

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Huge, Towering Tree



DANIEL 4:1-37

**TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL
HELPS**

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DIVISION II

The History and Destiny of the Nations: Six Pictures Revealed in Daniel’s Prophecies, [Daniel 2:1–7:28](#)

Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream of a Huge, Towering Tree: A Picture of the Proud and Self-Sufficient Being Humbled, [Daniel 4:1-37](#)

([Daniel 4:1-37](#)) Introduction: *sinful pride* is one of the worst evils on earth. People who are filled with pride exalt themselves and demean others.

The attitude of a proud person says, “Look at me”

1. “Look at my social status.”
2. “Look at my achievements.”
3. “Look at my education.”
4. “Look at my talents.”
5. “Look at my salary and bank account.”
6. “Look at my fancy house.”
7. “Look at all my possessions.”

Of course, none of these things are wrong in and of themselves. They become wrong when the people who have them become self-centered and begin to exalt themselves above others. Such pride is sinful because it belittles and sometimes oppresses others.

Sinful pride, the exaltation of self, can cause rulers to subject people and rule them with an iron fist. Down through history, sinful pride has led to unjust laws, wars, and the conquest and destruction of nations and entire races of people. It is because of its destructive nature that God hates sinful pride so much.

King Nebuchadnezzar was full of sinful pride and self-sufficiency, exalting himself above everyone else, including God. Therefore, the LORD had to teach him a much-needed lesson. Nebuchadnezzar had to learn that God is sovereign and that He will humble all those guilty of sinful pride, even the mightiest rulers.

This chapter shows how the LORD went about teaching Nebuchadnezzar this great truth.

This is, *Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream of a Huge, Towering Tree: A Picture of the Proud and Self-Sufficient Being Humbled, [Daniel 4:1-37](#).*

1. **The troubling dream: a lesson on God's power to control and to work out all things for good (vv.1-18).**
2. **The reluctant interpretation of the dream: a warning to the guilty to repent (vv.19-27).**
3. **The fulfillment of the dream: a picture of God's humbling the prideful and the self-sufficient (vv.28-37).**

1. (Daniel 4:1-18) Sovereignty, of God, Over Rulers and Kingdoms; Works All Things Out for Good—God, Sovereignty of, Over Rulers and Kingdoms—Assurance, Source, God's Sovereignty; God Working All Things for Good—Dream, of Nebuchadnezzar, a Towering Tree—Nebuchadnezzar, Dreams of, Towering Tree.

Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling and frightening dream that God Himself aroused. The king was a prideful, self-sufficient ruler who exalted himself above everyone else, including God. Therefore, the LORD needed to teach him a crucial lesson.

Nebuchadnezzar needed to learn that God is sovereign and that He controls the world's rulers and kingdoms. The rulers of the earth rise and fall because of their wicked behavior. However, God uses all events to work things out for good for those who truly follow Him.

Therefore, if King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to please and be blessed by the only true God, he must walk humbly day by day. He had to renounce sin and live righteously. He had to rule in mercy and compassion and execute true justice throughout the empire, for he was accountable to the Most High God, the only living and true God (Daniel 4:17, 27).

Note how the LORD went about teaching this great truth to a prideful, arrogant, and self-sufficient ruler:

a. The king's proclamation was a document of praise to the LORD (Daniel 4:1-3). In fact, the event recorded here became an official proclamation. It was actually composed by King Nebuchadnezzar himself and circulated throughout the Babylonian Empire. It should be noted that this is the only chapter in the Holy Bible that was written by a pagan, a person who did not believe in the LORD. Nevertheless, Nebuchadnezzar wanted the citizens of the nation to know that he had suffered a serious illness for seven long years. However, the Most High God had miraculously healed him and restored him to the throne.

Most likely, the public proclamation was used **for two purposes**:

1. to explain why he had been absent from public functions for so long and why he was now able to return to the throne
2. to give a strong public witness to the Most High God who had both humbled and healed him

Again, Nebuchadnezzar wanted the citizens of the empire to know what the Most High God had done in his life. The LORD had shown him signs and worked miracles (wonders) to prove that He is the Most High God. In addition, the LORD had proved that He alone is sovereign over all the world and has the power to work true miracles.

