

Dominion
A Story of Foolish Arrogance
Daniel 5

Introduction: When you think of the word arrogance you generally think of a person who runs their mouth too much about themselves. However, at the root, arrogance is much more than a person who boasts too much about their own accomplishments, arrogance is an over-inflated view of ourselves that results from a deflated view of God! Arrogance not only shows itself in what we say but it shows itself even in how we observe and think about the world around us!

For instance, a few years ago there was a hilarious viral video that captured the foolishness of a classic symptom of arrogance – laziness! Our teaching team couldn't think of a better visual illustration to get your mind in line with where today's passage is going to take us, so Dan Moody-Musick edited it into a PG version. ([Play video](#))

Now with that as a great visual example of how ridiculous arrogance leads us to become, let me walk you through Daniel 5. It is a story of an absolutely foolish level of arrogance, a spooky supernatural event to confront it, and ultimately God's judgement on arrogance!

I'm going to walk you through this story and give you an outline of it to help you remember the key components to it, then we will come back to this conversation about arrogance and how and why it shows itself in our lives.

Proposition: There are 5 key parts to the story in Daniel 5.

The 1st key part to the story in Daniel 5 is that

(1) King Belshazzar created a party that fully displayed his foolish arrogance. (5:1-4)

A. 1 King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

1. The King - Belshazzar is likely a literal grandson of Nebuchadnezzar but as such he would still be considered a son. He was co-leader of the Babylonian Empire with his dad Nabonidus. Nabonidus, the 4th ruler of the Babylonian Empire after the death of Nebuchadnezzar, rarely stayed in the city of Babylon because he was busy building cities and pagan worship centers around the empire, as well as expanding the empire. This left Belshazzar as the King most Hebrews would be familiar with, as well as the one widely known around the world because he ruled the most influential city in the world at that time – Babylon.

2. The party!

- a. Historians tell us it wasn't just Belshazzar and his 1,000 leaders having a feast. That's just referencing the fact that all the key leaders were in the palace with Belshazzar. Meanwhile, Belshazzar called the entire city to participate in the feast. Now, under normal circumstances this may not have been that big of deal. However, the army of Cyrus the Great, led by Ugbaru, surrounded the city of Babylon and laid siege to it. To make matters more extreme for the Babylonians, "Just days earlier the Babylonians had lost a crucial battle to the Persians and Nabonidus had fled."¹
- b. Now think about this for a minute from Belshazzar's perspective. Your dad and his army came back to Babylon to try and defeat the Medo-Persian Army but they got beat so bad your dad (and presumably whatever was left of his army) fled! So now you are totally surrounded by an army that is not allowing any goods and services to come in or out of your city, meaning whatever food supplies you have are going to have to outlast the army that has isolated you off from the rest of the world; and you decide to put on a feast where everybody in the city eats as much food as they desire!
- c. Belshazzar had no reservations about his city being victorious. He felt he had an unlimited supply of water into the city (a river ran through it) and he believed he had enough food stored to feed the city for 20 years. Given those two assumptions, Belshazzar believed 20 years of partying behind the walls was more than enough time for his dad to return to Babylon with an army that could defeat Ugbaru and get things going again.
- d. However, as unwise as the decision was to open up the food reserves for however much people wanted to eat, there was something Belshazzar did that was even more foolish that night. Ancient historians not only agree with Daniels record that all the key leaders of Belshazzar's military and government were at the palace attending Belshazzar's party, but they also record that Belshazzar ordered the entire city to party and feast including everybody in the military. Don't overlook the foolishness of this. An army that has been rapidly conquering city after city has surrounded and isolated your city, defeated your fathers army and then you decide to put on a city-wide party that includes leaving your watchtowers, walls and gates totally unmanned! Imagine publicly telling your entire police department to take the night off - Foolish arrogance! Now, the reason Belshazzar did this is because he believed Babylon was so impenetrable that it was impossible for the enemy to get in the city, that is he believed there was literally a zero percent chance

¹ Storms, S. (2016). [Daniel](#) (Da 5:1-4). Edmond, OK: Sam Storms.

an army could figure out a way to penetrate the city and attack them while they partied!

