

Your Notes

**What's wrong with pride?**

GOD says: "As for the proud, they trust in themselves and are *soul-sick*. As for the faithful, they trust in Me and *live!*"

1. **Evil bears within it** the seeds of its own destruction.
2. God(!) is **opposed to the proud**.

2:6-8 Woe against **aggression**. Trying to get 'life' by overpowering, controlling, intimidating.

2:9-11 Woe against **premeditated mistreatment**. Trying to get 'life' by wrongful gain.

2:12-14 Woe against **violence** and injustice. Trying to get 'life' by rationalizing one's selfish ways, wanting one's own glory to be known.

**Yahweh** is who life is all about.

2:15-17 Woe against **inhumanity**. Trying to get 'life' by humiliation, treating people as things to be used.

2:18-20 Woe against **idolatry**. Trying to get 'life' by putting trust in someone or something other than the Biblical God, by thinking the things we've made or discovered are able to give us 'life' and fulfill our desires.

Let us trust Him, **in firm confidence** that His ways and timing are best, even when we don't understand them.

Maybe there's someone hearing this who: physically is abusive, trying to control, the god of your little world. Runs his/her life by what he/she wants: "I'll do whatever it takes to get it." Uses people to get his/her own way, selfishly expecting others to serve him/her. Is trying to become famous, popular. Is worshipping someone or something other than the Biblical God. Woe to you! Turn to the God of :14 and :20. Learn to walk by faith in God because it's in Him alone that we find 'life' as He intended we experience it. In what ways do these verses cause you to tremble, exult, and trust?

**FOR NEXT WEEK:** Please read Habakkuk 3:1-15. In :1-2, what is Habakkuk's prayer after listening to Yahweh's answers to his questions? In :3-7, what does the prophet review? What are his conclusions? In :8-15, what else does Habakkuk remember? What do we learn about Yahweh from all these verses? In what ways do these verses cause you to tremble, exult, and trust?

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Today we're going to look at pride and its consequences. C.S. Lewis says that pride is the greatest sin, that all other sins stem from this one. **What's wrong with pride?** The proud person wants to be in control; is mired in self-centeredness; thinks he doesn't need God; thinks he can handle life in his own strength; is blind to his own sin. But what it really means is that he doesn't trust God for life; he tries to find life in something else, like fame, fortune, power, or pleasure. God says, **"As for the proud, they trust in themselves and are soul-sick. As for the faithful, they trust in Me and live!"**

:4 "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith. :5 "Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, so that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples.

**READ 2:4-5. :5** Often one of the problems with the proud is drunkenness. An illustration is in **Dan. 5:17-30**. Literally wine is a deceiver. Pride makes a person restless, dissatisfied with his home; it enlarges the desire. Death never says, "That's enough; I'm full!" Neither does pride.

The proud, their downfall, and why are illustrated in **2:6-20**, while the faithful, their lives, and why are portrayed in **3:1-19**. The fate of the proud is that a song of derision and denunciation will be sung against them, cursing them with five woes according to their sins. A woe is a negative warning, each woe directed at a particular sin of the proud. In terms of these 'woes', just as pride takes many forms, so does its consequences. So, (1) **EVIL BEARS WITHIN IT** THE SEEDS OF ITS OWN DESTRUCTION. (2) GOD(!) IS **OPPOSED TO THE PROUD.**

**2:6-8 :6** "Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, even mockery and insinuations against him and say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his—for how long—and makes himself rich with loans?' :7 "Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, and those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them. :8 "Because you have looted many nations, all the remainder of the peoples will loot you—because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, to the town and all its inhabitants.

**READ 2:6-8. WOE AGAINST AGGRESSION. TRYING TO GET 'LIFE' BY OVERPOWERING, CONTROLLING, INTIMIDATING. NLT :6** "But soon their captives will taunt them. They will mock them, saying, 'What sorrow awaits you thieves! Now you will get what you deserve! You've become rich by extortion, but how much longer can this go on?' :7 Suddenly, your debtors will take action. They will turn on you and take all you have, while you stand trembling and helpless. :8 Because you have plundered many nations, now all the survivors will plunder you. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence.

:6 All the victims will respond with taunting the proud, a song in the form of riddles, the real meaning hidden by using words which have a two-fold sense. The Chaldeans were continually seizing by force that which was not theirs, enriching themselves at the expense of others. "Woe to you" for making yourself rich exacting heavy taxation of the conquered nations, lending on the poorest of terms.

