

*How God Turns Your Loss Into Gain*

**YOU  
SHALL  
RECOVER  
ALL**



**JOHN ECKHARDT**

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF *PRAYERS THAT ROUT DEMONS*

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## CHAPTER 1

# THE PRELUDE TO GREATNESS

*You shall increase my greatness, and  
comfort me on every side.*

—PSALM 71:21, NKJV

**T**HERE ARE VERY UNUSUAL seasons in life—peculiar times when we collectively experience great difficulty. I am writing this book in early 2021, after a year unlike any I've ever seen before in my lifetime. The world faced a global pandemic and, as a result, a quarantine that kept us home, shut down travel, closed churches, and canceled events. COVID-19 impacted countries' economies. People have lost friends and loved ones to the disease. Others have lost jobs, and businesses have closed. In the United States, all kinds of things have happened in our cities and national government. Social, racial, and political division led to global protests and various kinds of outrage and unrest.

In the midst of all this, the world also weathered natural disasters. Two hurricanes hit just about the same place in Louisiana, causing electrical and food shortages and devastating the region.<sup>1</sup> The state is still recuperating. Can you imagine going through a pandemic, being quarantined and experiencing countless deaths, and then suddenly two deadly storms hit your region? Then, of course, in California, uncontrollable fires blazed through the state and its national parks for weeks. In early 2021 Texas experienced unseasonably and deadly freezing weather, fueling major power outages for several days. In Illinois, where I live, we had an unusual storm that produced one-hundred-mile-per-hour winds that snapped trees like twigs. And in East Africa swarms of locusts wiped out acres and acres of crops. It was just a crazy, crazy time underlined by natural disasters, pestilence, and sickness that seemed to linger on, making recovery on any level seem impossible.

Despite what we have seen and gone through—and all the things that have happened in our lives, cities, and the world, in the realms of politics, finance, and the church—God is about to restore everything the locusts have eaten, everything the plague has weakened and rendered lifeless, everything that injustice delayed and hindered. You will recover it all and be released into a realm of greatness you've never experienced before.

As you face uncommon challenges—whether they

are financial, emotional, or relational, whether they involve your ministry or your business—God will not leave you in the trouble unvindicated. God is about to take you to another level despite what you are seeing. As a matter of fact, and even though it's uncomfortable, God often prepares us to move into a new season of expansion when we are in the eye of the storm.

Scripture shows us that one of the prophet's functions is to declare to you the thing God is about to do and to give you some understanding of a situation that might make no sense in the natural. When you look at what's happening in your life during times of difficulty, you might find yourself thinking, "This is crazy. This makes no sense." In connection with things happening nationally and globally, you may be experiencing things you've never experienced before. And if you're not careful, you'll be tempted to believe that your world is coming to an end.

News and media, prophecy teachers, and end-time theorists love this kind of stuff. They'll tell you, "We're living in the last days, and the world is about to end. Hold on and get ready!" They can quickly work you into a panic and a place of fear. So much money is spent, so many platforms are built, and so many bad decisions are made. But we know that perfect love casts out all fear. To cling to that truth, you need a revelation of God's love for you. Because of God's great love, you will not be consumed (Lam. 3:22).

I'm writing this book to let you know that in the

midst of chaos, difficulties, troubles, and pressure, God is setting you up for the greatest breakthrough you've ever known. It may not look like it right now, but what I love about being a prophetic believer is that I can know with certainty that what the enemy means for evil, God can turn around for my good. I can hold on to the promise that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all I can ask or think (Eph. 3:20).

Prophetic promises like this give us hope. The word of the Lord comes to give us vision and causes us to see what we cannot see in the natural. In other words, what you see in the natural may look bad, but when the Lord gives you His word, He also gives you the ability to see beyond what is happening in front of you and into what He is doing behind the scenes. His word causes you to dream again, to get a new vision for your future; it sets your focus. Ultimately, a fresh word from the Lord causes you to believe Him again. Despite all the things happening around you—sickness, disease, death, social injustice, political unrest, and economic uncertainty—you will stand assured that God is still on the throne and that He is still about to do something powerful in your life.

## **EVEN IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE**

Sometimes when the darkness comes, these difficult things are really a prelude to the great things God is about to do. Throughout the Old Testament

the prophets—Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and others—prophesied the Lord’s judgment and the consequences to come. But they also prophesied restoration and glory. Isaiah said, “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee” (Isa. 60:1). Even when “darkness covers the earth,” the light of God shall be seen upon you (Isa. 60:2). So even though the Hebrews were in the midst of a bad time, the prophets gave them hope and a prophetic word. Even the Book of Revelation has much to say about judgment. But in the end there’s hope because the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

So even in the worst of your times, as a prophet of God, I come to prophesy that there is hope, restoration, and victory. When the news delivers a report of yet another disaster or uprising, God is still working to release you into a realm of greatness you’ve never experienced before. God showed me this as I sought Him for a word to encourage people during what we were facing in 2020 and now in residual trials. He led me to Psalm 71, specifically one verse. Before I share it with you, I want to set up this passage for you.

