

# Declarations of Independence

## Ezekiel 28:12-17; Various Scriptures

Sermon Series: Coming Home

# A Fallen Star

- Ezekiel 28:12-17 (NIV):
  - <sup>12</sup> *"Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:  
    '“You were the model of perfection,  
    full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

## Ezekiel 28:12-17 (cont'd)

- *<sup>13</sup> You were in Eden,  
the garden of God;  
every precious stone adorned you:  
ruby, topaz and emerald,  
chrysolite, onyx and jasper,  
sapphire, turquoise and beryl.  
Your settings and mountings were made of  
gold;  
on the day you were created they were  
prepared.*

## Ezekiel 28:12-17 (cont'd)

- *<sup>14</sup> You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.*
- *<sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.*

## Ezekiel 28:12-17 (cont'd)

- *<sup>16</sup> Through your widespread trade  
you were filled with violence,  
and you sinned.  
So I drove you in disgrace from the mount  
of God,  
and I expelled you, O guardian cherub,  
from among the fiery stones.*

## Ezekiel 28:12-17 (cont'd)

- *<sup>17</sup> Your heart became proud  
on account of your beauty,  
and you corrupted your wisdom  
because of your splendor.  
So I threw you to the earth;  
I made a spectacle of you before kings.*

## Isaiah 14:12-14 (NIV)

- *How you have fallen from heaven,  
O morning star, son of the dawn!  
You have been cast down to the earth,  
you who once laid low the nations!*
- <sup>13</sup> *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.*



## Isaiah 12:12-14 (cont'd)

- *<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High."*



## 5 Examples of Satan's ambition that led to his downfall:

- 1. *“I will ascend to heaven.”*
- 2. *“I will raise my throne above the stars of God.”*
- 3. *“I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.”*

## Examples of Satan's ambition (cont'd)

- 4. *“I will ascend above the tops of the clouds.”*
- 5. *“I will make myself like the Most High.”*
- Satan made a twofold mistake:
  - (1) He wanted absolute control over his own destiny.
  - (2) He wanted freedom from God's authority.

# Ambition is wrong when...

- **1. *It becomes the predominant desire of our lives***
- Exodus 20:3-5 (NIV), "*You shall have no other gods before me.*"
- Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV), "*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*"



## Ambition is wrong when...(cont'd)

- Ephesians 5:5 (NIV), “*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*”

## Ambition is wrong when...(cont'd)

- **2. *It comes at the expense of others***
- Mark 10:37 (NIV), "*Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.*"

## Ambition is wrong when...(cont'd)

- **Mark 10:42-45 (NIV)**, *“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.*
- *43Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.*

## Mark 10:42-45 (cont'd)

- *45For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

## Ambition is wrong when...(cont'd)

- **3. It fails to allow for God's sovereignty**
- **James 4:13-16 (NIV)**, “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ <sup>14</sup>Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup>Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.’ <sup>16</sup>As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.”



## Ambition is wrong when...(cont'd)

- Complete this sentence: “My greatest desire in life is to \_\_\_\_\_.”


## Ambition is wrong when...(cont'd)

- How can you tell whether your particular ambition has led (or might lead) you from God? Ask yourself these questions:
  - Do I spend most of my free time thinking about this desire?
  - Have I mistreated or neglected others (such as family members) in pursuit of this goal?
  - How would I feel toward God if He said no to my desire?



## How can we positively channel our ambitions?

- **1. *Develop a life-purpose bigger than yourself***
- We need life-purposes that focus on “meeting a need.”
- **2. *Maintain balance in your life***
- **3. *Entrust your plans to God’s sovereignty***

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- Jesus said in John 4:34 (NIV), "*My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.*"



# Invitation



# Communion