:7 Your creditors (literally biters) will unexpectedly strike back. They'll awaken. You were plundering as you went; you'll become plunder for them.

:8 Your victims will turn on you and take all you have. Why? Because you're murderers and you've filled both the countryside and cities with violence. There's been the wholesale destruction of people and their lands in the pursuit of wealth, shedding blood just for the sheer love of conquering. Woe to you!

**2:9-11 :9** "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house to put his nest on high, to be delivered from the hand of calamity! :10 "You have devised a shameful thing for your house by cutting off many peoples; so you are sinning against yourself. :11 "Surely the stone will cry out from the wall, and the rafter will answer it from the framework.

**READ 2:9-11. WOE AGAINST PREMEDITATED MISTREATMENT. TRYING TO GET 'LIFE' BY WRONGFUL GAIN,** willing to do evil to get what they want. **NLT :9** "What sorrow awaits you who build big houses with money gained dishonestly! You believe your wealth will buy security, putting your family's nest beyond the reach of danger. :10 But by the murders you committed, you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives. :11 The very stones in the walls cry out against you, and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint.

**:9** They wanted that which didn't belong to them. Why? So they could put themselves out of the reach of harm, like an eagle that feels its nest is secure, untouchable. The city of Babylon was protected by a huge wall more than 85' thick and 11 miles long. It had been built with the spoils of conquest.

**:10-11** By your killing, you shamed yourselves. You are sinning against your souls (soul-sick); you've forfeited your lives. In the trial against you that will eventually bring the death penalty, the very stones and lumber will testify against you. Shame! You've sinned against yourselves. Woe to you!

**2:12-14 :12** "Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and founds a town with violence! **:13** "Is it not indeed from the LORD of hosts that peoples toil for fire, and nations grow weary for nothing? **:14** "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

**READ 2:12-14. WOE AGAINST VIOLENCE AND INJUSTICE. TRYING TO GET 'LIFE' BY RATIONALIZING ONE'S SELFISH WAYS, WANTING ONE'S OWN GLORY TO BE KNOWN. NLT :12** "What sorrow awaits you who build cities with money gained through murder and corruption! **:13** Has not the LORD of Heaven's Armies promised that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes? They work so hard, but all in vain! **:14** For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the LORD.

**:12** Babylon deported entire nations to build. Slave labor built Babylon's grand processional street, magnificent palaces, costly temples, hanging gardens!

Yahweh was *unimpressed!* **:13** It is from Yahweh of armies, His rule as Commander over every created thing, that all your labor shall merely be food for the fire. All your work is a waste because of your pride and abuse.

**:14** Here we see what the earth should and will be filled with—the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh! God will triumph, the tide of evil will be stopped, the knowledge of Yahweh will flourish, the essence of who He is will be revealed. The destruction of the Chaldeans will reveal Yahweh's glory throughout the world. God's final program has room for only *His* glory! "Woe to you who think the glory belongs to yourselves, who believe you don't need God, that you're the center of your world, that it's all about you." YAHWEH IS WHO LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.

**2:15-17 :15** "Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, who mix in your venom even to make them drunk so as to look on their nakedness! **:16** "You will be filled with disgrace rather than honor. Now you yourself drink and expose your own nakedness. The cup in the LORD'S right hand will come around to you, and utter disgrace will come upon your glory. **:17** "For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the devastation of its beasts by which you terrified them, because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, to the town and all its inhabitants.

**READ 2:15-17. WOE AGAINST INHUMANITY. TRYING TO GET 'LIFE' BY HUMILIATION, TREATING PEOPLE AS THINGS TO BE USED, exploited. NLT :15** "What sorrow awaits you who make your neighbors drunk! You force your cup on them so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness. **:16** But soon it will be your turn to be disgraced. Come, drink and be exposed! Drink from the cup of the LORD's judgment, and all your glory will be turned to shame. **:17** You cut down the forests of Lebanon. Now you will be cut down. You destroyed the wild animals, so now their terror will be yours. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence.

**:15** The humiliation of the conquered, to those who use alcohol as a prelude to perversion. You get your neighbors drunk, making them behave shamefully and become easy prey. Not only are you drinking yourselves (2:5), but you're also making drunkards of others, leading to a breakdown of morals, which leads to gross immorality. Alcohol! Drugs! Using people! Woe to you!

**:16** You'll reap what you've sown. You'll be lying naked in your own vomit, dead drunk! Utter disgrace(!) will come upon your imagined glory.

