

## ~PRESUMPTUOUSNESS (417)

[Hebrew, *za-dhohn'*, Greek, *tol-me-tes'*]

- Pride And Anger Bring Presumptuousness
- To Be Carefully Guarded Against
- Disrespect For God's Sovereignty
- Presuming On Fleshly Connections Can Be A Snare
- Presumptuousness To End

• The taking upon oneself of more than what right or that propriety warrants, or without authority, impertinent boldness in conduct or thought, the taking of undue liberties, the undertaking of something in rash defiance. The word is related to haughtiness, arrogance, pride, and forwardness. Its antonyms are meekness and modesty.

### • Pride And Anger Bring Presumptuousness

- The Hebrew word *za-dhohn'*, rendered, **presumptuousness**, is derived from the verb *zidh*, meaning, **boil up, become heated**.
- Once Jacob was **boiling** up some stew, when Esau came along from the field and he was tired. (**Genesis 25:29**)
- And in case a man becomes **heated** against his fellow to the point of killing him with craftiness, you are to take him even from being at my altar to die. (**Exodus 21:14**)
- The **heat of anger** or pride can cause one to act rashly, to become unwarrantedly bold, and to overstep ones rights. The proverb says,
- Presumptuous, self-assuming braggart is the name of the one who is acting in a fury of **presumptuousness**. (**Proverbs 21:24**)
- So I spoke to you, and you did not listen but began to behave rebelliously against Yehowah's order and to get all heated up, and you tried to go up into the mountain. (**Deuteronomy 1:43**)
- The verb form is used in describing the action of the people of Israel in disobeying God's command and running ahead without authorization.

- Moses said to them; So I spoke to you, and you did not listen but began to behave rebelliously against Yehowah's order and **to get all heated up**, and you tried to go up into the mountain. Another **Hebrew** word, '*a-phal*', is employed in the account of the same incident at;
- Moreover, they got up early in the morning and tried to go up to the top of the mountain, saying; Here we are, and we have to go up to the place that Yehowah mentioned. For we have sinned. (**Numbers 14:40**)
- But Moses said; Why is it that you are **passing beyond** the order of Yehowah? But that will not succeed. (**Numbers 14:41**)
- Do not go up, because Yehowah is not in your midst, that you may not be defeated before your enemies. (**Numbers 14:42**)
- For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you are certain to fall by the sword, because, for the reason that you turned back from following Yehowah, Yehowah will not continue with you. (**Numbers 14:43**)
- However, they **presumed** to go up to the top of the mountain, but the ark of Yehowah's covenant and Moses did not move away from the midst of the camp. (**Numbers 14:44**)
- Moses said; Do not go up, because Yehowah is not in your midst. However, they **presumed** to go up to the top of the mountain, where they met defeat at the hands of the inhabitants. They were swelled up with false confidence.
- Look! His soul has been swelled up, it has not been upright within him. But as for the righteous one, by his faithfulness he will keep living. (**Habakkuk 2:4**)
- The fact that anger can bring destructive **presumptuousness** and gross violation of God's Law is also shown in God's command to Israel;
- And in case a man becomes **heated** against his fellow to the point of killing him with craftiness, you are to take him even from being at my altar to die. (**Exodus 21:14**)

· **To Be Carefully Guarded Against**

- King David, who was granted many favors and great authority by God, realized that, nonetheless, he could be guilty of **presumptuousness**. He prayed;
- Mistakes, who can discern? From **concealed sins** pronounce me innocent. (**Psalms 19:12**)
- Also from **presumptuous** acts **hold your servant back**, do not let them dominate me. In that case I shall be complete, and I shall have remained innocent from much transgression. (**Psalms 19:13**)
- The danger is great, therefore, and something to be closely guarded against. A **presumptuous** act is a much more serious sin than a mistake. Whether one is in a high position or a low one, the taking of liberties is a detestable thing in God's sight.
- Uzziah, though a mighty king who had experienced God's blessings, was struck with leprosy for **presumptuously** taking priestly duties into his own hands.
- However, as soon as he was strong, his heart became haughty even to the point of causing ruin, so that he acted unfaithfully against Yehowah his God and came into the temple of Yehowah to burn incense upon the altar of incense. (**2 Chronicles 26:16**)
- Immediately Azariah the priest and with him priests of Yehowah, eighty valiant men, came in after him. (**2 Chronicles 26:17**)
- Then they stood up against Uzziah the king and said to him; It is **not your business**, O Uzziah, to burn incense to Yehowah, **but it is the business of the priests** the sons of Aaron, the ones sanctified, to burn incense. Go out from the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully, and it is not for any glory to you on the part of Yehowah God. (**2 Chronicles 26:18**)
- But Uzziah became enraged while in his hand there was a censer for burning incense, and, during his rage against the priests, leprosy itself flashed up in his forehead before the priests in the house of Yehowah beside the altar of incense. (**2 Chronicles 26:19**)
- When Azariah the chief priest and all the priests turned toward him, why, there he was stricken with leprosy in his forehead! So

they excitedly began to remove him from there, and he himself also hastened to go out, because Yehowah had smitten him. (**2 Chronicles 26:20**)

