

**Cosmic 1: Iconoclastic: the Disenchantment of Ahithophel with David, 2 Sam 15-18; Rational & Irrational: Pseudo Intellectualism & Emotionalism, Phil 3:18-19; Rom 16:17-18**

9. **Iconoclastic.** This is the arrogance of disenchantment because of disillusionment with someone admired. Iconoclasm, which refers to the destruction of idols, occurs when the person revered does not live up to one's unrealistic expectations. The admired person is completely unaware he is being admired in an idealistic way. The cosmic believer, having built the person up in his own mind as perfect, is shocked when his hero doesn't live up to his expectations. Iconoclastic arrogance strikes out at the person he created in his own arrogance. Embarrassed over his misplaced admiration, the cosmic believer retaliates by going to any and every extreme to destroy the person who let them down.

In summary, iconoclastic arrogance creates the idol of perfection, becomes disillusioned when its feet of clay are manifest, and then retaliates by attempting to destroy the idolized person.

An excellent biblical example of iconoclastic arrogance is the case of Ahithophel and David:

- 1) Ahithophel \a-hith'-o-fel\ was one of David's chief counsels (2 Samuel 15:12).
- 2) Ahithophel idolized David but his loyalty to and admiration of David was destroyed when the king raped his granddaughter Bathsheba. (2 Samuel 11:2-4 compared with 23:34b)
- 3) From that point on Ahithophel despised David and entered into iconoclastic arrogance. When Absalom, David's son and crown prince of Israel, fomented a revolution against his father, he recruited Ahithophel to join the revolution as his chief advisor. (2 Samuel 15:12)
- 4) David considered Ahithophel's defection to be a major coup on Absalom's part because of Ahithophel's wise council.
- 5) David knew he had to neutralize Ahithophel's influence and sent Hushai \hū'-sha-ī\ as a mole whose mission was to "frustrate the counsel of Ahithophel." (2 Samuel 15:31-32)
- 6) Ahithophel's advice was for the revolutionary army to take up immediate pursuit of David's forces. But Hushai was able to accomplish his mission by convincing Absalom to recruit volunteers from all over Israel so that victory over the battle-tested David and his mighty men might be made certain. This is the course of action that Absalom took thus granting David time to cross the Jordan River, regroup, and prepare for combat. (2 Samuel 17:1-22)

- 7) Ahithophel was so humiliated he was not able to destroy David that he saddled his donkey, rode back to his home in Giloh \gī'-lō\, and committed suicide.
  - 8) Later, Absalom encountered his father at the Battle of Ephraim \ē'-fra-im\ Forest. He was killed by Joab while hanging by his hair from the branches of a tree. (2 Samuel 18:14)
  - 9) It is interesting to note that Eliam \ē'-li-am\, Ahithophel's son and Bathsheba's father, remained loyal to David and was honored among David's mighty men in 2 Samuel 23:34b.
  - 10) Bathsheba was David's right woman. She bore David five children among whom were two in the line of Christ: Solomon in the legal line down to Joseph and Nathan in the bloodline down to Mary. Bathsheba remained loyal to David to the very end of his life. (1 Kings 1:31)
10. **Rational and Irrational.** Rational arrogance is produced by those who consider themselves to be intellectuals because of achievements in the realm of academic education. Irrational arrogance is produced by those who consider themselves pious because of their emotional modus operandi.

Those in rational arrogance pride themselves in possessing a high IQ and their associations with others of that ilk. Such types reject the biblical worldview for a Progressive worldview and assume themselves elitists, superior to believers who subscribe to divine viewpoint.

The Progressive worldview rejects biblical truths in exchange for the pottage of rationalism's theories, such as Darwinian evolution over biblical creation, global warming supported by computer modeling over comprehensive analysis of the sun's eleven-year cycles and their effect on global cooling, not global warming, and Big Bang cosmology over 'Elohim bara' hashamaim we'eth ha'ares or "God created the heavens and the earth" cosmology.

Rational arrogance places faith in the claims of academic research papers over the clear revelation of biblical claims by the ultimate Professor of absolute truth, *YHWH 'Elohim*, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Solomon learned that human wisdom is limited and cannot comprehend the deep things of God:

**Ecclesiastes 7:23** - I have examined all this by wisdom; I had said, "I am determined to comprehend this"—but it was beyond my grasp.

**v. 24** - Whatever has happened is beyond human understanding; it is far deeper than man can fathom.

Human wisdom is pseudo intellectualism. It contains the rationalisms of human perspicacity but rejects the counsel of divine revelation. The rationally arrogant find the teachings of the Bible foolishness, especially that of the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:18). When pastors seek approval from the culture's self-appointed anointed ones they soften and even change the message of Scripture, they often do this out of irrational arrogance.

Irrational arrogance is emotional in that it reacts to circumstances rather than addressing them through biblical analysis. Emotion is an after-the-fact response to circumstances and therefore is bereft of reason having sought no consultation with doctrinal principles or good common sense.

Irrational arrogance transforms reality into illusion and initiates the trend into unreality and psychopathic behavior. Divine viewpoint draws from an inventory of doctrine stored in the *kardia*, but emotion bypasses doctrinal analysis for instant solutions that have scant chance of fulfilling the imagined outcome.

Whereas rational arrogance uses human viewpoint and academic speculation, irrational arrogance uses emotion as its method of decision-making and problem-solving.

**Philippians 3:18** - For many reversionistic believers (concerning whom I have communicated to you, even though weeping) keep on walking as enemies of the cross of Christ.

**v. 19** - Their end is destruction [ sin unto death ], whose god is their emotions [ irrational arrogance ], whose human achievement are by means of dishonor, and who keep thinking about earthly things.

Believers who function from emotion become enemies of the cross because they have the imputed power of the Holy Spirit to lead rational lives instructed by the divine guidance of the Word of God. Christ's utilization of the divine power system in the Incarnation served as the prototype demonstration of its validity and it sustained Him even through the judgment of the cross.

Reversionists who acquire some kind of human aggrandizement because of emotion-inspired accomplishments violate the principle that if God does not promote you, you are not promoted.

**Romans 16:17** - Now I urge you, fellow believers, be alert for those who are causing dissensions [ functioning from emotional rather than doctrinal rationales ] and obstacles contrary to what you have been taught and learned. Avoid them!

**v. 18** - For such persons do not obey our Lord Christ, but on the contrary, their own emotions. By their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the *kardia* of the naive.