

Selected readings from Morning and Evening: Daily Readings, By
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Reading 126

“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty.” Proverbs 18:12

It is an old and common saying, that “coming events cast their shadows before them;” the wise man teaches us that a haughty heart is the prophetic prelude of evil. Pride is as safely the sign of destruction as the change of mercury in the weather-glass is the sign of rain; and far more infallibly so than that. When men have ridden the high horse, destruction has always overtaken them.

Let David’s aching heart show that there is an eclipse of a man’s glory when he fawns over his own greatness. 2 Sam. 24:10. See Nebuchadnezzar, the mighty builder of Babylon, creeping on the earth, devouring grass like oxen, until his nails had grown like bird’s claws, and his hair like eagle’s feathers. Dan. 4:33. Pride made the boaster a beast, as once before it made an angel a devil.

God hates high looks, and never fails to bring them down. All the arrows of God are aimed at proud hearts. O Christian, is your heart haughty this evening? For pride can get into the Christian’s heart as well as into the sinner’s; it can delude him into dreaming that he is “rich and increased in goods, and has need of nothing.” Are you glorying in your graces or your talents? Are you proud of yourself, that you have had holy frames and sweet experiences? Mark yourself, reader, there is a destruction coming to you also. Your flaunting poppies of self-conceit will be pulled up by the roots, your mushroom graces will wither in the burning heat, and your self-sufficiency shall become as straw for the dunghill.

If we forget to live at the foot of the cross in deepest lowliness of spirit, God will not forget to make us suffer under his rod. A destruction will come to you, self-exalted believer, the destruction of your joys and your comforts, though there can be no destruction of your soul. Therefore, “He who glory’s, let him glory *in the Lord.*”