Therefore, Nebuchadnezzar bore a strong witness to the LORD by offering up a **threefold praise to Him**:

1. He praised the LORD's great power in working miracles.
2. He proclaimed that God's kingdom is eternal.
3. He proclaimed that God's dominion—His control and rule over all—endures from generation to generation.

These statements about the LORD are a strong testimony for any ruler to make, especially for one as powerful as Nebuchadnezzar. Remember, he was an old man when he gave this testimony for God. He was keenly aware that death for him lay right over the horizon. Yet here he was proclaiming that the Most High God is eternal, that both His kingdom and dominion over people endure forever. By this, Nebuchadnezzar was declaring that God's power would be working eternally through signs and miracles. An astonishing confession and acknowledgement by this mighty king!

b. The king began to share how his encounter with the LORD took place. He was living in the palace, comfortable, prosperous, and perfectly content with his life (Daniel 4:4-5). This is a clear picture of self-sufficiency and pride, of reveling in comfort and prosperity and neglecting one's responsibility to serve others. Obviously, this was a time of peace and plenty for the empire. But suddenly, one night while the king was asleep in his bed, he had a dream that terrified him.

c. When morning finally came, the king immediately summoned all the wise men of Babylon (various types of occult advisers) to appear in court to interpret the dream (Daniel 4:6-9). A range of occult advisers arrived first, before Daniel, but they were unable to interpret the dream (Daniel 4:7). Finally, Daniel arrived. Remember that he was the chief adviser to the king. As soon as he entered the court, the king addressed him as Belshazzar, a name that was derived from the king's false god Bel (Daniel 1:7).

Note Nebuchadnezzar's great respect for Daniel, keeping in mind that Daniel had now served the king for many decades, perhaps more than 30 years. Through these years, the king had become convinced that the spirit of the so-called gods was in Daniel and spoke through him. He was certain that Daniel was inspired by the gods and that his counsel was far superior to that of the occult advisers. Thus, Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel to interpret the dream for him (Daniel 4:9).

d. The king revealed to Daniel four significant images about the dream that stuck out in his mind (Daniel 4:10-17).

- 1) **First, Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge, towering tree in the middle of the earth (Daniel 4:10-12).** This tree grew enormously big and high, so high that it touched the sky itself. Therefore, it was visible to the entire earth (Daniel 4:11).

Furthermore, it bore a massive amount of fruit, enough to provide food for all to eat ([Daniel 4:12](#)). It also provided shelter and food for all the animals and birds of the earth.

2) Second, Nebuchadnezzar saw a messenger come down from heaven to interpret this peaceful scene ([Daniel 4:13-15](#)^a). The messenger issued **four commands**.

- a. Cut down the tree and cut off its branches ([Daniel 4:14](#)^a).
- b. Shake off its leaves and scattered its fruit ([Daniel 4:14](#)^b).
- c. Chase away the animals from beneath it and the birds from its branches ([Daniel 4:14](#)^c).
- d. Leave the stump of its roots in the ground and bind it with iron and bronze ([Daniel 4:15](#)^a).

3) Third, Nebuchadnezzar heard the messenger switch from talking about a tree to a man ([Daniel 4:15](#)^b-16). This shocked the king, for the man was to live outdoors among animals and be exposed to the elements. His mind was to be changed to the mind of an animal and he would become insane, acting like an animal ([Daniel 4:16](#)).

4) Fourth, Nebuchadnezzar heard the messenger declare the reason for this man's punishment ([Daniel 4:17](#)). The man was to be a testimony before the whole world, a testimony that God is sovereign and that He alone controls the world's rulers and kingdoms. Additionally, God gives the kingdoms to whomever He chooses, even to the lowliest of people. Therefore, all the self-sufficient and proud rulers of the earth needed to know that God could remove them at any time.

Thought 1. The implication is clear: all leaders and rulers should renounce their sin of pride and all other wicked behavior. They should live righteously and rule in mercy and compassion. They should execute true justice and walk humbly upon earth in the knowledge that they are being held accountable by the Most High God.

e. Indicating that this was the end of his dream, Nebuchadnezzar expressed confidence in Daniel's ability to interpret it ([Daniel 4:18](#)). He urged Daniel to explain the meaning because his occult advisers did not have the ability to do so. Again, Nebuchadnezzar reemphasized his belief that the spirit of the gods was in Daniel.

Thought 1. God is sovereign. He rules over the entire world and controls every event that takes place. God's sovereignty is a wonderful truth, for it means that God has control over our lives and everything that happens to us, including hardships and catastrophic events.

