

The Unsinkable, Sink

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On April 15, 1912, the largest, most luxurious, and most technologically advanced ocean liner ever built, the RMS Titanic, sunk in the North Atlantic Ocean. It was dubbed as unsinkable because it was designed with sixteen watertight compartments intended to keep it afloat with a one-inch-thick steel hull. So confident were its builders and owners that there were not sufficient lifeboats for the number of passengers on board. Only four days into its maiden voyage, the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the ocean taking 1500 passengers with her. The unsinkable sank.

Twenty-four years later, Nazi Germany began its rise under Adolf Hitler. To gain maritime superiority over France and England, Germany designed and built the largest battleships to ever sail the seven seas. The largest of the fleet, the Bismarck, was massive, sporting a body of 823 feet long and 118 feet wide. Of all maritime vessels at the time, it was the heaviest (with a steel hull 8-13 inches thick), the fastest (capable of more than 30 miles/hour), the deadliest (with massive armament), had a travel range of about 10,000 miles, and a crew of 2300 men. So confident were the Germans that the Bismarck was invincible, she was sent out on her first mission in 1941 with only one other ship, the Prinz Eugen. Their lone offensive mission was to disrupt Allied shipping lanes in the Atlantic. During a short battle, she easily sank the HMS Hood (England's largest and most prominent battle cruiser). However, suffering slight damage herself, the Bismarck headed to Germany-occupied France for repairs. Pursued by the whole Royal Navy, she was intercepted, and her steering rudders were damaged by a torpedo. As a sitting duck she was bombarded by 2 heavy cruisers and 2 battleships. After 100 minutes of bombardment, the Bismarck sunk into the Atlantic Ocean taking with it 2200 men. After only 8 days into her maiden mission the Bismarck was gone. The unsinkable sank.

In the Bible we read of the king of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar. God allowed this man to become the most powerful man in the world. Daniel gave the interpretation of a dream that Nebuchadnezzar had about a great image. Daniel told him in Daniel 2:37-38, "*Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all.*" The mighty Nebuchadnezzar never gave credit to God but thought he was invincible and exalted himself to a place of prominence above God. But God humbled him. Isaiah brought a proverb against him in Isaiah 14:11-15, "*Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*" And true to God's word it is said in Daniel 4:33, "*he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.*" Although Nebuchadnezzar thought he was supreme, undefeatable, and above God, the unsinkable sank.

God's word gives warning after warning about exalting ourselves too highly. Paul said man is *"not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,"* Romans 12:3. In 1 Corinthians 10:12 he said, *"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* Certainly, the higher we exalt ourselves the greater will be our fall. If you want exaltation, listen to God's advice in James 4:10, *"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."* Peter gave similar advice in 1 Peter 5:6-7, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* When God lifts you up, He places you upon a sure foundation rather than the shaky and flimsy footing that man is able to establish. Though human beings are the most powerful force upon the planet, our ways are still sinkable. So, put your trust in God and His way rather than yourself or the latest manmade innovation.