

Arrogance and God

Commentary for June 1, 2009 — God Is Against Arrogance

When you think about it, people really want very little in life. They simply want to be happy. Everyone wants to be happy. God wants you and me to be happy (eventually). So why is there so little happiness in the world?

Look in your own life. Are you happy? If not, why not? If you are like me you are happy some of the time and unhappy some of the time. You know, practically every human activity and the associations that one has in life are almost always intended to bring happiness, if not sooner then later. Yet there is very little happiness among humanity.¹ For those who do not know God, their lot in life is less happy than it would be if they would or could acknowledge and know Him as you and I know Him.

The article this month is titled "The Arrogance of Man." (Read the [June 2009 Newsletter](#) for additional information regarding this subject.) It involves and discusses man's overbearing pride in self, as an individual and that pride and arrogance as it is extended to one's family, tribe, people, community, and to all who are descended from Adam.

"The fear of YHWH is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

• **Proverbs 8:13**

Wisdom is the exact opposite of the arrogance and false pride of Proverbs 8:13. Wisdom is counterpoised to them, as is shown in the verses before and after, in context:

"I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

The fear of YHWH is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom [actually, sagacity]:

- **I** [wisdom] **am understanding; I have strength.**
- **By me** [wisdom] **kings reign, and princes decree justice.**
- **By me** [wisdom] **princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.**
- **I** [wisdom] **love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."**

• **Proverbs 8:12-17**

Wisdom can be a gift of God that He is desirous to give to each of us. When was the last time you asked God for wisdom like Solomon: **"Give me now wisdom and knowledge"** (2 Chronicles 1:10). As James wrote:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it [wisdom] **shall be given him. But let him ask in faith ..."**

• **James 1:5-6²**

Wisdom is no guarantee of happiness. King Solomon's wisdom did not make him happy. In fact, arrogance can ruin wisdom and happiness, as it ruined Solomon's wisdom. It did not

1. To be more precise, the lives of most people in the world (and the lives of most people throughout history) are not only unhappy, but they are miserable with little hope of their lives becoming better. Truly most people are born, suffer, and then they die, with little pleasure, joy, or happiness. God is in control and He has allowed this to happen in His creation.

make him happy: **“For in much wisdom is much grief [vexation]”** (Ecclesiastes 1:18). With Solomon it was his natural arrogance that led him astray (1 Kings 11:1–13).

One needs to recognize that with regard to the arrogance of man, it too comes from God who has allowed man to consider himself better than he is. In fact, God made man that way. He made man to be a little lower than Elohim, made him with a wondrous body and a wondrous spirit that combine into a unique soul created in the image and likeness of God Himself.

Everything comes from God, even mankind’s arrogance and inflated self importance. Mankind has no power at all — certainly no power of free will. Only God is truly free to have His will be done. To believe otherwise is arrogance of the highest order. As A.E. Knoch writes:

“Man’s will is always apparently opposed to the will of God. We do not recognize the fact that man is a mere creature, and, as such, has not even the power to oppose God unless it is implanted in him by the Creator. For the purpose of His self-revelation it is God’s will that His revealed will be withstood.”

• *Problem of Evil ...³*

We human beings imagine that we are sovereign in our individual wills to do as we please in our lives. We have no conception as to how our lives are controlled by hundreds of factors. Our arrogance is that we believe we have control over important matters of our lives, yet the truth is, we are controlled by God both in our environment and heredity from the time we take our first breath to the time we take our last. God’s control of kings, also applies to you:

“The king’s heart is in the hand of YHWH, as the rivers [like irrigation rivulets] of water: he turns it whithersoever he will. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but YHWH ponders [regulates] the hearts.”

• *Proverbs 21:1–2*

We should ask God to regulate our hearts and make His wisdom clear to us without arrogance. True wisdom can only come from God and that can only be gained through the written word of God — not from some feeling in your brain or flesh, not from some revelation — only through God’s Holy Scriptures which communicates God’s thoughts to your mind.

We hope that the research provided by ASK allows you to discover what the Bible actually teaches. We trust that having that knowledge will give you a measure of happiness, and that you will present to God your prayers and petitions as mature children of God. We rejoice in knowing that our efforts are helpful in aiding individuals to comprehend Scripture more and more each day. We can indeed have a “happy expectation”:

“For the saving grace of God made its advent to all humanity, training us that, disowning irreverence and worldly desires, we should be living sanely and justly and devoutly in the current eon, anticipating that happy expectation, even the advent of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who gives Himself for [the sake of] us, that He should be redeeming us from all lawlessness and be cleansing for Himself a people to be about Him, zealous for ideal acts.”

• *Titus 2:11–14 Concordant Version*

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2. Consider also the rest of James 1:6–8:

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering [not doubting]. For he that wavers [doubts] is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

3. Underlining mine. A.E. Knoch, *The Problem of Evil and The Judgments of God* (Canyon Country, CA: Concordant Publishing Concern, 1976), p. 139.