- And Uzziah the king continued to be a leper until the day of his death, and he kept dwelling in a house exempt from duties, as a leper, for he had been severed from the house of Yehowah, while Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land. (**2 Chronicles 26:21**)
- **Presumptuousness** prompted King Saul into rebellion against Yehowah. Not willing to wait for Samuel's arrival, Saul took it upon himself to offer sacrifice.
- And he continued waiting for seven days to the appointed time that Samuel had said, and Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. (**1 Samuel 13:8**)
- Finally Saul said; Bring near to me the burnt sacrifice and the communion sacrifices. With that he went offering up the burnt sacrifice. (**1 Samuel 13:9**)
- And it came about that as soon as he had finished offering up the burnt sacrifice, why, there was Samuel coming in. So Saul went out to meet him and bless him. (**1 Samuel 13:10**)
- Then Samuel said; What is it you have done? To this Saul said; I saw that the people had been dispersed from me, and you, you did not come within the appointed days, and the Philistines were being collected together at Michmash. (**1 Samuel 13:11**)
- So I said to myself; Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and the face of Yehowah I have not softened. So I compelled myself and went offering up the burnt sacrifice. (**1 Samuel 13:12**)
- At this Samuel said to Saul; You have acted foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of Yehowah your God that he commanded you, because, if you had, Yehowah would have made your kingdom firm over Israel to time indefinite. (**1 Samuel 13:13**)
- And now your kingdom will not last. Yehowah will certainly find for himself a man agreeable to his heart, and Yehowah will

commission him as a leader over his people, because you did not keep what Yehowah commanded you. (1 Samuel 13:14)

- He also used his own judgment in sparing Amalekite King Agag and the best of the spoil, when Yehowah's command had been to devote the Amalekites to destruction. For his **presumptuous** course Saul was rejected as king.
- And he got to catch Agag the king of Amalek alive, and all the other people he devoted to destruction with the edge of the sword. (1 Samuel 15:8)
- But Saul and the people had compassion upon Agag and upon the best of the flock and the herd and the fat ones and upon the rams and upon all that was good, and they did not wish to devote them to destruction. As for all the goods that were despicable and rejected, these they devoted to destruction. (1 Samuel 15:9)
- I do regret that I have caused Saul to reign as king, because he has turned back from following me, and my words he has not carried out. And it was distressing to Samuel, and he kept crying out to Yehowah all night long. (1 Samuel 15:11)
- Later Yehowah sent you on a mission and said; Go, and you must devote the sinners, the Amalekites, to destruction, and you must fight against them until you will have exterminated them. (1 Samuel 15:18)
- So why is it you did not obey the voice of Yehowah but went darting greedily at the spoil and doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah? (1 Samuel 15:19)
- A notable example of **presumption** on the part of a non-royal Israelite is that of Uzzah. The ark of the covenant was being transported to Jerusalem in a cattle-drawn cart, contrary to the divinely outlined procedure.
- When the cattle nearly caused an upset, Uzzah reached out and grabbed hold of the Ark to steady it. For this **irreverent presumption** Yehowah struck him, and he died.
- And they came gradually as far as the threshing floor of Nacon, and Uzzah now thrust his hand out to the ark of the true God and grabbed hold of it, for the cattle nearly caused an upset. (2

## Samuel 6:6)

- At that Yehowah's anger blazed against Uzzah and the true God struck him down there for the irreverent act, so that he died there close by the ark of the true God. (2 Samuel 6:7)
- A person not sure of what action he should take on a matter, or not certain if it is within his authority to do a certain thing, should by all means first consult others who have knowledge and discernment. The Scriptures counsel;
- By **presumptuousness** one only causes a struggle, but with those consulting together there is wisdom. (Proverbs 13:10)
- **Presumptuousness** leads to disastrous results, modesty will save a person. The wise man says;
- Has **presumptuousness** come? Then dishonor will come, but wisdom is with the modest ones. (Proverbs 11:2)

## •• Disrespect For God's Sovereignty

- When a person acts **presumptuously** toward God he is showing disrespect for Yehowah's sovereignty and godship. Those claiming to be his servants and misrepresenting him are most reprehensible. Of the false prophets, Yehowah said,
- However, the prophet who **presumes** to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. (Deuteronomy 18:20)
- And in case you should say in your heart; How shall we know the word that Yehowah has not spoken? (Deuteronomy 18:21)
- When the prophet speaks in the name of Yehowah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Yehowah did not speak. With **presumptuousness** the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him. (Deuteronomy 18:22)
- Also, disrespect for Yehowah is shown by disrespect for his appointed servants, which can be caused by **presumptuousness**. In Israel, difficult cases were brought to the place Yehowah chose, which, from David's day onward, was Jerusalem.

