

WHY GOD BROUGHT DOWN NEBUCHADNEZZAR  
“Pride Cometh Before The Fall”  
Part 2  
Dan. 5:18-20

INTRODUCTION

Solomon warned his sons in the book of the Proverbs that “pride cometh before the fall”. Truer words were never spoken concerning Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel informed Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, that it was his grandfather’s arrogance that led to his seven year hiatus from the throne. It was that same arrogance that led to Belshazzar’s fall. There are over 30 words used to translate the word “pride” in Scripture. Today, we will explore some of the various words used for pride in order to understand why it prompted God to bring down the king of Babylon.

I. THERE ARE OVER 24 PRIDE/PROUD RELATED TERMS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. Words used to translate “pride” are:

1. Geah -- ***an air that causes one to lift himself up above others and insult those whom he considers lesser -- translated hubris in Septuagint.*** Cf. Prov. 8:13
2. Gaavah -- ***used of those things that cause one to boast above the measure of who are what they are.*** Cf. Job 41:15 (of the scales of Leviathan); Psalms 10:2 (the wicked); Prov. 14:3 (is a characteristic of one who despises wisdom and discipline)
3. Gaon -- ***self confidence which leads to blindness.*** Prov. 16:18 (goes before the fall); Ps. 59:12 (of the heathen who could get taken in their pride) (translated huperphania -- arrogance in the Septuagint.)
4. Geuth -- (translated hubris in the Septuagint) cf. Is. 28:1
5. Gobah -- ***to be lifted up in the heart.*** Cf. 2 Chron. 32:26 (of Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem)
6. Gevah -- translated by the Greek word huperphania --notes ***ones who are arrogant -- leads to heart being lifted up and spirit hardened.*** Cf. Dan. 5:20
7. Zadon -- ***“insolence, arrogance”*** -- Obadiah 1:3
8. Zud-- ***“to be presumptuous”*** - Holladay lexicon
9. Shachats-- is used in Septuagint of those who are lifted up. Cf. Job. 41:34 (of Leviathan being king over all who are)

B. Words used to translate the adjective “proud”.

1. Ge -- is translated hubris in the Septuagint. Cf. Is 16:6
2. Geeh is a term that is used to note those who have lifted themselves above where they ought to be. Cf. Job 40:10,11
3. Gaayonim

4. Gaon --- **that which is characterized by its confidence.** Job. 38:11 (of waves)
5. Geuth-- **is used to reflect the braggart.** Cf. Ps. 17:10
6. Gabah -- **denotes those who have an inward swagger.** Cf. Ecc. 7:8; Prov. 16:5
7. Gaboah -- **those who are in an elevated position in life.** Cf. Ps. 138:6
8. Zed is used 12 times to emphasize "**rashness and insolence, urging to violence and presumptuousness, though unprovoked; this pride is attended by wrath.**" -- Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies cf. 1st Sam. 17:28 (David's brother's charged him with having this pride)
9. Zadon-- **of those who engage in presumption.** Cf. Jerm. 50:31,32 (of Babylon)
10. Gadol -- "**To be great; a magnified mouth.**" -- Ps. 12:3 (of those who speak boastful things)
11. Yahir -- "**elated, proud, arrogant**" -- Hab. 2:5
12. Yanah -- "**to exercise violence; to oppress.**" Cf. Ps. 123:4 (the souls of men suffer from)
13. Rahab -- "**to be high spirited, fierce full of courage; to rage, or to press upon**" -- Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies
14. Rum -- "**to be lifted up, high**" -- Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies Prov. 6:17 (among the six things that Scripture things God hates)
15. Rachab -- "**rough, intractable, vexations in temper or actions, which are, in life.**" Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies cf. Ps. 31:20 (of the behaviour of men)

## II. THERE ARE SEVEN PRIDE/PROUD RELATED TERMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

### A. Boasting (Alazoneia)– **a state of pride or arrogance, but with the implications of complete lack of basis for such an attitude.** 2 Tim. 3:2 (subtle behavior)

1. *Alazoneia* literally means to be without speech. 1 Co. 13:1; Rom. 8:25; The absent speech manifests itself in the boasting about what one has or does.
2. Greek lexicons emphasize swagger in relationship to this word.
  - a) J. Vernon McGee – **swagger.**
  - b) Joseph Thayer -- **generally empty, braggart talk sometimes also empty display in act, swagger; "an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources and shamefully despises and violates divine laws and human rights; an impious and empty presumption which trusts in the stability of earthly things.** 1 John 2:15-16
  - c) Boasting is manifested in plans made outside the will of God. Ja. 4:16

- B. Fondness of self (philos-autoi) -- an *affection for one's self*. 2 Tim. 3:2
1. Louw-Nida -- ***pertaining to self-centered love or concern for one's own self - selfish love, self-centered love.***
  2. Joseph Thayer -- ***loving oneself; too intent on one's own interests, selfish.***
- C. Injurious (hubrizo)-- ***implies an attitude of superiority which results in mistreatment of and violent acts against others.*** Matt. 22:6 (open behavior)
1. Injurious behavior was a characteristic of those at the Tower of Babel. Rom. 1:30
  2. Injurious men treat others with contempt. 1 Tim. 1:13 (cf. Lk. 18:32)
- D. Vainglory (kenodoxia)-- ***pride without basis or justification.*** Gal. 5:26; Phil. 2:3
1. The word "*vain*" means *empty*. ill. Eph. 5:6
  2. Doxia describes an opinion that one has of himself. cf. 1 Thess. 2:6
- E. Arrogant (huperphania) ***one who shows himself above his fellows; comparing oneself secretly or openly with others and lifting oneself above others, in honour preferring himself; of an empty boaster who brags of his position and despises others.*** – 1 Pet. 5:5
1. Arrogance is used with several words in the New Testament.
    - a) Arrogance is used with *alazontes* – *the essence of the alazontes (is) that in his boastings he overpasses the limits of the truth.* William Barclay (2 Tim. 3:2; Rom. 1:30)
    - b) Arrogance is contrasted with humbleness-- *lowliness of mind.* 1 Pet. 5:5
  2. Arrogance originates in the function of the mind where perceptions are formulated (*dianoia*) Lk. 1:51
- F. Proud (Tuphomai) ***to be so arrogant as to be demented; spiritually blinded.*** 1 Tim. 6:4
1. The term "*proud*" is translated "*high-minded*" in 2 Tim. 3:4.
  2. Satan is identified in Scripture as the source of those who are high-minded. 1Tim. 3:6
  3. The arrogance of the "*high-minded*" prompt them to not consent to "wholesome" words. 1 Tim. 6:3
  4. The arrogance of the "*high-minded*" prompts them to not consent to the doctrine, which is in accordance to godliness. 1 Tim. 6:4
- G. Puffed up (phusiomai) ***to be puffed up with pride; to inflate, blow up, blow out, to cause to swell up.*** 1 Co. 4:6; 5:2; 13:4

## CONCLUSION