

Judgment and Hope: A study of Joel, Obadiah and Malachi When Faith and National Pride Get Confused Obadiah 1-21

In what ways can national pride lead toward idolatry?

A. National Pride of Edom (Obadiah 1-4)

- Geography led to a superior location in terms of defending their country.
- God speaks out against their Pride.

B. Misplaced Trust (Obadiah 5-7)

- Edom had placed trust in their alliances. But God said due to their betrayal of Judah, they would suffer the betrayal of their allies.

Where do people place their trust today?

C. The Loss of Leadership (Obadiah 8-9)

- Edom will lose their leadership. Lack of leadership will lead to destruction.
- A nation without ethics will elect leaders without ethics. Therefore, this nation will lack true leadership.

D. The Reason for Judgment (Obadiah 10-15)

1. Allowed Violence to happen (Onlookers)
 - Looting of Israel
 - Feeling superior to others
 - Enjoyed seeing the destruction of Judah
2. Violence against your Brother.

E. Safety and Security is Found in God (Obadiah 16-21)

- True Safety and security can only be found through Faith. (Political parties will not guarantee your safety.)

The problem of Christian Nationalism in America.

It is a false understanding of Christianity that blends National Pride with Christian Faith.

1. Belief that the USA has a special relationship with God. Truth – God has a special relationship with Followers of Christ regardless of their nationality.
2. Believing that laws will make the USA more Christian. Truth – Only when people change their lives and become followers of Christ, will the world be changed, and thus the laws will follow. (Christian Nation requires people to be Christian)
3. Any opponents to the Christian cause are evil and must be defeated. Truth – Christian are called to be a witness for Christ so that others can experience faith.
4. More churches should be built, but government should forbid mosques or other non-Christian places of worship. Truth – Baptist have always championed freedom of religion.

False Perceptions of Evangelical Christianity

- Biblically based Christians will not always fall on the left nor on the right of the Political spectrum. Biblical teachings will determine their stand, not party beliefs.
- The left believes that Evangelical Christianity = White Supremacy. Research shows the greater involvement in Christian Faith will actually lead a person away from Christian Nationalism and especially far away from White Supremacy.
- Standing up against Christian Nationalism means that some within the church will attack your Biblical stance because of their perception that it is a liberal stance.

Conclusion: As Christians, the Bible is the revelation of God and is our Moral Compass. Not blindly following a political agenda.