

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

Pastor Howard Daniel, Jr.

4357 US Hwy 59 South

P.O. Box 343

Livingston, Texas 77351

936-327-8870



MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE PRIDE OF THINE HEART HATH DECEIVED THEE

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **OBADIAH 1:1-3**

Obadiah 1:3, The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, *thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the July 1, 2018 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. As I elude to in the Background, Obadiah is a very short but powerful book.
- b. There are many folks who believe this book is not worth reading, studying and if it were omitted from the Bible, it would not be missed. I disagree wholeheartedly and believe the truths of this book are more up-to-date than the average newspaper headlines across America and speaks to the very conscience of our nation during this 4th of July.
- c. Do not be deceived by the brevity of this short message from this important prophet.
- d. Many times, when we study these so-called Minor Prophets, we do not believe they have a potent message.
- e. **This message primarily pertains to pride and how a believer or a nation can avoid it.**
- f. It will also teach us the Edomites did not want to help their brethren. We cannot help but to feel the division and the hate that exist in our great nation among our people.
- g. If you will recall when we look back into the Word of God, this struggle began in the womb between Esau and Jacob.
- h. Obadiah puts forth a devastating judgment against the little kingdom of Edom. America is being warned of God each and every day and this

Fourth of July is no different. There will be an abundance of law enforcement and military on high alert to protect our resources and citizens. I am reminded that we have turned our back on God and His Word.

- i. To speak of the struggle, it is outlined in **Genesis 25:22-23**, And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord. 23: And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.
- j. These boys were not identical twins; they were totally opposite, according to the Word of God.
- k. With that Introduction, let's look at the points of the message and see what we can glean from God's precious Word.

3. THREE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. We have heard a rumour from the Lord.

- 1. **Obadiah 1:1**, *The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.*
- 2. The prophet Obadiah is blunt, but he is to the point.
- 3. He gets right to the mission God gave him in a vision for the Edomites.
- 4. As we mentioned before this was a very common name in Israel, so we know very little about Obadiah except he was a servant of Jehovah.
- 5. Notice it says he was given a vision from the Lord and says it was directly from God Himself.
- 6. *"The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom;"*
- 7. We know specifically that this is **a message for the Edomites**. Make no mistake we are reading the Jews mail, but it does have vital applications to America.
- 8. Let's look at some of the background and see if we can identify where the Edomites came from.
 - a. In Genesis we have a record of Esau and Jacob.
 - b. Notice in **Genesis 36:1**, *Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom.*
 - c. Also, in **Genesis 36:8-9**, *Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom. 9: And these are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in mount Seir:*

- d. The record plainly states that the Edomites are from Esau.
- e. Esau and his twin brother Jacob are descendants of Isaac and Rebekah.
- f. This struggle began in the womb.
- g. Jacob had spiritual discernment and Esau was a man of the flesh. **Romans 8:8**, *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- h. The birthright involved in the process is recorded in **Genesis 25:30-34**, *And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. 31: And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. 32: And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33: And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. 34: Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.*
- i. This man sold his birthright because it was a desire of the flesh. However, we must note that it did fulfill prophecy. **Genesis 25:23**, *And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.*
- j. He was willing to trade his entire spiritual heritage for the whim of the moment. Likewise, In America, we are so willing to please the masses until we are bold enough to re-define marriage which is a direct violation of God's Preserved Word.
- k. The man who had the birthright was in contact with God; he was the priest of the family if you will; the man who had the covenant and the relationship with God.
- l. In effect, Esau indicated he would rather have a bowl of soup than have a relationship with God.
- m. What a sad picture indeed!
- n. It pictures the Christian today; every single believer has two natures within him. **Romans 7:23**, *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*
- o. These two natures are struggling as did Esau and Jacob.
- p. This is an excellent picture of the flesh and the Spirit and the warfare that exists between the two. **Galatians 5:17**, *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:*

and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

- q. Every single believer must realize once we are saved and born again, there is an old nature that continues to exist and there is a new nature which is the nature of God Himself. **1 John 3:9**, *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*
- r. Esau pictures the flesh; the old nature, and Jacob pictures the Spirit; the new nature.
- s. To pin point a little bit clearer, Esau represented the flesh and became Edom.
- t. Jacob represented the Spirit and became Israel; the prince of God.
- u. As we look deeper in the Word of God about these brothers, it takes us to the **Book of Malachi 1: 2-3**, *I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, 3: And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.*
- 9. When we analyze this in light of **John 3:16** we are left in a dilemma. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- 10. **I want to emphasize that it was not the soul of Esau that God was speaking about it was the sin of pride; the flesh that is represented by this man whom God did hate.**
- 11. God says in **Proverbs 6:16-19** there are six things He hates, and He starts off with pride. *These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18: An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19: A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*
- 12. In the last book of the Old Testament God outlines His hate for Esau and His love for Jacob.
- 13. They have both become nations; Edom and Israel.
- 14. Israel has been mightily used by God over the centuries. To them were committed the oracles of God. **Romans 3:2**, *Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. Hebrews 5:12*, *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers,*

ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. **1 Peter 4:11**, If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

15. Israel has produced men like Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Hezekiah, Nehemiah, Ezra, and so on down the line.
16. We must remember that the nation that came from Esau was a godless nation and turned their back on God. Although America has indeed been blessed of God, when we wonder away from Him it is no longer "In God We Trust," but it becomes a god-less nation.
17. What was the cause? *The sin of pride caused God to hate Esau and hate that nation. These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17: A proud look,...*

b. I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

1. **Obadiah 1:2**, Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.
2. God had blessed Esau and he became a great nation.
3. Obadiah's prophecy looks into the future, but from where we stand it has already been fulfilled.
4. What was the great sin of Edom that brought the judgment of God?
5. **Most definitely it was the sin of pride.**
6. *"I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised."* - literally means that God is about to bring judgment.

c. The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee.

1. **Obadiah 1:3**, The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?
2. We can see very clearly why God would make the statement He hated Esau and Edom.
3. **Pride is bad; it will totally destroy a human being. Proverbs 8:13**, *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.* It fosters negativity and captivates the mind with criticism, doubt, suspicion, resentment, bitterness, selfishness and hate. With respect to America, God tells us righteousness exalts the nation. **Proverbs 14:34** *Righteousness*

- exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*
4. It will also destroy ministries, people, and the things of God. **Proverbs 16:18**, *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*
 5. It is a sad commentary when pride exists in a family of Christians. **Proverbs 29:23**, *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*
 6. *Pride is worse than drunkenness.*
 7. I am not advocating drunkenness because we know what God's Word says about that.
 8. I believe **pride is the sin of all sins.**
 9. Edom had been eaten up by pride. Likewise, America is so prideful until we re-write God's Preserved Word and violate Biblical principles and have the audacity to ask for God's blessings, although written to the nation of Israel, God Word's says *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* (**2 Chronicles 7:14**) We must understand this verse pertains to Israel and not America; however, we are able to make application.
 10. As mentioned in the introduction, pride is at the top of the list in things that God hates recorded in **Proverbs 6:16**.
 11. The Bible says *God resisteth the proud.* **James 4:6**, *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*
 12. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. **Proverbs 8:13**, *The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*
 13. In **1 John 2:16** the Bible says, *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*
 14. Where does pride emanate from?
 15. *Pride comes from Satan, so we must be careful not to fall into his trap.*
 16. *Many saints today face the issue of pride.*
 17. We have pride of race, and faith.
 18. People are even proud to have been saved by grace and attempt to gain some credit for the salvation process.
 19. Grace is a blessed thing that Jesus Christ has provided for us, but there is nothing for us to be prideful about because we have nothing to do with the salvation process. It is a transaction between

the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. **Philippians 2:5**, *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

20. What kind of mind does the Lord want us to have? Lowliness of mind. **Matthew 11:29**, *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
21. **Pride is a thing that will destroy a Christian's testimony regardless of how talented a person might be.**
22. We know that pride was a sin of Satan. **Isaiah 14:13-14**, *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*
23. Pride was also what drove Nebuchadnezzar to insanity.
24. He strutted through the palace like a peacock. **Daniel 4:30**, *The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?*
25. We must be very careful that God does not pronounce judgment upon us because of pride.
26. For Nebuchadnezzar, judgment came quickly; likewise, **God will set a believer on the shelf very early because of pride.**
27. While the word was in the king's mouth there fell a voice from Heaven saying, **Daniel 4:31-32**, *While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32: And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.*
28. This is the most severe illustration of pride.
29. Men and woman of God, once we know a little bit about the Scriptures and once God has blessed us, we want to demonstrate pride.
30. **All of us are on this same level; we are all sinners saved by grace and if God is using us we need to be humble in our approach.**

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, are you truly saved today?
- b. Do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour?
- c. If you do not know Him, today is the day of Salvation.

- d. Come to the side of the Living Saviour and be saved.
- e. **Revelation 3:20**, *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*
- f. Christ is ready, willing and able to save to the uttermost those who come to God by Him. **Hebrews 7:25**, *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
- g. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- h. **Romans 3:11**, *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*
- i. **Isaiah 64:6**, *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*
- j. Do not buy into the theory that eventually all people will be saved, it is only those who accept the record that God has given of His Son.
- k. **1 John 5:11-12**, *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*
- l. Would you please stand?

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