During such times we need to be keenly aware that God is still in control. He possesses all knowledge and all power, and He loves us with an incomprehensible love. Therefore, He will use His power to strengthen

us to bear the suffering and to walk victoriously through it. Even when we come to the ultimate crisis of death, the LORD will use His power to make us triumphant—victorious over death. Quicker than the eye can blink, the LORD will transfer us from this life into His very own presence, into heaven itself.

The LORD is sovereign. He is working all things out for good for those who truly love and follow Him ([Rom. 8:28](#)).

Matthew 6:13 (NASB)

“¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]”

Acts 17:24-31 (NASB)

“²⁴ The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;
²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;
²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

²⁹ "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

³⁰ "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,

³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

“²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

Romans 8:34-39 (NASB)

“³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day LONG; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 9:19-21 (NASB)

“¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"

²⁰ On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?

²¹ Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?"

Deuteronomy 4:39 (NASB)

“³⁹ Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.”

1 Chronicles 29:12 (NASB)

“¹² Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.”

Psalms 83:17-18 (NASB)

“¹⁷ Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever, And let them be humiliated and perish,

¹⁸ That they may know that You alone, whose name is the Lord, Are the Most High over all the earth.”

Psalms 135:6 (NASB)

“⁶ Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.”

Daniel 2:20 (NASB)

“²⁰ Daniel said, Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.”

Daniel 4:35 (NASB)

“³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'"

2. (Daniel 4:19-27) Warning, to Repent, Given by Daniel—Repentance, Warning, Given by Daniel—Nebuchadnezzar, Warning to, Must Repent—Nebuchadnezzar, Pride of, Led to Insanity—Nebuchadnezzar, Insanity of, Result of Pride.

Daniel reluctantly interpreted the dream for King Nebuchadnezzar.

Note the Scripture and outline:

a. Standing there before the monarch, Daniel was visibly shaken and deeply troubled by the dream (Daniel 4:19^a). For some time he stood in stone silence, so long that Nebuchadnezzar had to encourage him to speak. Daniel's mind was flooded with perplexing and disturbing thoughts that terrified him. As the king's chief adviser, Daniel had undoubtedly grown somewhat close to the king and cared deeply for him. But even more than this empathy for Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel knew that the nation and the people could suffer greatly when the dream was fulfilled. Finally he spoke up, expressing a wish that the dream applied to the king's enemies and not to the king.

b. Daniel began to explain the significant features of the dream, majoring upon three.

1) The towering tree in the middle of the earth represented the king and his empire (Daniel 4:20-22). The empire's economic prosperity, the protection and security it provided, the greatness it had achieved, the military strength, the vast expansion, and the impact of its influence around the world—all these achievements had been primarily accomplished during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. The mighty tree represented the king and his empire.

2) The messenger's commands represented God's coming judgment on the king (Daniel 4:23-25). The judgment was a decree issued by the Most High God Himself (Daniel 4:24). Therefore, the judgment could not be escaped. Nebuchadnezzar would suffer at the hand of God because of his pride, self-sufficiency, and wicked behavior. However, the stump indicated that the king would not lose his life but rather be preserved. Being drenched with the dew of heaven and living like the animals was a symbol of the king's losing his mind. He would become insane, living outside like a beast exposed to the elements. Tragically, his wild, irrational behavior would last for seven long years (Daniel 4:25^b). His insanity was a discipline of God and would continue until he humbled himself and acknowledged that God is sovereign—that God alone controls all the kingdoms and affairs of the human race.

3) The stump with its roots represented the king's recovery (Daniel 4:26). Although the towering tree was cut down, a stump with roots was left. Thus, the LORD gave the king a glimmer of hope for the future. Nebuchadnezzar would be physically healed and restored to the throne of Babylon. As stated above, his healing and restoration would not take place until he acknowledged the LORD, that the LORD alone rules and controls the affairs of this world. He alone works all things out for good.

c. Daniel concluded the prophecy by encouraging the king to repent (v.27). Nebuchadnezzar must renounce his sins, live righteously, and rule in mercy and compassion. He must no longer oppress people but, instead, execute true justice for the citizens of the empire, especially for the oppressed. No longer would he be allowed to live selfishly, coveting more and more wealth and neglecting the poor of society. No longer could he oppress and exploit people nor allow injustice within the courts of the

empire. He had to establish a society of mercy and justice. **In summary**, Nebuchadnezzar could escape the judgment *only if he truly repented* of his sins and lived righteously, ruling in mercy and compassion.