As you walk with me through these verses, I believe you will find encouragement, the right way to respond, and direction for setting your expectation for what God is preparing to do in your life or ministry—in whatever challenges you’re facing.

### **Don't be confused.**

Psalm 71:1 says, “In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.” This verse is a declaration: “Don't let me be confused about the troubling things that are happening in this season of life.” God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). He is the God who makes order out of chaos, peace out of discord. Don't be confused. Though all kinds of things are coming at you and those in the world around you, God is still good. He is still on the throne. He still has a plan for you.

Don't allow the things and the challenges of this season of life to cause you to be confused—confused about God, confused about what God is doing, confused about your own life. One of the worst things that can happen when you go through a season of testing, trial, or attack from the enemy is that you get confused.

### **Look for a way of escape.**

Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to  
escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

—PSALM 71:2

In the midst of all your trouble, God is going to give you a way of escape. You are coming out of the hardship you are going through now. You *will* escape it. Scripture makes that promise.

## **God has issued a command on your behalf.**

Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.

—PSALM 71:3

God has issued a command on your behalf to deliver you and save you out of any situation the enemy has orchestrated. If you've been impacted by the many crises created by the pandemic—or any other thing—God is going to deliver you. He has sent a command—a decree from heaven over your life. And when God commands a thing, it shall happen.

## **There is deliverance for you.**

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

—PSALM 71:4

The psalmist is in a situation where he needs deliverance. He's facing unrighteous and cruel men and needs God's help. The situation doesn't look good, but he begins to call on the name of the Lord. He cries out for deliverance. And just as there was deliverance for David, in the midst of all you are dealing with, there is deliverance for you too. Say it aloud with me right here: "Lord, deliver me."

Oh yes, there is deliverance for God's people, for the saints of God, for the church of the living God, and for *you*.

**Always hope.**

For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.

—PSALM 71:5

When we're walking through the storm, it can be hard to live with hope. In our minds we can know that there is hope in God, but getting that knowledge from our heads to our hearts is not always easy.

I talk to a lot of people who are losing hope right now after all we've been through. They can't find a job. They're hurting emotionally. Their child is depressed. Cancer has struck. Whatever it is, I'm sure you know people who are giving up. They're throwing in the towel. Maybe that's you or your spouse. One of the most beautiful things about serving God is that we can always walk with hope. We can always hope for the best because He promises that the best is yet to come and that the latter days will be better than the former (Hag. 2:9). We can always hope for a good future because He promises that a good and hopeful future is in His plan for our lives (Jer. 29:11). We can believe that things will change and improve because He promises to make roads in the wilderness and rivers in the desert (Isa. 43:19).

When you think about it, living with hope in Christ is what being a believer actually is. It is the basis of our faith—the substance of things *hoped* for and assurance of things unseen (Heb. 11:1). Despite what we see today, we can have hope for America, hope for the world, hope for the nations, and hope for our families and children.

### **Praise God continually.**

By thee have I been holden up from the womb:  
thou art he that took me out of my mother's  
bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

—PSALM 71:6

I love this verse because it tells me that wherever I am in my life, whatever I'm walking through, God has taken care of me all my life, back to my mother's womb. This is not the first time you've faced a crisis or a difficult situation. While this particular season may be unusually hard, we've all gone through storms before. The good news is that if God brought you out then, He will bring you out now.

### **You are a sign and a wonder.**

I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my  
strong refuge.

—PSALM 71:7

Of all the things you've been through and all the challenges you've overcome, you have a testimony. You are a sign and a wonder. You are a sign of God's grace, power, and mercy. It's a true wonder you're still here. It's a wonder you're still praising God. It's a wonder you haven't given up and thrown in the towel. God is living in you.

### **God is still with you.**

Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together.

—PSALM 71:8–10

Because God is living in you, He's with you. I know that sounds simple, but I don't think we really get it. The enemy makes people think they're in so much trouble that they believe God has forsaken them. Listen, God has not forsaken the earth. God has not forsaken the church. He has not forsaken you. And God has not forsaken America or any other nation on the earth. God has not forsaken us during this health crisis, political unrest, social injustice, or global pandemic. God is still with us. He is still on our side. He will still deliver and heal you. He tells us to look and says, "See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isa. 43:19, NIV).

