

What Others Think Of Us

by Bill Crews

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despised of men ([Isaiah 53:3](#)) and hated by the world ([John 15:18](#)). He was forsaken by many of those who had become His disciples ([John 6:66](#)). At one time He could find no respite from the multitudes who thronged Him, but for the wrong reasons (they loved His miracles and the instances when He fed them, [John 6:2, 26-27](#)). He was hardly permitted to eat, to rest or to be alone. But, in the end, the religious leaders of the Jews successfully persuaded the people to cry out for His blood. He did not go along with the crowd; He did not join in with the religious leaders; He did not fall in step with the religious ideas and practices of His day; He did not present Himself as an earthly king. Jesus was hated, not so much for teaching the truth as for condemning sin and exposing religious error. Telling one the truth may result in your becoming his enemy ([Galatians 4:16](#)), but it is the only way you can prove yourself his friend and help to save his soul.

Pride, Pride & Pride

by Wayne Goff

After a week-long study of the great kings of the Bible – Solomon, Hezekiah, Nebuchadnezzar, and Jesus Christ – it is easy to see the one common denominator among them all: **PRIDE**. Solomon, Hezekiah and Nebuchadnezzar had too much pride. Jesus Christ gave up any claim to pride and humbled Himself!

Solomon: Actually we have no mention in the Bible of Solomon having too much pride, or being proud, etc. It is hard to believe that he wasn't proud since he was so wise, so wealthy, and so powerful. But Solomon's obvious failure was letting his foreign wives turn his heart away from Jehovah to the idolatrous gods of the Canaanite nations. Perhaps Solomon was sufficiently "self-aware" and kept himself from sinful pride. Certainly when he first became king he was a **very humble person**. And once God blessed him with wisdom, wealth, and power, he went about *experimenting* with the extravagances of life to see what the real purpose of life should be. He concluded at some point in his life that the deeper purpose of life was to fear God and obey Him, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. This is true not only because we have been made in God's image, and have been made to look for God, but also because there is a Judgment Day coming.

Hezekiah: Hezekiah struggled with pride most of his life. First, he sought an alliance with Egypt against Assyria, rather than trust in God for deliverance. He was stricken with a fatal disease, but begged God to forgive him and spare his life. God rewarded this **humility** by forgiving him and allowing him another fifteen years of life.

Hezekiah failed to learn his lesson and again resorted to a proud heart when the Babylonians came calling. He showed them every treasure in his house ([2 Kings 20:14-15](#)) and consequently set up Jerusalem for a future invasion and destruction! *"But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem. Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah"* ([2 Chronicles 32:25-26](#)).

However, we must not forget that King Hezekiah was one of the great and good kings of Judah, [2 Chronicles 31:20-21](#)! One lesson for future studies might be this: ["How can a man be so full of faith toward God and obey Him with all his heart, and yet struggle with pride?"](#)

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