

# Pride Goes Before Destruction

## I. Introduction

- A. As the proverbs says, “pride goeth before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.” **Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6**
- B. The pride God warns against is the opposite of humility. It involves viewing and/or exalting ourselves more highly than we should, being arrogant, high-minded, haughty, or conceited.

## II. Uzziah’s Pride and Fall

- A. King Uzziah of Judah was a king who did what was right early in his reign, but later his pride deceived him. His prideful disobedience led to his fall. **2 Chronicles 26:16-21**

## III. Nebuchadnezzar’s Pride and Fall

- A. Years later, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was used by God to carry out His purposes and, in so doing, became powerful. His prideful boasting about this led to his fall. **Daniel 4:30-33**

## IV. Haman’s Pride and Fall

- A. The book of Esther speaks of an official named Haman, who expected others to show him reverence. He sought vengeance when he didn’t receive this. The tables were turned on Haman, as his pride led to his fall. **Esther 3:5-6; 5:14; 7:9-10**

## V. Edom’s Pride and Fall

- A. The book of Obadiah prophesies of the Edomites’ downfall that was soon to come because of their pride. **Obadiah 3-4**

## VI. Peter’s Pride and Fall

- A. We later read of Peter’s denials being preceded by pride. Peter thought he was too strong to give into the sin Jesus foretold, but Peter wasn’t as strong as he thought. **Matthew 26:33-35, 69-75**

## VII. Recognize Our Dependence on God

- A. To avoid the sure fall that pride leads to, we must humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand. **James 4:10**
- B. Humbling ourselves involves recognizing how much we *need* God. **Matthew 5:3; Luke 8:9-14**

## VIII. Don’t Trust in Earthly Riches

- A. This is aided by understanding that earthly power, riches, prestige, successes, etc. do not save us. **1 Timothy 6:17**

## IX. Credit God for Good

- A. Even spiritual “success” (submitting to His terms for salvation) does not give occasion for boasting in self, but for praising God. **1 Corinthians 15:9-10**

## X. Remember the Cross of Christ

- A. Recognizing our dependence on God and giving Him all glory is aided by remembering what Christ has done for us. **1 Timothy 1:15; Hymns for Worship, Song 189, v. 1-2**

## XI. Don’t Seek Preeminence

- A. Given what Christ has done for us, we should seek to exalt *Him*, rather than exalting self. **Matthew 23:5-12; John 1:27**

## XII. Learn the Greatness of Service

- A. This ties in with our need to seek to *serve*. **Matthew 20:25-28; Philippians 2:2-4**
- B. Humbling ourselves involves serving God by humbly trusting and submitting to Him. **Philippians 2:5-8**

## XIII. Take Heed Lest We Fall

- A. We must also humbly recognize that we are not immune to sin, but take heed lest we fall. **1 Corinthians 10:12**