

Proverbs 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Analysis

Pride precedes destruction, humility before honor—this reversal of worldly wisdom shows God's kingdom operates by different principles. The proud heart exalts itself for a fall, while the humble are lifted by God. This anticipates Jesus' teaching that the last shall be first (Matthew 23:12).

Historical Context

Ancient rulers who exalted themselves often fell dramatically (Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Herod). God's pattern of humbling the proud and exalting the humble was demonstrated throughout Scripture.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does pride set you up for falls you could avoid through humility?
2. In what areas do you need to humble yourself to receive God's honor?

Interlinear Text

עַתָּה: כִּי־אַתָּה־עַל־פָּנֶיךָ
Before destruction is haughty the heart of man Before honour is humility

H6440 H7667 H1361 H3820 H376 H6440 H3519 H6038

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:33 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 11:2 (Parallel theme): When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 16:18 (Parallel theme): Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:23 (Parallel theme): A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Ezekiel 28:2 (Parallel theme): Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

Luke 14:11 (Parallel theme): For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Ezekiel 28:9 (Parallel theme): Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.

Daniel 9:20 (Parallel theme): And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

Daniel 9:23 (Parallel theme): At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org