

# Pride

Lessons from Isaiah

# Understanding the Heart

## DEFINITION

- True intentions and desires
- What we really try to do and say vs what we actually do and say
- Heart/mind are related

## NATURE

- Deceitful, desperately wicked, and cannot be trusted or fully understood
- God shows us what's in our hearts through desirable and undesirable tests

## HOPE

- God changes the heart that humbly looks to Him
- There is no hope for the hardened heart

## RESPONSE

- Guard your heart
- Renew your mind

## EXAMPLE

- David was a man after God's own heart
- He was not perfect
- He sought to do God's will by seeking, trusting, and obeying Him

# What is pride?



God is Missing

## Why is God Missing?

<sup>3</sup> For the wicked **boasts** of his **heart's desire**, and the greedy man curses and **spurns the Lord**. <sup>4</sup> The wicked, in the haughtiness of **his countenance**, **does not seek Him**. All his thoughts are, "**There is no God**." *Ps 10:3-4*

<sup>6</sup> "**..God is opposed** to the **proud**, but gives grace to the humble." *Jms 4:6 (Pr 3:34, 1Pt 5:5)*

<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh ..desires of the eyes ..the **pride** of life – **is not from the Father** but is from the world. *1Jn 2:16*

<sup>5</sup> "**..your eyes will be opened**, **..you will be like God**, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> **..woman saw that the tree was good for food**, **..a delight to the eyes**, **..desirable to make one wise**..  
*Gen 3:5-6*

**Pride says I know what to do, what's right and wrong; I will do it and I will get the glory for it**

# Pride of the Nations

**Ahaz, in false piety & humility, refuses to seek God's help, because he really wanted Assyria's help**

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and **I will not put the LORD to the test.**" *Is 7:12*

**If destruction comes, no worries, we will build it back better – exalting pride – trusting in their abilities**

<sup>9</sup> ..Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, who say in **pride** and in **arrogance of heart**: <sup>10</sup> "The bricks have fallen, but **we will** build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but **we will** put cedars in their place." *Is 9:9-10*

**Judah trusts in their wisdom – separating from God, they look foolish and can't see His sovereignty**

<sup>8</sup> ..**you looked** to the weapons of the House of the Forest, <sup>9</sup> ..**You collected** the waters of the lower pool, <sup>10</sup> and **you counted** the houses of Jerusalem, and **you broke down** the houses to fortify the wall. <sup>11</sup> **You made** a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But **you did not look to Him** who did it, or see Him who planned it long ago. *Is 22:8-11*

**Judah trusts in Egypt – separating themselves from God led to blindness and ultimately destruction**

<sup>15</sup> **You boast**, "**We** have entered into a covenant with death, with the realm of the dead **we** have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for **we** have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place." *Is 28:15*

# Pride of the Nations

**Moab's excessive pride and arrogance are joined with rudeness and deceit**

<sup>6</sup> We have heard of the **pride of Moab**— how proud he is!— of his **arrogance**, his pride, and his **insolence**; in his idle boasting he is not right. *Is 16:6*

<sup>11</sup> But *the Lord* will lay low his **pride together with** the **trickery** of his hands. *Is 25:11*

**The honored of the earth are blinded to the sovereignty of God**

<sup>8</sup> Who has planned this against **Tyre**, the bestower of crowns, Whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the **honored of the earth**? <sup>9</sup> The LORD of hosts has planned it, to defile the **pride of all beauty**, To despise all the **honored of the earth**. <sup>10</sup> Overflow your land like the Nile, O daughter of Tarshish, There is no more restraint. <sup>11</sup> He has stretched His hand out over the sea, He has made the kingdoms tremble; The LORD has given a command concerning Canaan to demolish its strongholds. <sup>12</sup> He has said, “You shall **exult no more**, O crushed virgin daughter of **Sidon**. Arise, pass over to Cyprus; even there you will find no rest.” *Is 23:8-12*

# Pride of the Nations

**Egypt boasted about and trusted in their wisdom – making themselves to be gods  
Beginning with the fall, man continued to grow in their thinking that they had all the answers**