No matter what the enemy says or how you might feel, the odds are not against you. God is on your side.

**God is your strength.**

O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help. Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt. But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

—PSALM 71:12–16

Jesus didn't mince words when He told His disciples, "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33, NIV). God knows we need His strength when "trouble" comes and threatens us. And He willingly gives it. Let me be clear. It is *His* strength—not your own—that you gain. Say this aloud with me now: "The Lord is the strength of my life."

**You will not die.**

Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You? You, who have shown me great and severe

troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

—PSALM 71:19–20, NKJV

Life can get hard; the challenges can feel so overwhelming. Grief, hurt, loss, disappointment, betrayal, letdown, abandonment, abuse, heartbreak, and injustice are some of the most painful realities of this life. They can be spiritually, emotionally, and mentally traumatizing. We can feel pain so intensely that we think we might die.

Have you ever felt this way? The psalmist of Psalm 71 did, and this is what I want you to see as I walk you through these verses. You are not the first to go through hardship, and you will not be the last. But through it all, God is your helper, provider, Comforter, and defender. This psalmist writes from a place of familiarity with seasons of extreme hardship and difficulty. In the midst of all he's going through, he says something so amazing.

The verses above (19–20) essentially say, “Lord, I am experiencing some things I’ve never experienced before—great and severe troubles. But I’m not going to die, because You’re going to quicken me. You’re going to give me life.”

Agree with me and say, “I’m not about to die.” Say, “I will not die; I will live and declare the works of the Lord.”

Earlier I told you I wanted to walk with you through

this passage to get to one specific verse. Let's go there now.

**You will end up greater than you were before.**

You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me  
on every side.

—PSALM 71:21, NKJV

This particular verse is what I wanted you to see and really let sink in. The psalmist tells us that God is going to do something in your life in the midst of trouble. Out of all of this—a global pandemic, political division, racial injustice, financial trouble, disruption of all kinds, fear, insecurity, relationship breakdowns, grief, and any other trouble you may be going through—you will end up greater than you were before. In other words all the trouble, all the tests, all the things that come against you—things you may have thought would diminish you—they're really the things God is using to prepare you for something greater. God is preparing you for greatness.

I love what the psalmist is saying: in the midst of all that is happening, I need salvation, I need deliverance, I need a hiding place, and I need comfort. But also in the midst of this, I believe God is saying, “When this is all over, let your declaration be, ‘Lord, You will increase my greatness.’” Let your faith take hold of this thought for a moment.

God is saying, “You are already great because you

are Mine—because I dwell within you—but I’m going to make you greater.” There’s another level of greatness coming. We don’t really talk about the subject of greatness or hear it talked about in the church because many people don’t believe we can have greatness in our own lives. But God did not call you to be average, below average, or mediocre. Scripture says you have been called to greatness in Christ.

I want you to embrace this and begin to confess, “Lord, You will increase my greatness.” As you do, your mind will begin to fall in line with God’s promise and you’ll begin to believe and behave as someone who knows God has a greater place for you. The enemy will try to put a limit on how high you can fly. He will tell you, “You’ve gone as far as you can go.” But God is saying, “There’s a greater place I have for you. There’s a greater position I have for you. There’s greater influence I have for you. There’s greater wealth and finances I have for you. There’s greater power I have for you. I have a greater platform for you, greater doors. I want to increase your greatness now.”

Although the Bible doesn’t attribute Psalm 71 to David, it’s likely that David did write this psalm. And at the time of its writing, he would have already been a great king. Yet he was still navigating so many trials and tests with his children. We know everything David went through with Saul and all that he walked through with his son Absalom. But if you think about it, on the other side of every trial David faced, God

was there, taking him to another level. This is what God wants to do for you.

## THE PRELUDE TO GREATNESS

Even if you're living in one of the darkest and most difficult, seemingly hopeless times in your life, I want you to begin to see God's perspective. I want you to confess this prayer that I began to pray some months before I started writing this book:

*Lord, You are going to increase my greatness.  
Lord, You are going to increase my influence.  
Lord, You are going to take me to another level.  
All the things that have come against me—the  
things that were designed by the enemy to bring  
me down and make me low; all the pain and the  
hurt, the trouble and the tears, and the strug-  
gles I've been through—You are going to use as  
a launching pad to greater greatness. Lord, I  
didn't understand it at the time, but I hear the  
word of the Lord now. I see Your hand at work  
in my life.*

Coming out of your own troubles and expecting God to build and restore you to new levels, you can see why you shouldn't be jealous when you see someone else operating in greatness. Don't hate on them, because you don't know what they went through to get to that

place. We often look at the people God promotes and raises up and say things like, “Well, how in the world did *they* get to that place?”

