

“YOUR PRIDE TESTIFIES AGAINST YOU”

Hosea 5:5a

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INTRODUCTION

What sin was behind Satan’s fall? What sin was really behind Eve’s (and Adam’s) fall?

What sin is behind your sin issues in life?

- Why do you lose your temper?
- Why rebel?
- Why be stubborn?
- Why be selfish?
- Why be promiscuous?

We find the answer in this passage of Hosea.

I. THE MEANING OF “PRIDE” HERE

- A. “Majesty, glory”—the things of which one can become proud.
- B. God is really their true “glory”—the one of whom they should have been “proud” (see 7:10; Amos 8:7.)
- C. Pride is their sin here.

II. SCRIPTURAL STATEMENTS ABOUT PRIDE

A. Proverbs Passages

- 18:12—“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.
- 29:23—“A man’s pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.”
- 11:2—“When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.”
- 16:18—“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”

B. Lucifer: Isaiah 14:12-16

C. Adam: Ezekiel 28:12-13:

D. The Anointed Cherub: Ezek. 28:14-17

III. A CASE STUDY IN PRIDE (Hos. 5:5a)—**Ephraim**

- A. Size of Ephraim, when combined with Manasseh, comparable to Judah (85,200 to 76,500)
- B. Consciousness of God’s blessing (Josh. 17:14-17)—dissatisfied with portion of their inheritance.
- C. Joshua was an Ephraimite (Josh. 24:30)
- D. Resentment against other deliverers

1. Gideon (Judg. 6:15—of Manasseh); Judg. 8:1-3
 2. Jephthah (11:1—Gileadite)—Judg. 12:1-7 (42,000 men of Ephraim die!)
- E. Made a relative their king (Jud. 8:31—Abimelech, son of Gideon; 9:1-3—made king of Shechem.
 - F. Took the name “Israel” to themselves; the other tribes gathered around them (II Sam. 2:9-10; 3:17)
 - G. The tabernacle was in Shiloh for many years.
 - H. Samuel, the last of the judges and a great prophet and the founder of the schools of the prophets, was from Ephraim (I Sam. 1:1).
 - I. They followed the son of Saul for seven years (II Sam. 2:8-9; 5:5) against David from the **rival tribe of Judah**. They seemed a threat to Ephraim.
 - J. They were grieved by the removal of the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh to Jerusalem—its permanent location (Ps. 78:60, 67-69).
 - K. Absalom won them over by flattery (II Sam. 15:2, 6, 13). The ensuing conflict was really a struggle of Israel against Judah (II Sam. 15:15; 17:15; 18:6). Note that *the decisive battle took place in the **Forest of Ephraim***.
 - L. They were Jealous and they fell away when David was brought back by the tribe of Judah; this led to Sheba’s rebellion (II Sam. 19:41-43; 20:1-2).
 - M. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, went to Shechem for his anointing as king in order to have a unity vote (I Kings 11:43; 12:1). Jeroboam was called up from Egypt and led a rebellion; he was out of Ephraim (I K. 11:26).
 - N. A rival worship center was constructed at Bethel—a chief city in Ephraim.
 - O. Jehoash’s pride—the cedar versus the thorn bush (II K. 14:9); Israel is the cedar, Judah the thorn bush. This event occurred just before the time of Hosea.
 - P. Notice the expression the “jealousy of Ephraim” (Is. 11:13); one day the Lord will reunite the two kingdoms.
 - Q. **NOT ONE KING** of Israel departed from the sins of Jeroboam. Even those who attempted “reforms.”

CONCLUSION

The root sin of Ephraim was not idolatry; it was pride.

Pride kept them from accepting David and Judah, and then later from returning to God.

Notice the union of pride and carnal sin. Pride keeps them from returning to the Lord (v. 4)

The “spirit of harlotry” is due to pride!

Pride won’t allow the knowledge of the Lord in the heart (v. 4).

See Jer. 49:16—“The arrogance of your heart has deceived you”.

You will stumble in your iniquity; others will stumble with you. (v. 5)—even Judah.