



RCCG LSP HOME CONNECT

Character & Holiness

RESTORATION THROUGH HUMILITY

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

A new beginning is not the absence of pressure; Jesus said we will face tribulation, yet we can have peace because He has overcome the world. God promises His redeemed people His presence through deep waters and fire, and He is an everlasting refuge. But pride can sabotage a restart—Scripture warns that God resists the proud, humbles the arrogant, and gives grace and restoration to the humble.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Isaiah 43:1-2

John 16:33

Daniel 4:34-37

James 4:6

Proverbs 16:18

Deuteronomy 33:27

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A new beginning starts with God's redemption and His claim over us (Isaiah 43:1-2).
- Trouble is real, but Jesus offers peace and courage because He has overcome (John 16:33).
- Humility positions us for grace; pride positions us for resistance and collapse (James 4:6; Proverbs 16:18).
- God can humble the proud to reveal His sovereignty and restore right perspective (Daniel 4:34-37; Daniel 4:19-27).
- God is a refuge underneath us when life feels unstable (Deuteronomy 33:27).
- Some breakthroughs are progressive—keep responding to Jesus and keep walking forward (Mark 8:22-25).
- Stay spiritually alert rather than self-confident, because sudden shifts can come unexpectedly (1 Thessalonians 5:1,3).

INTRODUCTION

Daniel 4 closes with King Nebuchadnezzar regaining his understanding and turning from pride to worship. This study traces the path from sudden storms and humbling seasons to restoration, renewed humility, spiritual wakefulness, and a genuine new beginning with God.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Primary text:** Daniel 4:34–37 — Nebuchadnezzar lifts his eyes to heaven, his understanding returns, and he praises the Most High whose dominion is everlasting.
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- **Background:** Daniel 4:1–4; 19–27 — the king's public influence, the warning dream, and the call to humility and repentance before the crisis fully lands. —
- **Storms and God's presence:** John 16:33; Isaiah 43:1–2 — trouble comes, but God promises presence through it. —
- **Suddenness of trouble:** 1 Thessalonians 5:3; example pattern in Daniel 2 — danger can arrive without notice, so readiness matters. —

SCRIPTURE READING (CONT.)

- **Pride and humility:** Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6 — pride leads to collapse; God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud. —
- **Spiritual self-deception:** Revelation 3:17–19 — people can think they are fine while actually needy and blind; God calls them to repent. —
- **Seasons that end:** Psalm 102:13; Luke 13:10–17; John 5:2–14; Acts 3:1–8 — long afflictions can have a decisive turning point. —
- **God's ability to lift from deep pits:** Deuteronomy 33:27 — the everlasting arms are underneath. —
- **New life in Christ:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 — in Christ, a person becomes new. —

KEY POINTS

1. Nebuchadnezzar's turning point began when he "lifted up" his eyes to heaven (Daniel 4:34). A new beginning often starts with Godward attention and honest surrender.

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

2. Storms are no respecter of persons. Trouble can touch anyone (John 16:33), but God promises presence in the waters and fire (Isaiah 43:1–2).

3. Storms often come without notice; spiritual readiness is essential (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

4. It is painful to become “ex-this” or “ex-that”—to have been well and then become broken, to have had honor and then lose it. The desire in God is restoration, not permanent shame.

5. God may warn in mercy before a fall (Daniel 4:19–27). Ignoring warnings—especially about pride—invites unnecessary collapse.

6. Pride must be confronted: pride goes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18). Humility attracts grace; pride provokes divine resistance (James 4:6).

GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

OBSERVATION

- In Daniel 4:34–37, what specific actions and statements show that Nebuchadnezzar's heart and mind changed?
- List the phrases Nebuchadnezzar uses to describe God's rule and authority (Daniel 4:34–35). What do they emphasize?
- According to Daniel 4:36, what was restored to Nebuchadnezzar, and what was added beyond restoration?
- What repeated warnings about trouble and readiness appear across John 16:33, Isaiah 43:1–2, and 1 Thessalonians 5:3?

INTERPRETATION

- Why is “lifting the eyes to heaven” (Daniel 4:34) a fitting picture of repentance and a new beginning? What does it oppose in the human heart?
- Daniel 4:19–27 contains a merciful warning and a call to humility. What might it look like to respond well to a warning before a storm arrives?
- How do Proverbs 16:18 and James 4:6 explain the spiritual danger of pride beyond just negative consequences?
- Revelation 3:17–19 describes people who misread their own condition. What are common signs that someone may be spiritually asleep while thinking they are fine?

APPLICATION

- Identify one area where you may be tempted toward pride (success, gifting, status, knowledge, money, ministry). What concrete practice will you adopt this week to pursue humility?

APPLICATION (CONT.)

- If storms can arrive without notice, what two habits will you build for daily readiness (prayer, gratitude, repentance, reconciliation, obedience)?
- Where do you sense “sleep” in your spiritual life (prayerlessness, dullness to sin, lack of compassion, neglect of Scripture)? What specific step will you take to wake up?
- What have you lost (peace, integrity, relationships, health, zeal, opportunities) that you need God to restore? Pray specifically, and also ask for the character changes that prevent returning to the same pit.
- Nebuchadnezzar’s restoration included added “excellent majesty” (Daniel 4:36). What would ‘restoration plus maturity’ look like for you—beyond simply getting back what was lost?
- Is there any area where you are ‘pretending’ spiritually instead of surrendering fully to Christ? What would honest repentance and faith look like today (2 Corinthians 5:17)?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Search my heart and expose pride that sabotages repentance and renewal.
- Give me humility to lift my eyes to You and submit to Your rule.
- Be my refuge in tribulation, and make me steady through deep waters and fire.
- Pour out grace that restores what pride and sin have damaged.

NEXT STEP

Identify one area where pride is showing, confess it to God, and practice one concrete act of humility while entrusting your new beginning to His refuge and grace.

CONCLUSION

A new beginning is possible because God rules forever, resists pride, gives grace to the humble, and can restore what seems irrecoverable. The pathway is clear: respond to God's warnings, turn from pride, awaken from spiritual sleep, lift your eyes to heaven, and trust the everlasting arms to lift you out and raise you into a new season.