day of deliverance for the humbled nation of Israel. The proud will reap what they sowed, while the humble will receive the rewards of saving grace. The LORD’s humbled nation (*especially Judah*, vv. 10-14) will be delivered to ascend Mount Zion and with their mighty King to bring “*reap what you sow*” judgment on the proud nations, conquering them, ruling over them, and fully re-possessing the land and the LORD’s covenant promises!
- CHRIST** Jesus is the **Suffering Servant** who was mocked and cut down by the Gentiles, His own nation, and even His relatives (vv. 1, 10-14). Jesus is the **Just Judge** who will give everyone what they deserve on the day of the LORD (vv. 15-16). Jesus is the **Fiery Warrior** who will lead His angels and people into the final battle (vv. 17-18). Jesus is the **Conquering King** who will reunite Israel and restore them to the land of promise (vv. 19-20). Jesus is the **Sovereign Savior** who will deliver His people, judge the nations, and establish His kingdom reign on the earth (v. 21). The two advents of Jesus Christ fulfill the Day of the LORD in **judgment** (Cross and Future Tribulation) and **salvation** (Gospel and Future Millennial Kingdom). Jesus is the “Lord GOD” (v. 1) incarnate who is the all-powerful, ultimate Promise Keeper. As the perfect “**Servant of Yahweh**” (cf. Isaiah Servant Songs), He did not selfishly hold onto His heavenly glory but humbled Himself by taking on a sinless human nature. Being found in the likeness of a servant, Jesus became obedient to the point of a cross death (Phil 2:5-11). The Father rewarded Him for His humble obedience and highly exalted Him above all people and powers. On the final “**Day of the LORD**” every knee will bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is **LORD, the I AM God** who spoke through Obadiah!
- APPLICATION** **Jesus is my “I AM”, so I can be His “Obadiah”** – a humble servant of Yahweh and a future ruler with Him in His coming Kingdom (Phil 2:5-30; Matt 19:28; Rev 20:4)!
- **TRUST** in the Suffering Servant and Sovereign Savior, *the Lord Jesus Christ*, for He alone has served humbly and sinlessly. He alone is our steadfast hope for salvation both now and in the future (Phil 2:5-11).
 - **WISELY HEED** the LORD’S warning: “*Pride comes before a fall*” (Prov 16:18; 11:2; 18:12; 16:5; 6:16-17; 8:13; Psalm 101:5; James 4:6)!
 - **HUMBLE YOURSELF** before the LORD and He will eventually lift you up and reward you in His coming Kingdom. (Prov 3:34; 16:19; Psalm 138:6; Isa 54:7-8; 57:15; Matt 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14; 1Peter 5:5; James 4:7-10).
 - **SHOW COMPASSION** to your fellow image-bearers, your own family, and especially the household of God (Prov 3:27; Gal 6:9-10; 1Tim 5:8).
 - **WAIT PATIENTLY** for the Lord’s “*reap what you sow*” judgment: *Sow to the flesh and reap corruption but sow to the Spirit and reap eternal life* (Gal 6:7-8; James 5:7-11)!
 - **PERSEVERE** through hard times for the Day of the LORD is near to reward the humble and punish the proud (Phil 4:4-5).
 - **KEEP IN STEP** with the Spirit and you won’t do the works of the flesh and become a defiling root of bitterness like Esau (Gal 5:13-26; Heb 12:14-17).
 - **FAITHFULLY SERVE** the Lord and His people like the 13 Obadias in the Bible even when it is costly (Matt 25:21, 23; Lk 19:17; Rev 20:4).
 - **REJOICE** in God’s undeserved grace that saves us by faith alone in Christ alone and keeps us humble due to His unconditional election (Mal 1:2-3; Rom 9:10-26). There’s a future for the repentant nation of Israel just as repentant Gentiles presently enter the Church. Together Israel and the Church will reign as God’s one people in Christ Jesus (Rom 11:7-36). “*Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.*” (Rom 11:22).