Edom’s Pride

Intro: Pride can be used in both a positive and negative way. It can either be “A reasonable or justifiable self-respect; or improper and excessive self-esteem known as conceit or arrogance” (Elwell 2:1752). Edom had the improper type of pride.

I. Warnings Against Pride

A. One of Satan’s ways to tempt man: 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 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. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

B. Pride is not of God, so God is against the proud.

1. He resisteth the proud.
   a. Jam. 4:6 “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”
   b. 1 Pet. 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

2. Vine states of resisteth that it is “originally a military term, to range in battle against...is used in the Middle Voice signifying to set oneself against, resist” (2:286).

C. Solomon’s (God’s) warnings:

1. Pro. 16:18 “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
2. Pro. 11:2 “When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”
3. Pro. 18:12 “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.”
4. Pro. 29:23 “A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

D. The proud:

1. The Edomites were proud so they paid no attention to God’s warnings and had been lulled into a false sense of security.
2. When we become arrogant in our hearts we will fail to pay attention to God’s warnings.

II. Pride Of Location

A. Obad. 3-4 “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? 4Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.”

B. They lived in the cleft of the rocks.

1. It made it seemingly impossible for any nation to gain access to them.
2. They thought no one could defeat them because of where they were located.
3. They were secure in their own heart.

C. Their pride had deceived them to such an extent they did not believe God could bring them down, but He would and did.

D. Americans

1. We as Americans often think that simply because we live in the United States, that no one can touch us.
2. While after the attacks of 9-11 this feeling is not as great, yet it is returning again.

E. The church:

1. Some think that because of where they are, nothing can harm them.
2. The “Bible belt,” one of our colleges or universities, one of the schools of preaching, etc.
III. **Pride Of Wealth**

A. **Oba. 5-6** “If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave *some* grapes? *How are the things* of Esau searched out! *how* are his hidden things sought up!”

B. **Concerning their wealth:**

1. Smith writes, “Edom controlled the great trade route known as the King’s Highway which connected Damascus in the north with the seaport Ezion-geber on the Red Sea. Rich copper and iron mines in the area also provided a source of wealth.”

2. Keil and Delitzsch state: “Obadiah mentions the plundering first, because Petra, the capital of Edom, was a great emporium of the Syrio-Arabian trade, where many valuables were stored (vid., Diod. Sic. xix. 95), and because with the loss of these riches the prosperity and power of Edom were destroyed” (10:238).

3. Warren Wiersbe writes, “Located on several major trade routes, Edom could amass the riches of other nations; and out of their mountains, they could dig copper and other minerals. Because of their isolation, they didn’t have to worry about making treaties with the larger nations or helping to finance expensive wars” (78).

C. **Their wealth would be destroyed.**

1. Thieves and robbers might not steal everything and leave something for them.
2. God was going to leave them with nothing.

D. **The United States:**

1. We have become very wealthy
2. We need to remember the One who gave us that wealth or He might take it all away.

E. **The church:**

1. Use to we were “across the tracks” (poor and rough looking buildings), but we were doing God’s work and grew.
2. We have become rich and have become self-centered.

IV. **Pride Of Alliances**

A. **Oba. 7** “All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee *even* to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, *and* prevailed against thee; *they that eat* thy bread have laid a wound under thee: *there is none* understanding in him.”

B. **In addition to their location, Edom knew they needed alliances.**

1. Nations had promised to help Edom, but their promises were lies.

2. Adam Clarke states: “The Chaldeans are here intended, to whom the Idumeans were attached, and whose agents they became in exercising cruelties upon the Jews.”

3. Walvoord and Zuck state: “Another point of irony in Obadiah 7 is that Edom, known for her wise men (cf. v. 8; Jer. 49:7), would be totally ignorant of her allies’ deceptive scheme. The downfall referred to here probably occurred in the late sixth or early fifth century B.C. when the Nabateans went to the Edomites who took them in for a banquet. Once welcomed inside Edomite territory, the Nabateans turned against their ally and killed the guards” (1:1456).

C. **The United States has made many alliances through the years (England, NATO, Israel, etc.), but often these nations let us down.**

D. **Many brethren.**

1. They look at the great influence their alliances have in the church.
2. They look at the money their alliances have or can raise, the big paying preaching jobs, etc.
3. They rely on their alliances instead of simply doing what God says and how He says to do it.

V. PRIDE OF WISDOM
A. Obad. 8 “Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?”
B. Edom was known for their wise men.
1. Matthew Henry wrote: “Edom had been famous for great statesmen, men of learning and experience, that sat at the help of government, and were masters of all the arts of management, that in all treaties used to outwit their neighbours.”
2. These wise men of Edom would be destroyed.
C. The United States today often relies on their scientist, technology, etc.
D. Today many trust in those they consider wise instead of searching out the Truth.
1. Those who are considered wise will say something and many will simply accept what is said.
2. Many do not realize that those who are considered wise are simply parroting the views of others.
3. Neither the wise nor their followers would ever defend what they state.
4. Sadly, they will often lead both themselves and those who follow them into eternal torment.

VI. PRIDE OF ARMIES
A. Edom’s fighting men who are courageous before the enemy and trained to enter the battle will be dismayed
1. Obad. 9 “And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.”
2. They were putting their trust in their own strength instead of relying on God.
B. The United States:
1. We often rely upon our number of armies and implements of war (missiles, smart bombs, war ships, etc.).
2. Our attitude is that we are the world’s superpower and no one can defeat us.
C. God is in control.
1. Dan. 2:21 “And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.”
2. Dan. 4:17, 25, 32 “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.... 25That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.... 32And 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.”
D. Righteousness is of value, not armies.
1. Prov. 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
2. If God is for us, no one can be against us no matter how strong or great their armies might be.
3. If God is against us, there is no way we will be able to stand.

Conclusion: If we are not careful, the pride of our heart will bring us down, even as it did the Edomites. We must humbly submit to God in all things.

Notice some of the things pride brings:

“The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined” (Psa. 10:2).

The proud try to oppress others. “Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me” (Psa. 119:122).

This brings contention and strife. “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom” (Pro. 13:10). “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat” (Pro. 28:25). “And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest” (Luke 22:24).

God announces that the proud is a scorner and deals in wrath, “Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath” (Pro. 21:24).

They will lie about others. “The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart” (Psa. 119:69).

There are those today who trust in their own strength and deny God. They will persecute, revile, and ridicule the righteous. These trust in scientific knowledge and wisdom, military might, their riches, and many other things. The righteous can take comfort in knowing that God will bring them down even as He did the Edomites.