

Week of August 23, 2009
Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Obad. 12 "Do not gloat over your brother's day,
The day of his misfortune...
Yes, do not boast
In the day of their distress.

Truth is, it is harder to abide by these words than we would like to reveal. It is hard not to 'gloat' when we see someone 'get what they deserve.' It is hard to remember that 'except by the grace of God' misfortune would be mine. Compassion is easily replaced by a sense of pride. Prayers for grace and healing are easily replaced by a sense of "they got what they deserve". Jesus wept over Jerusalem and her coming judgment. Should we do less when we see a brother/sister fall? "Oh, God give us hearts of compassion and grace. Amen."

Tuesday

Obad. 3 "You have been deceived by your own pride because you live in a rock fortress and make your home high in the mountains." (NLT-SE)

Deceived by your own pride? You are deceived when you convince yourself that your sin is immune to judgment. Simply because God has been merciful and patient, some convince themselves that they are immune to sin's costs. Others think that their sins are well hidden. They reason that if no one knows, there will be no judgment. They forget that nothing is hidden from God. You are deceived by pride when you cease to be teachable, correctable, or become stubbornly willful.

Wednesday

Prov. 16:18 Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before stumbling..

Many people think themselves safe because of the fortifications they have built in their lives. Perhaps they have money, good employment, or high intelligence. But the scriptures are clear, safety is found only in the Lord and in obedience to Him. Edom felt secure because of its strong fortress, its solid rock walls, but no fortress is secure that God would decide not to breach. On what are you depending for your security? In what do you trust? Do not be deceived by your pride into thinking that you can live securely apart from obedience to God.

Thursday,

Obad. 10 "Because of violence to your brother Jacob,
You will be covered with shame.

God views our relationships as a sacred trust and views our treatment of our family as spiritually significant (spiritual and physical families). When we fail to genuinely show concern for one another, or worse, when we actively harm one another by word or deed, God is offended and angered. God warns that the marriage relationship is sacred, so is the relationship of parent and child. God reveals that the relationships of the church are sacred and the needs of our spiritual family should take precedence above our own. Learn to view your relationships as sacred. Remember that God sees your attitudes, words, and actions as significant.

Friday

Obad. 4 "Though you build high like the eagle,...
From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD..

You can be sure of this, God will make it right. He is patient in judgment allowing time for repentance, but His patience does not last forever. When you see injustice, when you see evil, do not think God is blind or those who walk in evil are immune to God's plan. No! God stores up His wrath for the time of judgment. Those who persist in evil will see the 'Day of Lord' come as a horrible surprise, a terrible retribution for their sin. In the end, God will reward those who walk uprightly and He will judge those who persist to defy His way. Ask Edom...if you can find him!