- e. But, as insanely foolish of a decision that was, it still wasn't the most foolishly arrogant thing about it. Let's keep reading,
3. **2 Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine (some believe the verbiage implies he was drunk), commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. 3 Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.**
- a. It is clearly foolish to worship false gods with vessels from the temple that were set apart for service to the only God. However, the measure of this foolish arrogance is truly seen when you remember what all they had chose to ignore about Yahweh to do such a thing! And listen, the Babylonians highly valued education. For instance, remember the setting of chapter 1. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were placed in an extensive educational process to prepare them to serve the King. This education was not only given to those who would serve the King, but it would have also been given to all those in the ruling class. They were extremely well educated and that certainly included the knowledge of all that transpired under their greatest leader ever (Nebuchadnezzar). Therefore, nobody in any leadership position in Babylon, and especially the Kings that followed Nebuchadnezzar, could claim they were ignorant about the miraculous testimonies of the power and authority of Yahweh that ultimately led to the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar!
 - b. The story of what happened after Nebuchadnezzar built a 90-foot-tall gold obelisk and made everybody worship it couldn't have just disappeared! Not only did God miraculously display His power when He brought Shadrach Meshach and Abednego out of the fiery furnace unharmed, but Nebuchadnezzar issued an official decree that documented the event. Everybody in attendance, including the King would have known about the God of the Jewish people and His dominion over the earth. More importantly they would have all known the declaration of Nebuchadnezzar about God that we studied in Daniel 4 last week.
 - c. The proof that this wasn't done in ignorance was that they knew about the vessels from the Temple that were placed in storage in the first

place! They were not at all ignorant about the Jewish people, the temple Nebuchadnezzar destroyed, nor the testimonies of God's power through Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

- d. The thing is, Belshazzar didn't care about the implications of the supernatural demonstrations of God's power and glory that led his grandfather, the greatest King of Babylon, to repent and believe; because they didn't fit his agenda and priorities! However, what did fit his agenda and priorities was using the gold vessels from the Temple in Jerusalem to worship his gods.

The 2nd key part to the story in Daniel 5 is that

(2) God interrupted the party with a creepy sign that no one understood! (5:5-12)

A. 5 Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. 6 Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

1. "This was most appropriate because kings in antiquity depicted their own imagined heroic deeds on their palace walls."²
2. Now, on a wall likely full of his own accolades intended to impress all of those at his feast, a huge hand appears and begins writing something over his personal pronouncements of his greatness! However, at this point, it didn't matter where the graffiti was being written, but rather, HOW it was being written. A huge hand has appeared out of thin air and its writing on the wall!!!!!! No wonder his limbs gave way and his knees knocked together!!! And in addition, it's to no surprise he loudly did this next,

B. 7 The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

1. Belshazzar obviously recognized this was a divinely sourced sign and so he calls on the people he thinks are the experts on the subject and promises much the same that his grandfather promised when he tried to use them!

² Smith, J. E. (1992). *The Major Prophets* (p. 564). Joplin, MO: College Press.

2. "The king's offer shows the extremity of his fear."³
3. Purple was the color of royalty and the gold chain symbolized wealth because it was outrageously expensive. These were going to be given because whoever interpreted the dream was going to be made the third ruler of the Kingdom. Remember there are currently two leaders; Belshazzar and his dad Nabonidus who has just fled with the remnants of his army!
4. Ironically however, this is the same group of people that Nebuchadnezzar appealed to on two different occasions to explain his dreams and they couldn't do it! It's also the same group of people that tried to get Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego killed for not bowing down to Nebuchadnezzar's 90-foot-tall golden obelisk. But, just like all the previous times, they couldn't get it done. Daniel writes,

C. 8 Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. 9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

1. The men Belshazzar believed to not only be experts on the gods, but also have divine wisdom and abilities, couldn't even read what was written on the wall, much less understand it! As a result, he was even more horrified!
2. Seeing the failure of these men and the tremendous fear on her son's face, Belshazzar's mom (one of Nebuchadnezzar's daughters), who was still considered the queen, did this;

D. 10 The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father--your father the king--made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, 12 because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation."