<sup>11</sup> The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish; the wisest counselors of Pharaoh give stupid counsel. How can you say to Pharaoh, “**I am a son of the wise, a son of ancient kings**”? <sup>12</sup> Where then are your wise men? Let them tell you that they might know what the LORD of hosts has purposed against Egypt. *Is 19:11-12*

**The people of Egypt and Cush put to shame because of their hope and boasting in their nations**

<sup>5</sup> Then they shall be dismayed and ashamed because of **Cush their hope** and of **Egypt their boast**. <sup>6</sup> And the inhabitants of this coastland will say in that day, ‘Behold, this is what has happened to those in whom we hoped and to whom we fled for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria! And we, how shall we escape?’” *Is 20:5-6*

# Pride of the Nations

**King of Assyria thinks that it is through his wisdom and power that he has become great**

<sup>12</sup> ..He will punish the speech of the **arrogant heart** of the king of Assyria and the **boastful look** in his eyes. <sup>13</sup> For he says: “By the strength of my hand **I have done it**, and by **my wisdom**, for **I have understanding**; **I remove** the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures; like a bull **I bring down** those who sit on thrones. <sup>14</sup> **My hand** has found like a nest the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken, so **I have gathered** all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing or opened the mouth or chirped.” *Is 10:12-14*

**In their pride, which is actually against God, they thought they could easily defeat Judah**

<sup>23</sup> “Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? And against whom have you raised *your* voice and **haughtily** lifted up your eyes? **Against the Holy One of Israel!** <sup>24</sup> “Through your servants you have reproached the Lord, and you have said, ‘With my many chariots **I came up** to the heights of the mountains, to the remotest parts of Lebanon; and **I cut down** its tall cedars *and* its choice cypresses. and **I will go** to its highest peak, its thickest forest. <sup>25</sup> ‘**I dug wells** and drank waters, and with the sole of my feet **I dried up** all the rivers of Egypt.’ *Is 37:23-25*

# Pride of the Nations

**In their heart, they thought their greatness was due to their wisdom**

<sup>20</sup> “Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely, who says **in your heart**, ‘I am, and there is **no one besides me**. I will not sit as a widow, nor know loss of children.’ <sup>10</sup> “You felt secure in your wickedness and said, ‘No one sees me,’ **Your wisdom** and your knowledge, they have **deluded you**; For you have said **in your heart**, ‘I am, and there is **no one besides me**.’ *Is 47:8,10*

**God’s final judgment, related to Babylon the Great, will put an end to the pride of men and Satan**

<sup>11</sup> I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the **pomp of the arrogant**, and lay low the **pompous pride** of the ruthless. *Is 13:11*

<sup>12</sup> “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, **son of Dawn**! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! <sup>13</sup> **You said in your heart**, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself **like the Most High**.’ *Is 14:12-14*



# God's Response

## God uses the pride of the nations and summons them to execute His plans for His purposes

<sup>26</sup> He will raise a signal for nations far away, and **whistle for them** from the ends of the earth; and behold, quickly, speedily they come! *Is 5:26*

<sup>3</sup> **I Myself** have **commanded** my consecrated ones, and have **summoned** my mighty men to execute my anger, my **proudly exulting ones**. *Is 13:3*

<sup>2</sup> “..I **will incite** Egyptians against Egyptians; and they will each fight against his brother and each against his neighbor, city against city *and* kingdom against kingdom. <sup>3</sup> “Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be demoralized within them; and **I will confound** their strategy, so that they will resort to idols and ghosts of the dead and to mediums and spiritists. *Is 19:2-3*

## So, how can the created boast against its creator?

<sup>15</sup> Is the **axe** to **boast** itself **over** the one **who chops with it**? Is the **saw** to **exalt** itself **over** the one **who wields it**? *That would be like a club wielding those who lift it, Or like a rod lifting him who is not wood. Is 10:15*

<sup>16</sup> You turn *things* around! Shall the **potter** be considered as **equal with** the **clay**, that what is made would say to its maker, “**He did not make me**”; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, “**He has no understanding**”? *Is 29:16*

