

**THE WEEK OF
January 18th, 2010**



**Jesus Vs. Defiant Arrogance
Part I
Isaiah 14:12-21**

"You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"

-Isaiah 14:13-14

Have you ever been tricked by someone using a Chinese Finger Trap? It's a classic! The trickster will tell you to insert your index fingers into each side of the tube. You're then told to remove your fingers from the tube, but you quickly find that they're stuck. The harder you pull the tighter the tube constricts around your fingers. The secret to removing the tube is to release the tension by gently pushing the trap together—some gentle finesse.

We're continuing our series Jesus Vs. with this latest installment focused on pride: that same defiant arrogance that Lucifer so clearly displayed prior to his fall. Pride leads us to make bad decisions; and quite often it is our pride, like that Chinese finger trap, that causes us to become even further "stuck" in a sinful place; thinking that we're superior and know better than others, even God. Pride tells us that we're great men; a dangerous place to be. It hinders our relationship with Jesus and our service done in His name. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus's ministry here on Earth. Pride will bind the hands, again like that Chinese finger trap, and preclude us from fulfilling the calling to be the hands of Christ. If we submit to His will and release our grip then He is faithful to restore our hands and use them for His will.

As men of God, we should, like Paul, boast in our weakness. For when we are weak in ourselves, then we will find strength in our God-given gifts and abilities. It's important to know how He intends to use us. It's when we do things for pride's sake and seek recognition by man over pleasing God that we stray. Remember, Jesus knows what it's like to be a humble servant—and He is a King! He came to the Earth not to live a royal life here, but rather to pay for us with his life so we could become heirs to Him.

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Mon: The Fall of Lucifer: "I will make myself like the Most High" Isaiah 14:12-21

Tue: Rejected as King: "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry" 1 Sam 15

Wed: Respect God's Authority: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." 1 John 5:3-5

Thu: Father knows best: "All Scripture is given by God..." 2 Tim 3:16

Fri: We need to know our place: "the LORD alone will be exalted in that day" Isaiah 2:17

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What area of your life does pride have a stronghold? Why is surrendering that part more difficult than others?

2. What is most difficult for you about trusting and obeying God? Do you find yourself "coaching" Him?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):