1. Although the Queen didn't side with her father Nebuchadnezzar's conclusion about Yahweh (she was still a pagan that viewed Daniel's power as from all the gods), one commentator noted the Queen still genuinely respected

³ Pentecost, J. D. (1985). [Daniel](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1345). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Daniel, **“Her apparent respect for him was underlined by the use of his Hebrew as well as his Babylonian name and in the reference to his outstanding gifts.”⁴**

2. The reason the Queen respected him was likely not only because her father did, but more importantly it was likely because she personally witnessed the things she just told Belshazzar, whereas, in defense of Belshazzar’s ignorance, he likely learned about them in class.
3. Furthermore, Sam Storms writes, “Bel’s unfamiliarity with Daniel may be due to the fact that it had been 23 years since Neb died. Daniel probably did not retain the exalted position in subsequent regimes that he had while Neb lived. Most believe Daniel was in semi-retirement of sorts.”⁵ The descendants of Nebuchadnezzar had literally killed each other to gain control of the Kingdom. So, it’s not surprising that somewhere along the line somebody wanted somebody other than Daniel to run their government. Eventually somebody would want their own guy as their right-hand man.
4. However, again, there is no way Belshazzar wasn’t taught the history of King Nebuchadnezzar and the events and decrees associated with the God of Daniel and Daniel himself. So, the only reason the Queen needed to remind them of this information was not because they were ignorant of it, that couldn’t be the case, but rather it was because they had totally disregarded it.
5. Now some of you say how is that possible? Well, in High School I was required to read *Wuthering Heights*, and other than the name, I can’t tell you one thing about that book. The only reason I remember the name is because of how much I hated the it!

The 3rd key part to the story in Daniel 5 is that

(3) Daniel blasted Belshazzar for knowingly disregarding the identity and authority of God. (5:13- 23)

- A. **13 Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, “You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. 14 I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. 15 Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation,**

⁴ Ferguson, S. B. (1994). [Daniel](#). In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 754). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

⁵ Storms, S. (2016). [Daniel](#) (Da 5:13–16). Edmond, OK: Sam Storms.

but they could not show the interpretation of the matter.16 But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

1. **"one of the exiles** indicates that ethnic tensions still exist"⁶ Despite the fact that his grandfather had admired and respected him, Belshazzar wants Daniel to know his place in their culture.
2. Notice the mother didn't bring up the fact about them being exiles, but Belshazzar did. He, as a Chaldean, sees himself as superior to the Jews and therefore it's not surprising that he has no issue using their holy vessels however he wants. He has no respect for the Jews or their God at all, both because of his low view of them and his high view of himself. But, nonetheless, at his mother's recommendation and because all of his people can't figure out what the hand wrote on the wall, he offers Daniel, who served his grandfather, an opportunity.
3. In fairness, Bel also offers Daniel the same reward as well but it's likely because he is so desperate at this point that he could care less that he believes the Jews are beneath the Chaldeans. He is on full on panic mode! He just watched a giant hand appear out of nowhere, attached to no arm, write a bunch of stuff on his brag wall and his spiritual advisers can't even read what was written on the wall, much less interpret it!
4. So Daniel replies,

B. 17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. 18 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. 19 And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled.

1. But Daniel isn't impressed with his offer. He could care less about money because after running Babylon for Nebuchadnezzar he's already rich. In addition, he's 80 years old and appreciates not having to get out of bed every morning to deal with running the government! And finally, Daniel has no need for the affirmation of Belshazzar, he is fully affirmed by God!

⁶ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Da 5:13). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

2. In addition, Daniel is not only reminding everybody of the power and authority Nebuchadnezzar had, that Belshazzar clearly doesn't have because he is surrounded by the Medo-Persian Army and his dad's army has abandoned him; but, more importantly he is also reminding them that Nebuchadnezzar's power came from Yahweh! He then reminded them what God did to Nebuchadnezzar when he finally fully hardened his heart to the possibility that Yahweh was in charge! Daniel continues on with that testimony,
- C. **20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. 21 He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. 22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.**

1. Daniel makes its clear Belshazzar KNEW ALL THIS!!! They have intentionally and knowingly made a decision to NOT honor YAHWEH! They know the stories of Daniel 1-4!
2. But knowing all this about how God loves, rescues and saves His people; knowing the stories of how God demonstrated His glory, sovereignty and dominion; knowing people who personal witnessed God's miracle with Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego; they still chose to honor gods who do see them, hear them or know them! They reject, "**the God in whose hand is your breath**" to worship gods who have no breath, much less have any influence or ability to effect Belshazzar's breath. There gods had never done a thing because they didn't exist!! But Belshazzar would rather worship the gods of his own making than to worship the God who actually made HIM! He would rather believe in gods that had never personally testified of themselves, instead of the God who had personally spoke out loud to His grandfather!

