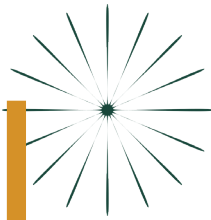


EZEKIEL



JUDGEMENT ON FOREIGN NATIONS

PART 4

Pride and Judgement

READ EZEKIEL 28:13-19

INTRODUCTION

God does not appreciate pride. We see that throughout all of Scripture. In fact, pride is the thing that God hates the most. (Proverbs 8:13, 6:16-19, 16:15, James 4:6) Pridefulness can be linked to every sin that man commits and even is the cause of the original sin of Adam. In his desire to be on a level playing field with God, Adam was prideful in trying to be like God. He wanted to be just as knowledgeable and wise as the Creator of the universe and so he ate the fruit in pride. (see Genesis 3) In this section of Ezekiel we see the different nations that showed a proud spirit against the Lord and His law and the consequences of that pride.

Verse 17 begins the downfall. The word here for their heart being “lifted up” is better translated as their hearts became “proud”. Pride is the beginning of destruction. (Proverbs 16:18) For the nation of Tyre this meant that God was going to be punishing them for becoming a proud nation. God is a jealous God. (Exodus 20:5-6) This does not imply that He is envious of us but that He desires (and deserves) our complete and utter worship and obedience. He is jealous for our worship of Him and Him alone. There are many Old Testament references to the children of Israel acting like a harlot because of their desire to worship other gods. They were in a covenant relationship with God the Father and kept turning to other gods to fulfil the lusts of their hearts.

Turning to something else other than God is another form of pride. When we look to other forms of fulfilment in life, we are saying that God is not big enough to handle our issue in that particular area. Or, we are suggesting that the answer God has given us in response to a request or “need” is not sufficient or a good enough answer and we must look somewhere else to get the answer that we want. Our pride takes us away from God and worshipping Him into a place of worshipping something or someone else to elevate our own hearts, just like the people in Tyre.

EZEKIEL



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is pride such an “abomination” to God? Do you find yourself making excuses to be prideful even in your walk with Christ? Given what the Bible says about God’s attitude towards pride, is there any place for pridefulness in our daily life? Why or why not?
2. When we see Adam as being prideful in his desire to be like God, what are the similarities and differences to our pride in today’s world? How have you desired to be like God in your own life and how do you think God feels about that?
3. Is God’s punishment of Tyre fair and just? Why or why not? Read through Proverbs 16:18 and think about the implications of our pride.
4. What does it mean to you that God is a jealous God? In what ways can you better give Him the worship that He desires from you? How can you better make time for God in your daily life? Do you think that it will be worth it?
5. What are some of you “go-to’s” when you turn from God to worship something or someone else? How do those things measure up to God and His love for you? Do you think idol worship is a good way to describe this? What can you do practically to not turn to idols and instead turn to God?

WRAP UP

Pride is not a small thing to God. Pride is something that He must deal with because only He is good and only He is worthy of any kind of worship. It may seem harsh when we read about all of the nations that went against God and His punishment of them. The truth is that when we understand better who God is, then we can understand why he hates pride so much. He is worthy and He is to be honored in our lives above anything and everything else.