

Will Men Never Learn To Be Humble?

by Bill Crews

Arrogance in man is one attribute that God will neither overlook nor tolerate, especially an arrogance that presumes to elevate man or the things of man to a place that belongs to God alone and the things of God. Conversely, humility in man is an attribute that God commands and commends, especially that humility that exalts and submits to God's will and serves the needs and welfare of other men. Genuine humility would have kept the ancient Israelites out of trouble, but even when kings and subjects had rebelled against God in forsaking His laws and going after other gods, Jehovah called for humility and repentance and showed mercy when they were forthcoming (**Leviticus 26:40-45; 2 Chronicles 7:12-14; 12:5-8, 12; 34:26-28**).

God said to His people, *"I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit"* (**Isaiah 57:15**), but He also warned, *"The lofty looks of man shall be brought low, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day"* (**Isaiah 2:11**). Jesus *"in the days of His flesh"* was *"meek and lowly in heart"* (**Matthew 11:29**), taught humility in service to others (**John 13:4-5, 12-17**), and *"humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross"* (**Philippians 2:8**). That same Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and God's Son, says to us, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (**Matthew 5:3**). He also said, *"Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"* (**Matthew 18:3-4**). His servant, the apostle Peter, wrote: *"Likewise, ye younger, be subject unto the elder. Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another: for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time"* (**1 Peter 5:5-6**).

No sooner had Nebuchadnezzar, king of the mighty Chaldean empire, said, "Is not this great Babylon, which **I** have built for the royal dwelling place, by the might of **my** power and for the glory of **my** majesty," than a voice from heaven said to him, "Thy kingdom is departed from thee" (**Daniel 4:30-31**). He was taken from his throne, driven from men, and compelled to live as a beast of the field until he humbled himself before God and gave God His place. Only then was he restored to his throne. (Read all of **Daniel 4**; all earthly rulers should read it!)

We must not ascribe the attributes of God to either men or the things of men. Resorting to blasphemous flattery to get back into the good graces of Herod (Agrippa I), the representatives of Tyre and Sidon shouted, *"The voice of a god, and not of a man!"* Herod had made a speech unto them, arrayed in dazzling royal apparel, and sitting upon his throne. They should not have uttered such rash words, and he should not have accepted them. But he liked what they were saying, and *"he gave not God the glory."* So immediately *"an angel of the Lord smote him,"* and *"he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost"* (**Acts 12:20-23**). Truly, *"pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall"* (**Proverbs 16:18**).

Today we have a religious (it **is** a religion) philosophy that declares that the only god existing is a god of man's imagination and invention, that man is not a creature of divine creation, but the loftiest and mightiest result of blind chance. This god is "reasoned" out of existence, and man is elevated to the position of the greatest living being. Humanism is human pride gone to seed. The philosophy of evolution does the same thing. Both are forms of atheism. Any philosophy that dethrones God, enthrones man and inflates him with pride. Today a mere man plays the role of God in movies written and directed by mere men. They come up with a "God" of man's making because they do not really believe that man is of God's making. That is neither respect for God nor humility before God. Several years ago a "highly refined computer program developed in a

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