The 4th key part to the story in Daniel 5 is that

- (4) Daniel informed Belshazzar that God had judged his arrogance and issued a terminal consequence. (5:24-28)**

- A. **24 "Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. 25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."**
- B. **"Mene, Mene, Tekel and Parsin** The enigmatic message is "a mina, a mina, a shekel, and two halves" (either a half-mina or a half-shekel) and refers to units of measure. The related verbal forms (used in vv. 26–28) mean "to number, to weigh, to divide," respectively."⁷
- C. "It was brief, containing only three words with the first word repeated. **MENE** (*menē*) is an Aramaic noun referring to a weight of 50 shekels (a mina, equal to 1 1/4 pounds). It is from the verb *menâh*, "to number, to reckon." **TEKEL** (*teqêl*) is a noun referring to a shekel (2/5 of an ounce). It is from the verb *teqâl*, "to weigh." **PARSIN** (*parsîn*) is a noun meaning a half-mina (25 shekels, or about 2/3 of a pound). It is from the verb *peras*, "to break in two, to divide." ... Even if the wise men could have read the words (which they couldn't), they could not have interpreted them for they had no point of reference as to what had been numbered, weighed, and divided."⁸
- D. "A balance was the normal device used in weighing payments. A payment was to meet a certain standard so if it did not meet that standard, it was rejected as unacceptable."⁹

The 5th key part to the story in Daniel 5 is that

- (5) **During the party the Medo-Persian army snuck into the city, killed Belshazzar and took over the Babylonian Empire. (5:29-31)**
- A. **29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.**

⁷ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Da 5:25). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁸ Pentecost, J. D. (1985). [Daniel](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1346). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁹ Pentecost, J. D. (1985). [Daniel](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1346). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- B.** It's crazy that Belshazzar then just goes about his business!! He very likely thought Daniel meant God had presently decided it but wasn't going to apply that decision until later. So, despite Daniel saying he didn't want any rewards, Belshazzar still publicly proclaimed that Daniel was now the third ruler of the Kingdom with Belshazzar and his dad Nabonidus.
- C.** Meanwhile, you remember that I said Belshazzar believed Babylon was impenetrable and siege proof. They believed the 20 years of food would last longer than any army could sustain a siege and the river flowing into their city through a man-made canal would keep them supplied with water. Well, what they didn't plan for is Ugbaru ordering his army to dig another canal and divert the water, and as such create an entrance right into the city! Therefore, when Ugbaru's army finished diverting the water, they looked up and saw that all the guards at the gates and watch towers were gone. They literally walked right into the city through the tunnel that brought water into the city and did so without a fight! Historians record that Babylon fell without bloodshed, that is without any of the soldiers dying in a battle. They were eating and getting drunk while the enemy walked right into the palace and killed Belshazzar!
- D.** This brought the Chaldean rule of Babylon to an end, and fulfilled part of the dream Nebuchadnezzar had in chapter 2 as well as a prophecy in Isaiah.
- E.** "That very night the Babylonian empire came to its end. Belshazzar was executed by the conquering Medo-Persian soldiers. Xenophon, famous Greek historian, made note of the fact that it was precisely because of this festival that the Persians chose to attack on that particular night."¹⁰
- F.** "Both Herodotus and Xenophon record that Babylon was taken during a nocturnal festival by means of a temporary diversion of the River Euphrates, the invaders entering the city by means of the now-dried river bed. Xenophon (who describes the expedition of Cyrus) also records that the Persians killed the young, irreligious Babylonian king."¹¹
- G.** "The city had been under assault by Cyrus. In anticipation of a long siege the city had stored supplies to last for 20 years. The Euphrates River ran through the city from north to south, so the residents had an ample water supply. Belshazzar had a false sense of security, because the Persian army, led by Ugbaru, was outside Babylon's city walls. Their army was divided; part was stationed where the river entered the city at the north and the other part was positioned where the river exited from the city at the south. The army diverted the water north of the city by digging a canal from the river to a nearby lake. With the water diverted, its level

¹⁰ Storms, S. (2016). *Daniel* (Da 5:30–31). Edmond, OK: Sam Storms.

