

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Cringing at Self-Exaltation

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

November 15, 2020

### Scriptures:

Isaiah 3:1-4:6

**Theme:** If we learn to recoil at self-exaltation then God's people will know his peace.

**Introduction:** As Israel was in the midst of their rebellion against God, they were so used to their self-exaltation that it just seemed natural to them. That self-exaltation is the very nature of rebellion against God, as we turn to idols to satisfy ourselves. So, when we identify it in our lives, what should our reaction be to self-exaltation? We should recoil, asking the Lord to take off our blinders so that we can walk humbly before him.

Isaiah provides 2 perspectives to help us to understand self-exaltation:

### 1. Two pictures of self-exaltation

The first picture Isaiah provides is of Israel becoming more childish and infantile, especially their leaders. God was stripping them down because of their rebellion. Instead of steady, godly leaders, Israel is left desperate for someone to lead—to the point that they choose a man for a foolish reason—he has a coat!

But Israel does not realize how immature they are. Because of their dedication to self, they think they are something when they are actually nothing.

The second picture is of vain women who desire attention; but the Lord will expose their emptiness and the reality of their total dependence on him.

### 2. Peace after the wind

Even in the midst of these announcements of judgment on Israel, the Lord also announces his merciful restoration.

But that restoration will come after the winds of judgment and burning that go through the land and burn up the filth. His judgment will come; but it is not his final word.

As God's people are purified through fire, they will learn to exalt the Lord (rather than themselves). And as they exalt him, they will be exalted by him.

As the Lord works in his people, they will be called beautiful, glorious, and holy. They will be set apart and protected by the Lord.

### Questions:

1. Where is self-exaltation present in your life? Are you asking the Lord to expose it?
2. What are you doing in your quest for meaning and importance in this life?
3. Are you discontent with what God has given you?