

THE SINS OF EDOM
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Obadiah 1:1-15

1. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament, but it has an important message.
2. As we will see, the sins of Edom are common to individual people and nations.
3. Edom, also referred to as Indumea, descended from Jacob's brother Esau.
4. The Israelites and the Edomites were adversaries throughout Old Testament history.
5. God judged the sins of Edom and they ceased to exist as a distinct people group in 70 AD.
6. However the events behind Obadiah's message probably happened between 848 and 841 BC.

2 Chronicles 21:8-15

In his (Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat) days Edom revolted against the rule of Judah and set up a king over themselves. 9 Then Jehoram crossed over with his commanders and all his chariots with him. And he arose by night and struck down the Edomites who were surrounding him and the commanders of the chariots. 10 So Edom revolted against Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time against his rule, because he had forsaken the Lord God of his fathers. 11 Moreover, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot and led Judah astray. 12 Then a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet saying, "Thus says the Lord God of your father David, 'Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father and the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13 but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot as the house of Ahab played the harlot, and you have also killed your brothers, your own family, who were better than you, 14 behold, the Lord is going to strike your people, your sons, your wives and all your possessions with a great calamity; 15 and you will suffer severe sickness, a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the sickness, day by day.'"

7. Edom apparently participated in and rejoiced over God's judgment on Jehoram and Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 21:16-20

Then the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians; 17 and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons. 18 So after all this the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable sickness. 19 Now it came about in the course of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels came out because of his sickness and he died in great pain. And his people made no fire for him like the fire for his fathers. 20 He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years; and he departed with no one's regret, and they buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

8. Edom manifested several sinful characteristics for which God held them accountable.

9. Sadly these sinful characteristics continue to afflict individuals and nations.

I. The sin of pride. 3

- A. Obadiah stated, "The arrogance of your heart has deceived you."
- B. The word arrogance is just another word for pride.
- C. James Montgomery Boice wrote, "The root of pride is saying that we can do without God."
- D. Many, even many professing Christians, live lives of prideful independence.

E. Several passages come to mind related to pride and how God responds to it.

1. Psalm 14:1

“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” (Literately, “No God.”)

2. Proverbs 16:18-19

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. 19 It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.

3. Paul confronted the Corinthians related to their prideful arrogance. 1 Cor 4:6-8

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become **arrogant** in behalf of one against the other. 7 For who regards you as **superior**? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, **why do you boast** as if you had not received it? 8 You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

4. Peter also dealt with the issue of pride. 1 Peter 5:1-7

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 **nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge**, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 **You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

II. The sin of presumption.3-4

A. The Edomites were in an enviable position geographically and financially.

1. Their population centers were well protected by natural barriers that made an attack almost impossible.

2. They controlled a major trade route that brought them much income from tolls and theft.

NOTE: When Israel asked permission pass through their territory in route to the Promised Land the Edomites refused to allow them passage. Numbers 20:14-21

B. God has no problem humbling individuals or nations.

1. The attitude of the Edomites was, “Who will bring me down to earth?”

2. God’s response was, “Though you build high like the eagle, though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down.”

C. Presuming upon God is foolish and dangerous.

1. Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." 14 But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." 16 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. 17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to

come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' 21 "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

2. James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."

III. The sin of prejudice. 10-15

A. Racial prejudice has existed and continues to exist in many forms.

B. Man's inhumanity to man is often driven by some form of prejudice.

Note Edom's response to what happened to their brother Jacob. 10, 12

C. When Jesus walked the earth He confronted Jewish prejudices by reaching out to those who were looked down on and despised by the Jews of His day.

D. Early in church history God dealt powerfully and pointedly with Peter related to his racial and religious prejudices towards Gentiles. Acts 10

E. Note particularly Peter's words to Cornelius recorded in Acts 10:28-29.

And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet **God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.** 29 "That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

APPLICATION

1. None of what I have said today implies that we should condone lifestyle choices that are clearly contrary to God's plans and purposes, but that does not mean that we should not care about people who are lost and living outside the will of God.

2. However we should manifest humility before God and men, we should not be presumptuous, nor should we devalue people based on cultural considerations.

3. God is able to save and sanctify all who will repent towards Him and embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

4. Every human being is potentially our brother and sister in Christ, and we should see them as such.