Thought 1. Repentance is an absolute essential for a person to escape the judgment of God. God's judgment is coming upon the sinful and wicked of this earth. All who commit evil of any kind will face God's condemnation. This is the strong teaching of God's Holy Word. But there is an escape, the same escape that was offered to King Nebuchadnezzar. This escape is repentance, true repentance. If we genuinely renounce our sins and live righteously, showing mercy and compassion to the needy of this earth, we will escape the condemnation of God. The LORD will accept us and give us the wonderful inheritance of life eternal.

Listen to what God's Holy Word says about repentance:

Matthew 3:2 (NASB)

“² Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luke 13:3 (NASB)

“³ I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Luke 15:7 (NASB)

“⁷ I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Acts 3:19 (NASB)

“¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Acts 8:22 (NASB)

“²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.”

Psalms 34:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Isaiah 55:7 (NASB)

“⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.”

Ezekiel 18:21 (NASB)

“²¹ But if the wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed and observes all My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”

3. ([Daniel 4:28-37](#)) Pride, Example of, Nebuchadnezzar—Self-Sufficiency, Example of, Nebuchadnezzar—Self-Exaltation, Example of, Nebuchadnezzar—Nebuchadnezzar, Pride – Arrogance, Results of, God’s Judgment—Insanity, Example of, Nebuchadnezzar—Repentance, Example of, Nebuchadnezzar—Salvation, Example of, Nebuchadnezzar—Nebuchadnezzar, Salvation of, Strongly Suggested.

God fulfilled Nebuchadnezzar’s dream by humbling the prideful and self-sufficient king. All that Daniel had predicted came to pass, both the horrible judgment and the unexpected, glorious restoration of the king.

a. Although judgment on the king had been predicted, the LORD’s mercy reached out in a continued attempt to arouse him to repentance. Patiently, the LORD gave the king one whole year to repent. But the LORD’s mercy was to no avail. Twelve months after Daniel’s warning, while the king was walking on the roof of his royal palace, a surge of pride swelled up within the king from the depths of his heart ([Daniel 4:30](#)).

While looking out over the beautiful city, he boasted that it had been his power alone that had built Babylon. It was true that Nebuchadnezzar had been very successful as a ruler in expanding the territory of the empire and in completing a large number of construction projects. And they had all added to the beauty of the magnificent city. For example, it was during his administration that the famous *hanging gardens* of Babylon were built as well as the famous Ishtar Gate and a large number of temples, military fortifications, and other building projects. However, Nebuchadnezzar totally ignored God, denying Him as the source of his ability and success.

Pride diminishes God and exalts self. Pride either overlooks or refuses to acknowledge that God is the source of life and of all ability. Therefore, whatever success a person achieves, the LORD is the ultimate source of that success. While Nebuchadnezzar’s arrogant words were still on his lips, a voice suddenly spoke from heaven pronouncing judgment upon the king ([Daniel 4:31-32](#)). And the judgment was guaranteed because it was the voice of God Himself.

God spelled out three features of the judgment:

1. The king was to lose his royal authority immediately ([Daniel 4:31](#)).
2. The king was to become insane and live outside among the animals ([Daniel 4:32](#)).
3. The king was to remain insane for seven years, until he was humbled before the LORD and was willing to acknowledge that the LORD is sovereign—that the LORD controls all the kingdoms and affairs of this world.

In that very hour, the hand of God’s judgment fell upon Nebuchadnezzar. A horrible delusion struck the king and he became completely insane ([Daniel 4:33](#)). He was driven from human society and began to behave like an animal, living outdoors exposed to the

weather. His hair soon grew to be extremely long and matted, and both his finger- and toenails grew as long as the claws of a large bird. Through the years of his adult life, Nebuchadnezzar had treated people cruelly like animals. Now he was reaping what he had sown. He had become insane, thinking and acting as though he were a wild beast.

b. Finally, after seven years of insanity, the LORD began to restore the king's mind (Daniel 4:34-36). The humiliated king began to regain his reasoning skills and to realize what a fool he had been. Convicted of his sinful pride and wicked ways, he lifted up his eyes toward heaven and looked to the LORD (Daniel 4:34). Although we have no way of knowing for sure, his behavior is a strong suggestion of faith and repentance—a genuine conversion experience. Remember that Daniel had been the chief royal advisor to Nebuchadnezzar for over 30 years. *Considering how faithful Daniel was to the LORD, he was bound to be a strong witness in sharing the Word of God with the king.* This fact plus the other major encounters Nebuchadnezzar had with God point strongly toward this being a genuine conversion. Whatever the case, through the intervention of the LORD the king was healed mentally, just as the LORD had predicted.

