

## PRIDE

One definition of pride is unwarranted self-esteem or the belief that self is more important or more esteemed than God. But sometimes pride has a positive meaning such as when we use the saying, “take pride in yourself” or “be proud of your accomplishments”. There may be a variety of meanings and connotations associated with the word or condition of pride; but the definition as described above, as well as a discussion, is based on Biblical references.



Pride may have first appeared in Genesis with the construction of the tower of Babel. Nimrod, a descendent of Noah, leads the Babylonians in the construction of the tower as “a gateway to heaven”. Much is described in details of this project but, in short, the tower represented man’s attempt to share in or even overrule God’s glory. **It was an attempt for the “created” (man) to make a name for himself** – though possibly erecting this monument in the name of or for glory of God.

As a historical note, this city is the same city so profiled in the current news - yes, the city of Babylon in Iraq! But at that time, the city and the tower were reflections of the Nimrod who was described as a warrior or conqueror. His accomplishments were the basis for his defiance of God and foolish thinking that he did not need God as Lord. This same position continued with Nebuchadnezzar, who considered his god(s) – a consequence of the capture of Judah and the captivity of the Hebrews like Daniel.

As believers, we have the benefit of reading and applying the Bible – of *hiding God’s word in our hearts*. The stories of pride should remind us that, although a godless position last for a season, it cannot withstand the judgment, sovereign power and plan of God.

Consider that the tower was never completed but that God riddled the project by replacing the common language of the citizens with different languages. Without adequate communication, the project could not be completed or was not successful. Secondly, that Nebuchadnezzar lost his kingship in a single evening and, from the loss and his mental illness was brought to understanding and belief that God is supreme.

Instead of building a *gateway to heaven*, the Babylonians should have looked to heaven as eventually Nebuchadnezzar. From this view, we understand a foundation of our belief of God, his mercy, his grace, his blessings and his Lordship toward us, his children.

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