

## WHY GOD BROUGHT DOWN NEBUCHADNEZZAR

### God's Disdain for Pride

#### Part 4

Dan. 4:31-37

### INTRODUCTION

God's attitude towards pride is made clear from Scripture. Pride is one of the things seen in Scripture that God has a disdain for. Nebuchadnezzar embodied the type of arrogance that God hates. Today we will consider God's attitude towards pride and His actions towards those who display it.

#### I. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PROUD IS REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE.

##### A. Pride is seen in Scripture as one of the six things God "hates". Prov. 6:16

1. "Hate" is the word "sane" which translated by Holliday lexicon as that which God is "**unable, or unwilling to put up with.**" cf. Deut. 12:29-31 (is used of the abominations of the Gentiles that God hated); Prov. 8:13 (Under law, hatred of pride was a sign of the fear of the Lord)
2. The Septuagint translates "sane" with the Greek word *miseo* -- a silent hatred.

##### B. God is "against" the proud. Jer. 50:29

1. The "proud: term used here is *zawdone* -- "**to be rebellious, presumptuous, arrogant.**" -- Strong's Lexicon
2. God is "against" those that are proud.
  - a) "Against" is the Hebrew term "El" which is used of "being towards"
  - b) It is used with regard to a hostility towards one. Cf. Jer. 34:1 (of Babylon's fight against Jerusalem)

##### C. Those who are proud in heart are an abomination to the Lord. Prov. 16:5

1. The word for abomination is used in Scripture of that which is "**offensive or detestable**" to God.
2. Pride is seen as abominable as idolatry and sexual perversion. Lev. 18:22 (God sees homosexuality as an abomination); Deut. 32:16 (Israel's worship of idols was seen as an abomination to God)

#### II. GOD TAKES ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE PROUD.

##### A. God promised Israel that He would "break" their pride. Lev. 26:19

1. "Break" is the Hebrew word "shabar" -- to shatter. Cf. 1st King 19:11 (of rocks being shattered into pieces)
2. "Pride" is *gaon* -- arrogance --
3. The pride of Israel was that accompanied by their strength -- "oz" -- that which they possessed i.e., "material or physical possessions or personal, social or political statue."-- Brown, Driver & Briggs cf. Jer. 16:19 (of the strength of Jehovah)

- B. God promised to “destroy”-- nasach -- the house of the proud. Prov. 15:25
1. “Destroy” means to pull or tear away -- BDB cf. Prov. 2:22 (of transgressors being rooted out of the earth)
  2. “Proud” -- gayeh -- arrogant.
- C. God “abases” those who walk in pride. Dan. 4:37
1. “Walk” is halak -- **cause themselves to conduct their lives**.cf. Dan. 3:25 (of the Hebrews walking in the midst of fiery furnace)
  2. “Pride” is gevah -- an Aramaic word used
  3. “Abase” -- shefal -- **humble, put down, subdue**. Strong’s lexicon Cf. Dan. 7:24 (of three kings being subdued by the man of lawlessness); 5:22 (of Belshazzar not humbling his heart)
    - a) Nebuchadnezzar was abased by the loss of his kingdom.
    - b) Nebuchadnezzar was abased by the loss of his “reason”. Dan. 4:34
      - (1) “Manda” is the Aramaic word translated “reason” which is used of **“knowledge, understanding”** -- Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies
      - (2) The Septuagint translates “manda” with the Greek word Phren which is used in the New Testament of the ability to restrict the mind to a certain topic of thinking for the purpose of operation. Cf. 1st Co. 13:11 (imper. Act. ind); Phil. 2:5; Rom. 14:6
  4. Daniel describes the substance of Nebuchadnezzar’s abasement. Vs. 21
    - (1) He was “driven” (terad -- chase away) from the sons of men.
    - (2) His dwelling was with the beast of the field (wild asses).
    - (3) They (caused him to feed) with grass like oxen.
    - (4) His body was wet with the dew of heaven. ( **“Two things are necessary for the formation of dew, moisture and cold. In moist countries there is less dew because the change in temperature between day and night is too small. In the deserts where the change in temperature between day and night is sometimes as much as 40 degrees F., there is seldom dew because of lack of moisture in the atmosphere -- I.S.B.E. )**
- D. God “resist” the proud. James 4:6; 1st Pet. 5:5; Prov. 3:34
1. The word for “proud” here is the arrogant (huperphanos). Cf. Est. 5:9-6:6 (of Haman the enemy of the Jews)
  2. “Resist” is antitasso: cf. Rom. 13:2 (of those who resist rulers)
    - a) “Anti” is a Greek preposition that can be translated against.

b) "Tasso" is a military term of arranging in order.

E. God scatters the proud by the "imagination of their heart". Lk. 1:51

1. The term "imagination" is dianoia (instrumental use)

a) Dianoia is a compound word made up of:

(1) Dia -- a Greek preposition meaning through

(2) Voia -- from nous -- mind.

b) Dianoia is used in Scripture of that part of the mind where thoughts flow through the mind developing conceptions. Cf. Heb. 8:10; 10:16 (God will impact the mind of Israel by putting His law into this part of the mind); Eph. 2:3 (this part of the mind is the place where cravings flow through); 1st Pet. 1:13; 2 Pet. 3:1 (this part of the mind impacts response)

c) Friberg in his lexicon defines dianoia as **"the faculty of giving thought to matters requiring judgment or deliberation', thinking, understanding the seat of perception and thinking mind, understanding, intellect (MK 12.30); (2) as an inner disposition of mind and heart attitude, thought, way of thinking (LU 1.51); (3) as a function of the intellect resulting in insight comprehension, understanding, idea."** cf. 1st John 5:20; Mk (1J 5.20)

2. God has used this part of the mind to "scatter" His enemies.

a) The word "scatter" is diaskopizo which means to cause to spread or disperse; it is used of those being dispersed due to persecution. Cf. Lk. 15:13 (of the prodigal son who wasted his substance)

b) The Hebrew word for "scatter" is "poots" which is used in the Old Testament on occasion of God scattering the enemies of Israel.

### III. THE TIMING OF GOD'S ACTION TOWARD THE PROUD IS TWO-FOLD.

A. He deals with some of the proud immediately.

1. He rebuked (gaar --correct; discipline) the proud (zed-- arrogant) under law. Ps. 119:21

2. The use of the present middle indicative shows his opposition to those who are proud today. James 4:6; 1st Pet. 5:5

B. The Day of the Lord is reserved for proud and lofty men. Is. 2:12

1. "Proud" is gayeh --those who have lifted themselves above where they ought to be. Cf. Job 40:10,11

2. "Lofty" -- is "rum" is defined as those who are exalted, set on high. Cf. Ps. 131:1 (used of great matters beyond men); Is. 10:33 (of men lifted up) ; Deut. 17:20 (adherence to God's statutes prevented under law)

## CONCLUSION