- **Anyone who flouted the judgment rendered was to be put to death, for in standing up against God's representatives he was acting in defiance of God. The Law read; In accordance with the Law that they will point out to you, and according to the judicial decision that they will say to you, you should do.**
- **And the man who will behave with presumptuousness in not listening to the priest who is standing to minister there to Yehowah your God or to the judge, that man must die, and you must clear out what is bad from Israel. And all the people will hear and become afraid, and they will not act presumptuously anymore.**
- **In case a matter for judicial decision should be too extraordinary for you, one in which blood has been shed, in which a legal claim has been raised, or a violent deed has been committed, matters of dispute, inside your gates, you must also rise and go up to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. (Deuteronomy 17:8)**
- **And you must go to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge who will be acting in those days, and you must make inquiry, and they must hand down to you the word of the judicial decision. (Deuteronomy 17:9)**
- **Then you must do in accordance with the word that they will hand down to you from that place which Yehowah will choose, and you must be careful to do according to all that they instruct you. (Deuteronomy 17:10)**
- **In accordance with the Law that they will point out to you, and according to the judicial decision that they will say to you, you should do. You must not turn aside from the word that they will hand down to you, to the right or to the left. (Deuteronomy 17:11)**
- **And the man who will behave with presumptuousness in not listening to the priest who is standing to minister there to Yehowah your God or to the judge, that man must die, and you must clear out what is bad from Israel. (Deuteronomy 17:12)**
- **And all the people will hear and become afraid, and they will not act presumptuously anymore. (Deuteronomy 17:13)**
- **But the soul that does something deliberately, whether he is a**

native or an alien resident, he speaking abusively of Yehowah, in that case that soul must be cut off from among his people.  
(Numbers 15:30)

- The apostle Peter speaks of some who show great disrespect for God and his anointed servants, describing them as, **daring** from Greek *tol-me-tes'*, **presumptuous**, **KJ**, self-willed, they do not tremble at glorious ones but speak abusively. Such men, Peter says, suffer destruction in their own course of destruction.
- Especially, however, those who go on after flesh with the desire to defile it and who look down on lordship. **Daring**, **self-willed**, they do not tremble at glorious ones but speak abusively. (2 Peter 2:10)
- But these men, like unreasoning animals born naturally to be caught and destroyed, will, in the things of which they are ignorant and speak abusively, even suffer destruction in their own course of destruction. (2 Peter 2:12)

## • Presuming On Fleshly Connections Can Be A Snare

- John the Baptizer discerned the Jews thinking when they approached him. He warned them; Do not **presume** to say to yourselves, As a father we have Abraham. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
- And do not presume to say to yourselves, As a father we have Abraham. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. (Matthew 3:9)
- The Greek word here rendered, **presume**, is *do'xe-te*, from *do-ke'o*, which, basically, means, **think, form an opinion**, right or wrong.

## • Presumptuousness To End

- Ancient Babylon was a prototype of **presumptuousness** against God, for which God's everlasting enmity was against her. The prophet Jeremiah said to her:
- Summon against Babylon archers, all who are treading the bow. Encamp against her all around. May there prove to be no escapees. Pay back to her according to her activity. According to all that she has done, do to her. For it is against Yehowah that

she has acted **presumptuously**, against the Holy One of Israel.  
(**Jeremiah 50:29**)

- Look! I am against you, O **Presumptuousness**, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of armies, for your day must come, the time that I must give you attention. (**Jeremiah 50:31**)
- And **Presumptuousness** will certainly stumble and fall, and it will have no one to cause it to rise up. And I will set a fire ablaze in its cities, and it must devour all its surroundings. (**Jeremiah 50:32**)
- Symbolic Babylon the Great has proved to be God's bitter and most **presumptuous** enemy on earth, she makes the inhabitants of the earth drunk with the wine of her fornication and is responsible for the blood of prophets and of holy ones and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth. For this she will suffer everlasting destruction.
- With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, whereas those who inhabit the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (**Revelation 17:2**)
- And upon her forehead was written a name, a mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth. (**Revelation 17:5**)
- To the extent that she glorified herself and lived in shameless luxury, to that extent give her torment and mourning. For in her heart she keeps saying; I sit a queen, and I am no widow, and I shall never see mourning. (**Revelation 18:7**)
- That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire, because Yehowah God, who judged her, is strong. (**Revelation 18:8**)
- Be glad over her, O heaven, also you holy ones and you apostles and you prophets, because God has judicially exacted punishment for you from her! (**Revelation 18:20**)
- Yes, in her was found the blood of prophets and of holy ones and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth. (**Revelation 18:24**)

- This is in harmony with Yehowah's promise to bring an end to all Babylonish **presumptuousness**:
- And I shall certainly bring home its own badness upon the productive land, and their own error upon the wicked themselves. And I shall actually cause the pride of the **presumptuous** ones to cease, and the haughtiness of the tyrants I shall abase. (**Isaiah 13:11**)