

Title: Sin of Sins

Text: Obadiah (Servant or Worshipper of the Lord)

Target: To see pride in ourselves the way we so clearly see pride in other people.

- I. **The Deception of Pride:** *“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?” (Vs. 3)*
 - A. **Root of Sin:** *“your heart”* (Vs. 3), (Isaiah 14:12-14)
 1. **“Arrogant in Heart”:** (Proverbs 16:5)
 2. **“Haughty Spirit”:** (Proverbs 16:18)
 - B. **Revealing Sin:** *“lofty dwelling”* (Vs. 3)
 1. **Pride of Morality:** Superiority
 - a) Legalism
 - b) Critical spirit
 - c) Comparison
 2. **Pride of Knowledge:** Elitism
 - a) Always right and opinionated.
 - b) Defensive when corrected.
 3. **Pride of Power:** Authority
 - a) Need to be respected.
 - b) Take all the credit.
 4. **Pride of Appearance:** Identity
 - a) Perception matters most.
 - b) Need to be recognized.
 - c) Judgmental of others.- II. **The Descent of Pride:** *“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.” (Vs. 4)*
 - A. **Encounter Resistance (Circumstantially):** *“Opposes the proud”* (James 4:6)
 - B. **Experience Reproof (Relationally):** *“he who listens to reproof acquires understanding”* (Proverbs 15:32)
 - C. **Endure Rebuke (Spiritually):** *“Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure.”* (Psalm 101:5)
- III. **The Destruction of Pride:** *“For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.” (Vs. 15)*
 - A. **Relational Separation:** Boundaries est. towards you.
 - B. **Positional Humiliation:** Exposed for true intent.
 - C. **Material Devastation:** Idols removed.
 - D. **Spiritual Disconnection:** Fellowship broken with God.
- IV. **The Death of Pride:** *Seek the LORD and His strength; seek his presence continually!* (1 Chronicles 16:11)

- A. **Pursue Humility:** *“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another”* 1 Peter 5:5
- B. **Practice Servanthood:** *“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Phil. 2:3)*
- C. **Personify Gratitude:** *What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? (1 Cor. 4:7)*

Takeaway: *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 14:11)*

Discussion Questions: Scholars aren't sure who Obadiah was or when the book was written. Although it appears to have been written shortly after the final destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. What we do know is that the book gives a stern condemnation of Edom (descendants of Esau) for their participation in the destruction of Jerusalem and its treatment of the people of Judah (descendants of Jacob). This is a prideful conflict that goes all the way back to the womb (see Genesis 25:21-26). Other than this, not much is known.

However, what we can glean is there was a spirit of pride that consumed the people of Edom. What is your initial reaction to the word pride when you hear it? Is it a visceral reaction or one of indifference? We know that pride leads to a myriad of rebellious actions in defiance towards God. Why is this? What is it about our pride that is juxtaposed to a right standing before God? And why do we choose our own pride over God so easily?

What does the Bible say about the worldly and ultimate results of pride (see above notes)?

What can we do to best combat a prideful heart? What does this look like in a practical sense?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you locate the areas of your life where you have placed your trust in yourself rather than God. Then, be willing to allow the work of the Spirit to help you root them out of your heart.