¹¹ Ferguson, S. B. (1994). *Daniel*. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 754). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

receded and the soldiers were able to enter the city by going under the sluice gate. Since the walls were unguarded the Persians, once inside the city, were able to conquer it without a fight. Significantly the defeat of Babylon fulfilled not only the prophecy Daniel made earlier that same night (5:28) but also a prophecy by Isaiah (Isa. 47:1–5). The overthrow of Babylon took place the night of the 16th of Tishri (October 12, 539 B.C.). The rule of the Medes and Persians was the second phase of the times of the Gentiles (the silver chest and arms of the image in Dan. 2). The events in chapter 5 illustrate that God is sovereign and moves according to His predetermined plans. Those events also anticipate the final overthrow of all Gentile world powers that rebel against God and are characterized by moral and spiritual corruption. Such a judgment, anticipated in Psalm 2:4–6 and Revelation 19:15–16, will be fulfilled at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ to this earth.”¹²

CONCLUSION: Arrogance leads me to:

Note: These are just some quick examples from the book of Proverbs. This list could have been extremely long because Solomon dealt with the subject extensively! I’m going to go through really fast.

(1) Sincerely overlook my own weaknesses.

- A. We genuinely can’t see things in our life as weakness. It not like we just don’t want to admit it; but rather arrogance blinds us from even being able to see something as a weakness.
- B. **“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” (Proverbs 26:12)**

(2) Exaggerate/Lie to alter others view of me.

- A. FYI - An exaggeration is just a soft lie!
- B. **“Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.” (Proverbs 27:2)**

(3) Blame others for my failures.

- A. Even when things are blatantly our fault, we still somehow find a way to truly believe it was somebody else’s fault!
- B. **“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.” (Proverbs 12:1)**

¹² Pentecost, J. D. (1985). [Daniel](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 1346–1347). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

(4) See myself as the context of everything.

- A. “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.” (Proverbs 16:5)**
- B.** Empathy is the ability to see and feel life through how it impacts others. Arrogance destroys that and leads us to only see and feel how life impacts us. As a result, every decision is ultimately governed by how it will impact me. Our concern for others is only in how it will impact their response to ourselves.

(5) Believe I am entitled to affirmation, love and support.

- A. “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.” (Proverb 3:3)**
- B.** To feel entitled means, you feel you are inherently owed something. Instead of being motivated to affirm, love and support others; your primary perspective is that you are owed these things. For some its simply because they exist that they feel they are owed this. Others feel the difficulties of their life entitle them to the love, affirmation, and support of others. Finally, there those who feel they have accomplished things that permanently give them the right to be affirmed, loved, and supported. In either case the person is driven not to love, but be loved; that is, they don’t cling to love and steadfast faithfulness as things they are to give to others, but things others are to give to them!

(6) Disregard, or even attack, anything or anybody that doesn’t support my view or agenda.

Note: **“A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.” (Proverbs 15:5)**

(7) View my feelings as the final authority.

Note: **“Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.” (Proverbs 28:26)**

(8) Make stupid decisions that create total train wrecks.

Note: **“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)**

To pull this all together in a challenge let me read one of the most fundamental theological passages in all the Bible. The apostle Paul, in writing about the depravity of all men, consistently pointed to the arrogance of mankind.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (Suppressing the truth is fundamental arrogance!) 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Disregarding truth is fundamental arrogance) 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, (fundamental demonstration of arrogance) ... 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (in every way this is a total description of arrogance!)(Romans 1:18-22, 28-32)

Romans 1:18-32 is not an order of events in the Garden of Eden nor is it a description of the time period shortly thereafter; but rather, it is a general description of why mankind is so depraved. Belshazzar is not the only man to suffer from arrogance because he refused to believe God to be GOD. The Bible says the inability to live fully submitted to God is always replaced with arrogance, therefore, at whatever level we reject God, arrogance will backfill and replace it. Man continues to arrogantly disregard God and as such continues to cycle further and further into depravity!

Let me put it to you a different way,

Challenge: The measure of your arrogance equals the measure of your rejection of God as GOD. Be honest about the level of arrogance in your life and as such be honest about how small your view of God is.

We are going to go further down this path in a more detailed application next week. But for now, I just want you to see the principle that your arrogance is a direct result of your view of God. The more our view of God rises to His actual majesty, power, dominion, glory and LOVE the less arrogant we will be. Period.

What's the measure of your arrogance? Look at the fruit of your life instead of looking away from it and be honest about what you see. Then, get your eyes fixed on the majesty of God in Scripture and even in the obvious testimonies of His divine power and dominion all around you; don't disregard what you see but instead fall before Him in worship and obedience and watch the foolish arrogance that is destroying you and everything around you get smashed by the LIGHT of His glory and majesty!