

Pride Goes before Fall
(Proverbs 11:2; 16:18)

As sure as the day comes before the night, so pride comes before one's fall. The Bible registers several of whose life ended up in the pit of destruction because of pride. The spirit of pride is one of men's worst enemies. Pride elevates him high and drops him to his destruction. The higher pride takes him, the greater the fall. Acts 12:21-24 registers the pride and fall of King Herod in a very distinct and sure way that pride will take man. It reads: So on an appointed day, dressed in royal robes and seated on the throne, Herod delivered a public address to them. The populace began to shout, "It's the voice of a god and not of a man!" At once an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give the glory to God, and he became infected with worms and died. While King Nebuchadnezzar was completely puffed up with pride saying, "Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built by my vast power, to be a royal residence and to display my majestic glory?" While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you is declared that the kingdom has departed from you. You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men, and He gives it to anyone He wants (Dan.4: 28-34). And so it happened that King Nebuchadnezzar was taken away from the human kingdom to the animals and became just like one of them.

The evidence of pride is seen in every class of people: rich or poor. Pride is sometimes very settled; it shows itself in ways one could never think to be pride manifesting itself. Pride shows itself in many ways of behavior: from foul language, to anger and lack of self-control; from self-elevation to control of others as in a dictatorship. Some take pride in the strength of possessions, not realizing that he will someday collapse and fall. Pride is a deceiver of man leading him to think that he is better than anyone else. When Cain allowed pride to take charge of his life, he forsook the Lord's commands and acted as he pleased. At the end, his pride committed homicide in jealousy of his brother. The seriousness of pride must be taken in consideration for one not to fall prey of it. When YAHWEH did not regard Cain and his offering, he became furious; the Lord then said to him, Why are you furious? And why are you downcast? If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it (Gen. 4:1-7). Cain would not master his pride and his downfall hurt himself for the rest of his life. When YAHWEH sought the answer whereabouts of his brother, Cain arrogantly answered, "I don't know," he replied, Am I my brother's keeper? YAHWEH not only made him to be a restless wanderer on earth, but He cursed him from alienation from the ground that opened its mouth to receive his brother's blood; the ground would never again give Cain its yields (Gen. 4:9-15). The spirit of pride never surrenders or repents, for that is to it a sign of weakness, as it was the case of Cain. Proverbs 29:22 says, An angry man stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered man increases rebellion. Anger without restraint is pride submerging from the soul to apply vengeance on others, when it has been hurt. Pride blinds man's conscience and fills him with rage and vengeance, only to humble him by bringing him low at the end. Proverbs says, When pride comes, disgrace follows (11:2); and Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall (16:18). When angry,

let not pride take control of your life; take a deep breath and pray instead. Paul admonishes us to “Be angry and do not sin; don’t let the sun go down on your anger, and don’t give the devil an opportunity; all bitterness, anger and wrath, insult and slander must be removed from you, along with all wickedness; be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ” (Ephesians 4:25, 31). Pride brings only disgrace and fall. The danger of allowing pride to take control is in its roots which will go deeper and deeper, holding one captive and powerless to do anything about it. Only by our repentance and the forgiveness of our Lord can we be set free from its power. Humility of the heart however, is in agreement with the heart of YAHWEH, for contrition of the heart opens heaven with forgiveness and freedom. Pride on the other hand, opens heaven’s door to bring judgment on those who are controlled by it. Pride brought Satan down with everlasting condemnation. Before his fall he elevated himself above YAHWEH saying, I will ascend to the heavens; I will set my throne above the stars of YAHWEH; I will sit on the mount of the gods’ assembly, in remotest parts of the North; I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High (Isaiah 14:12-14). Satan had its beginning in the Garden of Eden, where YAHWEH had created him. He was the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and beauty; he was anointed guardian cherub; from the day he was created he was blameless in his ways until wickedness was found in him (Ezekiel 28: 12-15, 16b-17). It is hard to imagine the beauty which adorned this cherub, but the pride of his heart led him to his fall and the whole world with him. He is the root of pride with many other evil spirits leading to the destruction of man.

When we “let the sun go down on our anger”, we are being controlled by the power of the spirit of pride; we are then vulnerable to the torment of the devil through diseases. The way of pride is always down, void of blessings, for our YAHWEH rejects the prideful heart, but He is with the contrite heart. He admonishes us to pursue peace with everyone; to see to it that no one falls short of the grace of YAHWEH and that no root of bitterness springs up causing trouble and by it defiling many (Heb. 10:14). Our Lord and Savior, YAHSHUA’S heart was bent with humility when he forgave those who were crucifying Him; was bent with love when He took the penalty of our sins with His blood and gave us life eternal. Paul writes, Make your own attitude that of Christ YAHSHUA, Who existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men, and when He had become as a man, in His external form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross (Phil. 2:5-8). Peter said, Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time (I Peter 5:6a). Pride before fall; humility before exaltation. Which one do you choose?

THINK ABOUT IT !