

Proverbs 29:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Analysis

A man's pride shall bring him low—The sequence is inevitable: ge'on adam (man's pride, arrogance) leads to tashpilennu (shall humble him, bring him low). God opposes the proud (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5). Scripture repeatedly demonstrates this principle: Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod—all humbled by divine judgment.

The contrast offers hope: **honour shall uphold the humble in spirit**. The shefal-ruach (lowly in spirit, humble-minded) will **uphold** (tomek, support, sustain) kavod (honor, glory). Jesus embodied this: 'Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted' (Matthew 23:12). True honor comes through humility, not self-promotion.

Historical Context

Solomon himself exemplified pride's danger—his early humility (1 Kings 3:7-9) gave way to later arrogance through wealth and political alliances. The prophets warned Israel that national pride would bring exile. The early church saw Herod Agrippa struck down for accepting worship (Acts 12:21-23).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Where does pride manifest in your life—in accomplishments, knowledge, moral superiority?
2. How has God used humbling circumstances to correct your pride and deepen your dependence?
3. What does 'humble in spirit' look like practically, avoiding both pride and false humility?

Interlinear Text

תִּתְהִזְזִיר אֶת־אָדָם וְשָׁפֵל תִּשְׁפִּיל אֶת־פָּרוֹד

pride A man's shall bring him low the humble in spirit shall uphold

H1346 H120 H8213 H8217 H7307 H8551

כְּבָדָה

but honour

H3519

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 23:12 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

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

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

Isaiah 66:2 (Spirit): For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

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

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

Luke 18:14 (Parallel theme): I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Proverbs 18:12 (Parallel theme): Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Matthew 18:4 (Parallel theme): Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.