

Pride and Humility

1. Read Isaiah 14:13-17. Who is Lucifer? What was his desire?
Where did he say the things that "I will do"? What is God's response to the devil's action?
What has the devil done to the world? What has he not done (of his own will) to those who are his captives? What was the motivation in the devil's heart for all these actions especially his desire to be like the Most High? Can you see the origin of pride? The desire to be number 1?
2. Read Genesis 3 What did the serpent say to Eve that she and Adam would be when their eyes are opened? (The word gods could also be translated God as if the devil was telling her they would be like the Almighty.)
Can you see how the devil imparted to them the same lie about being equal with God that he himself had wanted to be? The devil failed but he still passed on the lie, such is his pride and stubbornness against God. When they ate of the fruit what were they in fact doing? What was the result?
What did they make for themselves? Were their own clothes adequate? Are men's own works ever good enough for God? Can you see that in the same way Lucifer was thrown out of heaven so man was thrown out of the garden, which was meant to be heaven on earth? (Read Genesis 1:8 to see where it makes that clear.)
3. Read Genesis 4 to see pride working out in the lives of those on the earth.
What do you learn from Cain and Lamech about their state of heart? What did they both do?
Can you see how destruction of mankind is caused by proud hearts?
Now look at Genesis 6 to find men of renown and wickedness in men.
The imaginations of their hearts are continually evil.
Read Luke 1:51 to see what is in the imagination of peoples' hearts. What is God's response?
4. Read Exodus 5:2 to see pride in Pharaoh's heart. Is that why it was hardened against the children of Israel?
5. Read 1 Samuel 13:5-14 and 1 Samuel 15
What did Saul do that was wrong in chapter 13? (Only the priests were to offer sacrifices.)
Did he overstep his mark? What would happen to him now? What was Saul in his own eyes when he was made king? What had happened to him now? You can find the growing problem in both events. Is pride really acting independently from God? I will do it my way? What is rebellion? What is stubbornness?
6. Read Luke 1:46-56
What did Mary realise about her own state? Is that why she should receive such a blessing?
In her song can you see the contrast in God's response to the proud and the lowly?
Read James 4:6 to see this confirmed.
7. Read Philippians 2:1-16
What was the position of Jesus in the beginning? (vs. 6) Can you see Jesus is by nature the very thing the devil wanted to be - of which you read in Isaiah? What did Jesus then do? There are five stages - can you see them all? Paul describes this as the mind that was in Christ Jesus.
What did Paul command that we do with this mind? What should we do nothing through?
What rather should be our state of mind? (Read Colossians 3:12)
In Philippians what was God's response to Jesus' humility?
What should our lives be like? (vs.15) How should we do things? (vs.14)
Do you think people moan and complain because of pride in their hearts believing that they should have something better?
8. Read 1 Peter 5:5-6 What should we do before God? Who will exalt us? Ourselves?
If we humble ourselves just to be exalted are we being dishonest? Are we still proud in heart?
Who sees our hearts?
9. Read 1 John 2:16 and Luke 14:7-11 What is the lust of the flesh?
What can you learn from the parable that Jesus told?