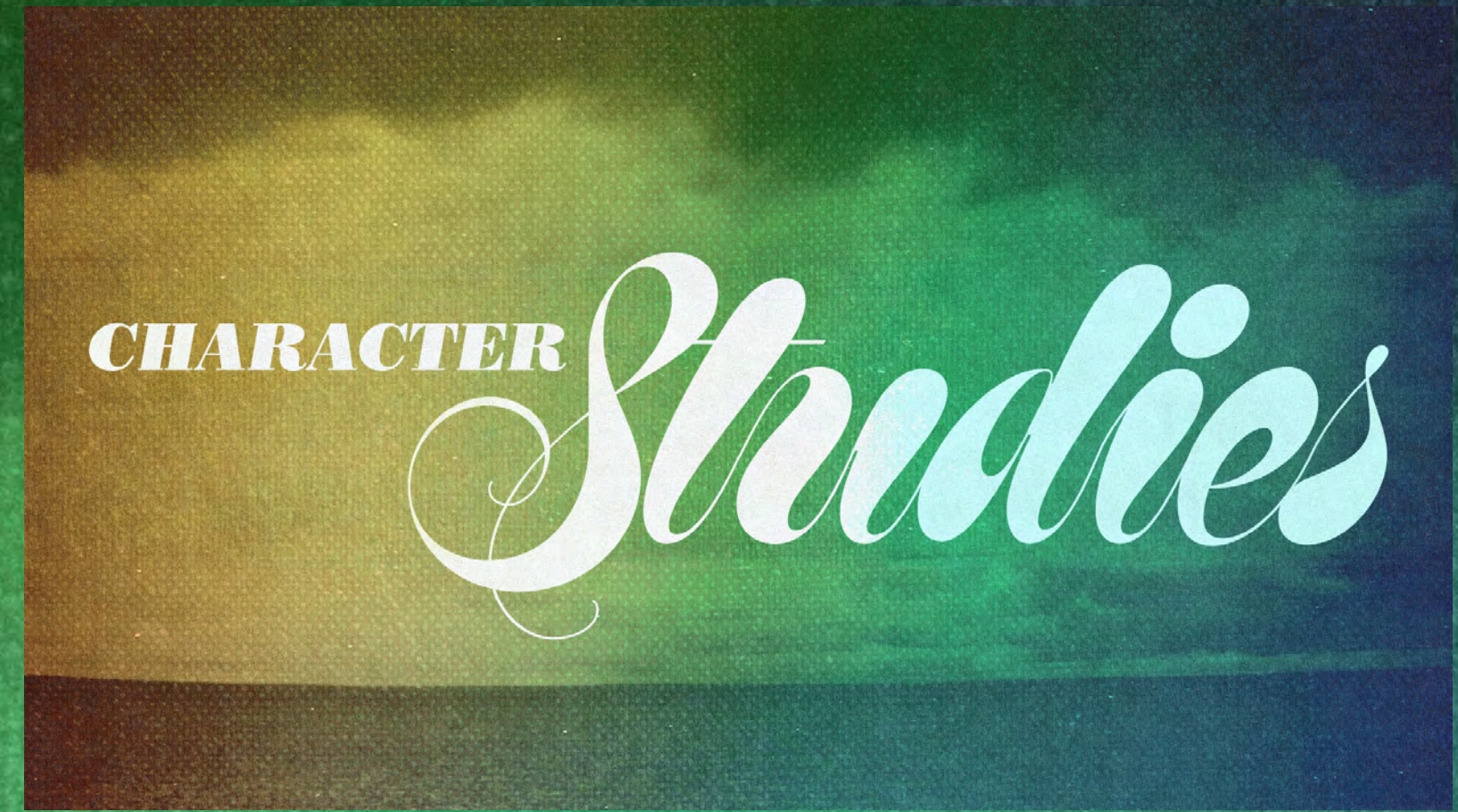




Character Studies

Week 9

Nebuchadnezzar: Those Who Walk In Pride He Is Able To Humble

Pastor of Fellowship Groups David Wright — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, September 6, 2026

“The very first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart. And when he began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I’ve ever felt.”

Eustace in The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

**...for all his works are right and his ways are just;
and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.**

Daniel 4:37b ESV

**Those Who Walk In Pride
He Is Able To Humble**

**King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations,
and languages, that dwell in all the earth:
Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed
good to me to show the signs and wonders
that the Most High God has done for me.**

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:1-3 ESV

I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me.

Daniel 4:4-5 ESV

**O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians,
because I know that the spirit of the holy gods
is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for
you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw
and their interpretation.**

Daniel 4:9 ESV

**Pride acknowledges God
but does not submit to Him**

**Have I incorporated God into my life, or have I
surrendered my life to God?**

Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him.

Daniel 4:15b-16 ESV

...you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.

And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.

Daniel 4:25-26 ESV

Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.

Daniel 4:27 ESV

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:28 ESV

Pride acknowledges God but does not submit to Him

Pride rejects God's preventative grace

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”

**While the words were still in the king's mouth,
there fell a voice from heaven, "O King
Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The
kingdom has departed from you,**

and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.”

Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

Daniel 4:28-33 ESV

Pride acknowledges God but does not submit to Him

Pride rejects God's preventative grace

Pride contends with God for supremacy

“Pride is self-contending with God for preeminence.”

Stephen Charnock

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:5b ESV

Pride acknowledges God but does not submit to Him

Pride rejects God's preventative grace

Pride contends with God for supremacy

Pride dehumanizes us

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.”

**At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar,
lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason
returned to me, and I blessed the Most High,
and praised and honored him who lives
forever, for his dominion is an everlasting
dominion, and his kingdom endures from
generation to generation;**

all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

**At the same time my reason returned to me,
and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty
and splendor returned to me. My counselors
and my lords sought me, and I was
established in my kingdom, and still more
greatness was added to me.**

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Daniel 4:34-37 ESV

God Must Humble Us To Save Us

**Humble yourselves, therefore, under the
mighty hand of God so that at the proper time
he may exalt you...**

1 Peter 5:6 ESV

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:8-11 ESV