With a heart full of thanksgiving, Nebuchadnezzar immediately exalted the LORD (Daniel 4:34^b-35).

1. He praised the LORD as the One who lives forever (Daniel 4:34^b).
2. He honored the LORD's eternal dominion and kingdom that endure from generation to generation.
3. He confessed that all people are as nothing when compared to the LORD (Daniel 4:35^a).
4. He acknowledged the LORD's sovereignty, that the LORD controls both the beings of heaven and the peoples of earth (Daniel 4:35^b). Moreover, no one could challenge either the wisdom or the power of the LORD.

After Nebuchadnezzar repented, the LORD returned him to the throne (Daniel 4:36). Keep in mind that Nebuchadnezzar was one of the greatest kings in all of history. Therefore, the royal advisers, nobles, and army commanders were not only stunned by his recovery but also overjoyed. They knew that the king who had built the empire to such heights of glory and grandeur could now be resealed upon the throne of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar became even greater than before. In recording this event, the king himself declared that he was honored more than ever before and considered to be greater than he was before his illness. Of note, King Nebuchadnezzar apparently had the dream about the huge towering tree in the latter years of his reign. A later date is suggested because the empire was at peace (Daniel 4:4), and the king's construction projects seem to have been completed (Daniel 4:30). The events of this chapter spanned a period of eight years, and Nebuchadnezzar reigned for some period of time after the events took place. Thus, considering that Nebuchadnezzar **ruled for 43 years (605–562 B.C.)**, the dream probably took place ten or more years prior to his death (**perhaps between 575 and 580 B.C.**).

Whatever the case, it had been about **30 years** since Daniel's three friends had been thrown into the fiery furnace ([Daniel 3:1-30](#)). Daniel was probably somewhere around **50 years** of age at this time.

c. Nebuchadnezzar closed his strong testimony with **two final proclamations** ([Daniel 4:37](#)).

First, he praised the LORD, as *the King of heaven*. He declared that the LORD's works are true and His ways are just. Simply stated, whatever the LORD does is always right and just.

Second, Nebuchadnezzar issued a warning to the people throughout his kingdom. He declared that the LORD always humbles those who walk in pride. Indeed, he himself was a prime example of the fact, for he had painfully suffered the humiliation of God's judgment upon his arrogant heart and self-sufficient behavior.

Thought 1. God warns us against sinful pride and against an arrogant manner of independence or self-reliance. When we exalt ourselves above others, we degrade them and often bring pain and suffering into their lives. When we consider ourselves to be self-sufficient, we either ignore or deny the fact that God is the giver of life and of all the skills we have. Furthermore, He is the giver of every good and perfect gift that falls upon the human race. Thus, God strongly warns us against pride and self-sufficiency.

Listen to His Holy Word:

[Matthew 23:12 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹² **Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.**”

[James 4:6 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁶ **But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’**”

[1 John 2:15-16 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹⁵ **Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

¹⁶ **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”**

[Psalms 10:2 \(NASB\)](#)

“² **In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.**”

Psalms 49:6-7 (NASB)

“⁶ Even those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?

⁷ No man can by any means redeem *his* brother Or give to God a ransom for him.”

Psalms 119:21 (NASB)

“²¹ You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, Who wander from Your commandments.”

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB)

“¹⁶ There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

¹⁹ A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.”

Proverbs 11:2 (NASB)

“² When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.”

Proverbs 16:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.”

Proverbs 17:19 (NASB)

“¹⁹ He who loves transgression loves strife; He who raises his door seeks destruction.”

Proverbs 21:4 (NASB)

“⁴ Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin.”

Proverbs 26:12 (NASB)

“¹² Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Isaiah 5:21 (NASB)

“²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!”

Isaiah 14:13-15 (NASB)

“¹³ But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

¹⁵ Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.”

Obadiah 1:4 (NASB)

“⁴ Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down, declares the Lord.”