

Pride's Destruction

Text: Isaiah 37:21-29

Date: 4-24-22 @ 10:30 AM

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” - *Proverbs 16:18*

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.” - *Proverbs 11:2*

One of the biggest reasons that we must live in humility comes from a startling truth: God resists the proud.

I. Judah mocks the Assyrian's arrogance (Isa. 37:22).

Isaiah's words picture Assyria as the one mocked, as the enemy on the run, and an army who cannot carry out its wicked intentions. “As long as God is on her side she is inviolable [indestructible] and virgin, and may scoff at and defy all her adversaries” (Buksbazen 289). “The inhabitants of Jerusalem. . . simply look with scorn upon the attempts of Sennacherib” (Young 488).

II. The Assyrian's arrogance is actually against the Lord (Isa. 37:23).

Jerusalem can look scornfully upon the Assyrians because their God is not the god of the Assyrian. He is not an idol as you think He is. He cannot be cast aside and defeated as you assume. Rather, He is the Holy One of Israel. He is the eternal, righteous, sovereign God of His people. Jerusalem knows her God while the Assyrians do not.

Sennacherib faces a battle that he has never been a part of, an enemy that he has never fought against, and a situation entirely new to him. He is facing the living God.

“He was boasting instead. Boasting blasphemy based upon ignorance can only lead to destruction” (Young 489).

Jehovah God is sovereign, He will not be mocked, He will protect His people, and He answers the prayer of the righteous person.

III. Pride leads to the desire for “bigger and better” things (Isa. 37:24-25).

With a strong military, vast weapons, and bloodthirsty desire to overrun the world, the Assyrians truly thought they could do as they wished.

The Assyrians would be driven back and defeated as a direct answer to Hezekiah's prayer. God opposed these proud people and would humble the Assyrian mockery and pride. The Assyrians were blinded to the truth that they were facing the most powerful enemy in the universe: Jehovah. With these words Isaiah contrasts the Assyrian's arrogant pride with that of the power of God.

IV. Arrogance causes us to miss the real cause of our success (Isa. 37:26-29).

The whole point is that this was Jehovah's predetermined will for the Assyrians to do battle in this manner and to be a judgment tool for God's use. While Sennacherib boastfully spoke of his accomplishments, God reminds him that all his successes were because He ordained them all. “Complete destruction was averted at this time by the long-term efforts of Isaiah and by the king's fervent intercession; the foretold devastation had to await the Babylonian invasion” (Hailey 311).

Why would Assyria be defeated? God answers with two points: because of their violent behavior and great anger against God as well as their self-confident, arrogant attitude in their desire to overthrow Jerusalem and destroy the house of the Lord.

How can we react to our own pride?

- 1) When faced with a difficult trial, humbly pray to God. Prayer sets the course for a godly, lowly response to difficulty.
- 2) Give daily praise to God for His provisions of our lives.
- 3) Be content with what God has given you instead of jealously looking at the “greater things” others have in their lives.
- 4) Inventory your life and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas that may be subtle and small yet full of arrogance.
- 5) Consistently preach to yourself Phil 2:3-5.
- 6) Develop a battle plan of Scripture, prayer, and counsel of other Christians that can help you in the war on pride.