

07-05-2026

Deep Cuts: The Untouchables Jay Nickless

Facts about the Book of Obadiah

- It is the shortest book in the Old Testament.
- We do not know for sure who wrote the book.
- The book is addressed to the descendants of the twin brothers Jacob and Esau, the Israelites and the Edomites.

Jacob and Esau were brothers, but their descendants hated each other so much that when the Babylonians invaded Israel, the Edomites watched, cheered, and participated in the looting.

Obadiah 1:3-4 (NIV 1984): "The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?' Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the Lord.

Three Specific Ways that Pride Deceives the Heart

Way #1: Distorting How We See Ourselves

Obadiah 1:3 (NIV 1984): "The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'"

Luke 12:16-21 (NIV 1984): And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Where am I trusting myself more than God?

Way #2: Diminishing Our Value of Others

Obadiah 1:12 (NIV 1984): "You should not look down on your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble."

Three Ways We Diminish Others

We diminish people when we treat them as:

- Objects
- Obstacles
- Opposition

Has my pride diminished the value of someone in my eyes?

Way #3: Dismissing Accountability

Obadiah 1:15 (NIV 1984): "The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head."

Matthew 12:36 (NIV 1984): "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."

Romans 14:10-12 (NIV 1984): You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Obadiah 1:15 (NIV 1984): ... "As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head."

Obadiah 1:18 (NIV 1984): ... The LORD has spoken.

To Edom, God spoke judgment.

To Israel, God spoke deliverance and restoration.

Romans 6:23 (NIV 1984): For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Peter 5:5-7 (NIV 1984): ... All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Romans 15:13 (NIV 1984): May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.