<sup>9</sup> “..Will the **clay** say **to** the **potter**, ‘**What are you doing?**’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘**He has no hands**’? <sup>10</sup> “Woe to him who says to a father, ‘**What are you begetting?**’ Or to a woman, ‘**To what are you giving birth?**’” *Is 45:9-10*

# God's Response

**Two things happen at God's final judgment: 1) Man is humbled 2) God is exalted**

<sup>11</sup> The **haughty looks** of man shall be **brought low**, and the **lofty pride of men** shall be **humbled**, and the **LORD alone will be exalted** in that day. <sup>12</sup> For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is **proud** and **lofty**, against all that is **lifted up**—and it shall be **brought low**; *Is 2:11-12*

**God alone is exalted and there is none like Him – He is Almighty and has planned all things perfectly**

<sup>10</sup> “Now **I will arise**,” says the LORD, “Now **I will be exalted**, now **I will be lifted up**. *Is 33:10*

<sup>10</sup> “**..Before Me** there was **no God** formed, and there will be **none after Me**. *Is 43:10*

<sup>13</sup> “**I act** and who can reverse it?” *Is 43:13*

<sup>6</sup> ‘**..I am the first** and **I am the last**, and there is **no God besides Me**. *Is 44:6*

<sup>24</sup> “**..I, the LORD, am the maker** of all things, **..spreading out the earth all alone**, *Is 44:24*

<sup>5</sup> “**I am** the LORD, and **there is no other**; besides Me there is no God. *Is 45:5*

<sup>7</sup> **..forming light & creating darkness, causing well-being & creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these** *Is 45:7*

<sup>19</sup> **..I am** the LORD, and **there is none else**. *Is 45:19*

<sup>21</sup> **..A righteous God and a Savior**; there is **none except Me**. *Is 45:21*

<sup>23</sup> **..to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance**. *Is 45:23*

<sup>10</sup> **..My purpose** will be established, and **I will accomplish** all My good pleasure’; *Is 46:10*

<sup>11</sup> **..Truly I have spoken**; truly **I will bring it to pass**. **I have planned it, surely I will do it**. *Is 46:11*

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, You are My God; **I will exalt You**, I will give thanks to Your name; for **You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness**. *Is 25:1*

# Solution for Pride

**Israel and humanity will stop relying on other nations and themselves, but truly rely on God**

<sup>20</sup> Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will **truly rely on the LORD**, the Holy One of Israel. *Is 10:20*

<sup>7</sup> In that day man will have **regard** for **his Maker** and his eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel. <sup>8</sup> He will **not have regard** for the altars, the **work of his hands**, nor will he look to that **which his fingers have made**, even the Asherim and incense stands. *Is 17:7-8*

**God gives perfect peace, comfort, and protection to those that continually trust in Him in quietness**

<sup>3</sup> “The **steadfast of mind** You will keep in **perfect peace**, because **he trusts in You**. <sup>4</sup> “**Trust in the LORD** forever, for in GOD the LORD, *we have an everlasting Rock*. *Is 26:3-4*

<sup>15</sup> In **quietness** and **trust is your strength**. *Is 30:15*

**We need God for everything and are utterly dependent on Him, not the other way around**

<sup>25</sup> **nor is He served by human hands**, as though He needed anything, since **He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things**; *Ac 17:25*

# Example in Paul's Life

## Paul was humbled by God, so he could learn to utterly rely on Him

<sup>4</sup> [I] was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. <sup>5</sup> **On behalf of such a man I will boast;** but on my own behalf **I will not boast, except** in regard to **my weakness.** <sup>6</sup> For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain *from this*, **so that no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me.** <sup>7</sup> Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, **there was given me a thorn in the flesh,** a messenger of Satan to torment me—to **keep me from exalting myself!** <sup>8</sup> Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”** Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

2Co 12:4-10

- ❖ Paul didn't want to boast, but found it necessary to refute the boasting of the false apostles
- ❖ He does not refer to himself directly, except in his weakness
- ❖ He did not want to be seen as more than he is (a servant of Christ)
- ❖ Paul was still prone to sin/pride in the flesh, so God gave him a thorn in the flesh
- ❖ The thorn reminded Paul that he is utterly dependent on God, and spiritual growth is rooted in humility