**:17** Lebanon, north of Israel, was known for its abundance of trees and animal life. "You abused God's creation for your selfish purposes. You exploited trees, animals, people. You were destructive of all forms of God's creation."

When we lose a sense of humanity, the results are shocking, destructive.

The person who is sinning likes to use or draw others in!

2:18-20 :18 "What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols. :19 "Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, 'Awake!' To a mute stone, 'Arise!' And that is your teacher? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all inside it. :20 "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

READ 2:18-20. WOE AGAINST IDOLATRY. TRYING TO GET 'LIFE' BY PUTTING TRUST IN SOMEONE OR SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE BIBLICAL GOD, BY THINKING THE THINGS WE'VE MADE OR DISCOVERED ARE ABLE TO GIVE US 'LIFE' AND FULFILL OUR DESIRES.

NLT :18 "What good is an idol carved by man, or a cast image that deceives you? How foolish to trust in your own creation—a god that can't even talk! :19 What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols, 'Wake up and save us!' To speechless stone images you say, 'Rise up and teach us!' Can an idol tell you what to do? They may be overlaid with gold and silver, but they are lifeless inside. :20 But the LORD is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him.

These verses describe the real cause of their eventual destruction, turning to an idol instead of turning to the living God. "You whose god is your strength (1:11)."

:18 If you have carved it out of wood or fashioned it from stone, if you've made an image by melting metal and casting it into the shape of your choice, how do these help you? Why would you trust in something you've created when it's speechless? It's a creation of your own imagination! Don't commit yourself to idols that mankind has set up—science, technology, education, finances, athletics, a human being, creation.

:19 How foolish to worship the work of your own hands! "Wood, awake! Stone, arise! These things teach you! Don't be ridiculous! They can't help you even if encased in gold and silver. There's no breath, no life, in them."

:20 But Yahweh is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

From man-made idols, the attention shifts to Yahweh, the One who is, the self-existent One. He will be there because He is! The true, living, holy God! God is ruling. He knows what the Judeans are doing. He knows what the Chaldeans are doing. He knows what's going on in each of our lives. Before the all-wise, all-powerful God, silence! LET US TRUST HIM, IN FIRM CONFIDENCE THAT HIS WAYS AND TIMING ARE BEST, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THEM.

"Hush! Be quiet!" Yahweh inspires profound silence. If not, we don't know Him as He is. Woe to you if you give your life to anyone or anything else.

Let's wrap up all these verses. Woe to the proud! The proud aggressive person will be destroyed by his/her own aggressiveness. The proud greedy person will try to reach too far and lose everything. The proud violent person will turn people in violence against him/her. The proud inhumane person will drink from Yahweh's cup of retribution and find disgrace covering his/her glory. The proud idolatrous person will trust his/her own creation and end up with no help or instruction. It's Yahweh's glory which should and will fill the earth. It's Yahweh and no one else who is in His holy temple. Let us be silent (sssh!) before Him. Let us place our confidence in Him alone.

Pride begins by not trusting God. Woe to us if we're guilty of replacing God with ourselves or another or a thing. Woe to those who choose to sin! It won't turn out good! Sin pays its wages. The consequences are built in.

MAYBE THERE'S SOMEONE HEARING THIS WHO: PHYSICALLY IS ABUSIVE, TRYING TO CONTROL, THE GOD OF YOUR LITTLE WORLD. RUNS HIS/HER LIFE BY WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: "I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET IT." USES PEOPLE TO GET HIS/HER OWN WAY, SELFISHLY EXPECTING OTHERS TO SERVE HIM/HER. IS TRYING TO BECOME FAMOUS, POPULAR. IS WORSHIPPING SOMEONE OR SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE BIBLICAL GOD. WOE TO YOU! TURN TO THE GOD OF :14 AND :20. LEARN TO WALK BY FAITH IN GOD BECAUSE IT'S IN HIM ALONE THAT WE FIND 'LIFE' AS HE INTENDED WE EXPERIENCE IT. IN WHAT WAYS DO THESE VERSES CAUSE YOU TO TREMBLE, EXULT, AND TRUST?

Let's close by reading Habakkuk's trusting words in 3:16-19. Prayer time.

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## EXTRA NOTES:

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Is. 47:1-11 describes Judah as being “worn out” because they took the counsel of their captors (the Chaldeans) rather than God’s! We’re worn out when we don’t take God’s counsel.

:5 The proud wants to gobble everything up, the greed can’t be quenched.

:7 In 70 years, Medo-Persia became who plundered the Chaldeans.

CONCL Sobering verses. Think about the truths revealed!