

WHY GOD BROUGHT DOWN NEBUCHADNEZZAR
The Problems of Pride
Part 3
Dan. 4:34-37

INTRODUCTION

Pride is a key component of men living independent of God. Pride is the fuel that propels men to accomplish goals in the world system, apart from God. A perusing of some quotes on pride prove this:

“My sign is Leo. A Leo has to walk with pride. When he takes a step, he has to put his foot down. You walk into a room and you want people to know your presence, without you doing anything.”
--Wesley Snipes

“More enduringly than any other sport, wrestling teaches self-control and pride. Some have wrestled without great skill - none have wrestled without pride.” Dan Gable

“I take pride in being one of the most successful producers in hip-hop history, having the most successful record in hip-hop history, I have the most number ones.” Sean Combs

“Disciplining yourself to do what you know is right and important, although difficult, is the highroad to pride, self-esteem, and personal satisfaction.” Margaret Thatcher

The use of pride to fuel oneself in the world does not become useless until one is on his death bed:

“Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything - all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important.” Steve Jobs

I. ALL THE TERMS OF PRIDE REFLECT MAN'S CONFIDENCE IN SELF.

- A. **Confidence in self** is the common distinction among all the pride terms in Scripture.
- B. All the pride terms of Scripture can be narrowed down to self-confidence that drives men to operate life independent from God.
 - 1. Swagger -- confidence in self based upon the possession of things. 1st John 2:16
 - 2. Fondness for self -- a confidence derived from affection for self.
 - 3. Arrogance -- confidence one has versus others. 1st Pet. 5:5
 - 4. Puffed up -- confidence that one has the right opinion about an activity they are engaging in. 1st Tim. 4:6
 - 5. High-minded -- confidence in things that God has not said. 1st Tim. 6:3-4

II. PRIDE IS SEEN IN SCRIPTURE AS A DESTRUCTIVE TOWARDS THOSE POSSESSING IT, TOWARDS OTHERS AND TOWARDS GOD.

A. Pride causes men to have problems with self.

1. Pride (arrogance) is the source of shame. Prov. 11:2
 - a) The “shame” is the Hebrew word qalon -- “disgrace, dishonour, ignominy,” -- Brown, Driver & Briggs
 - b) “Qalon” is used 17 times in the Old Testament, eight times in the book of Proverbs cf. Prov. 13:18 (of those who refuse instruction)
2. Pride (arrogancy) leads to destruction -- “*sheber -- breaking, fracture, shattering.*” . Prov. 16:18
3. Pride(arrogancy) brings a man low --shaphel -- “**depress or sink (especially figuratively to humiliate)**” -- Strong’s lexicon. Prov. 29:23
4. Pride (arrogancy) causes deception -- (naw-shaw -- “**to lead astray, that is, (mentally) to delude, or (morally) to seduce: beguile.**” -- Strong’s lexicon. Jer. 49:16; Oba 1:3 cf. Gen. 3:13 (of the deception of Eve who was completely deceived)
5. Pride (presumption) can cause a man to be “lifted up” -- (hithpoel) **to exalt; to lift oneself up.** Dan. 5:20 cf. 1st Tim. 3:6
6. Pride (presumption) can causes “hardness” -- “**obstinate, fixed, firm in a situation**” --. Dan. 5:20 cf. 6:7 (of a decre)

B. Pride causes men to have problems with others.

1. Pride (arrogance) is the source of “contention” -- matstsah -- “**quarrelling, contention, debate, strife**”. Prov. 13:10 cf. 17:19
2. Pride is the source strife -- “madon” -- “contention. Prov. 28:25 cf. 15:18 (used of an angry man)

C. Pride hinders men from dependence upon God.

1. It was a characteristic of those who rebelled against God at Babel. Rom. 1:30
2. It causes men not to believe the message from God. Jer. 43:2; 1st Tim. 6:4

Conclusion