But if you were to sit down and listen to their testimony, you would understand they paid a price to get to that level. I think you’d begin to marvel at how they’ve trusted God to overcome so much and see how they are indeed a sign and a wonder. Their testimony would probably awe you: “It’s a wonder you’re still alive. Not only has God preserved you, saved you, and delivered you, but He has brought you to a greater place than you were before.”

Never judge a person because of where they are. You may not have been there when they were going through their storm. You weren’t there during their seasons of obscurity, testing, and trial.

Look at Joseph—no one but his brothers were there when they threw him in the pit. Only they were there when he was sold to the Ishmaelites. Almost no one was there when he was falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife and cast into prison for something he didn’t do. It was only when Joseph was promoted to second in command in Egypt and a ring was placed on his finger and a chain around his neck that the masses came to know who Joseph was. All they knew was this new leader’s overnight rise to fame.

Never look at a godly person’s position and view their rise to greatness negatively. They didn’t get to that position overnight. As you hold on to Christ as

they did, God will increase your greatness just as He expanded Joseph's territory.

As you read these pages on what we may call “the other side” of the coronavirus pandemic—a season of shutdowns, death, financial troubles, and trials—know that when it looks like things are getting worse and worse, God will bring you into another place of greatness. Get ready to be launched, because what the enemy meant for evil God is turning around for our good.

What you're going through now I call a “prelude” to the greatness God has for you on the other side. So get ready to move to another level. Hold on to the Word of the Lord from Psalm 71:21. David's words give us the confidence that in the midst of all this hell, in the midst of all this trouble, God is about to increase our greatness.

## **GREATER THAN EVER**

The Psalm 71:21 scripture inspired the message of this book, so I want to spend some time breaking down what God taught me as I studied it. Many times the revelation I receive about certain passages in the Bible comes through prayer, of course, but it also comes from word studies in the Greek or Hebrew lexicon, a Bible dictionary, or reading the same passage in different translations. I encourage you to study God's Word in a similar way as well. Diving into the context and word origins will really open up the mysteries of

what God is saying to you in certain seasons of life. We're going to do this now with Psalm 71:21. Let's start with the King James Version.

The King James Version translates the verse like this:

Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort  
me on every side.

It reads like a declaration. But then in some of the other translations the verse reads more like a prayer. For example, the American Standard Version (ASV) says, "Increase thou my greatness, and turn again and comfort me." So here the psalmist is actually *asking* God to increase his greatness. Believers don't usually pray this prayer. You may not have even known you could pray that kind of prayer. But David shows us we can pray and ask God to increase our greatness.

The Amplified Bible translates verse 71 this way: "May You increase my greatness (honor) and turn to comfort me." So here, greatness is also "honor."

The Common English Bible says, "Please increase my honor and comfort me all around." The Contemporary English Version (CEV) says, "You will make me truly great and take my sorrow away," and the English Revised Version (ERV) says, "You will help me do even greater things. You will comfort me again!"

Can you say that aloud with me now? "I'm going to do greater things." When the trouble is all over, the church will still be here, and those who hold on to God will go on to pursue kingdom-building exploits.

Other translations say, “You will make me greater than ever” (GNT, GW). Say this now: “I’ll be greater than ever.”

“Raise me to a position of great honor,” the New English Translation (NET) says.

The New International Revised Version (NIRV) says, “You will honor me more and more.”

“Give us even more greatness than before,” the psalmist prays in The Passion Translation.

The Wycliffe Bible says, “Thou hast multiplied thy great doing; and thou converted (and thou turned), hast comforted me,” indicating that God is about to multiply some great things in your life.

I want you to know that you can claim the promise of Psalm 71:21 and believe that God is about to put new honor on your life. That “disrespect” devil is leaving you. When people don’t respect or honor you, don’t let you in the room because your name is not on the list, or they sit you in the last row and refuse you a good seat, know that God is about to increase your respect and increase your honor. When greatness comes on you, the people who didn’t want to give you any honor and respect will have to reverse their actions. Where you used to be a benchwarmer, only let in the game with twelve seconds left, God is going to raise your level of greatness to the point that you will be able to buy that bench. God is raising your level of greatness and putting you back in the game.

People may have laughed at you and called you a

bum, a benchwarmer, or a scrub. You may have tried to get a shot off only to shoot an air ball. But God is increasing you where it counts and changing your name to something great. The stigma of dishonor is coming off your life. Why? Because you've been through some stuff, and through that season of hardship you held on to God and you didn't give up. You didn't backslide. You kept praising God. You kept praying. You kept worshipping. You kept confessing. You kept serving God. You kept your eyes on Him. During their season of difficulty, other people may have turned and walked away and didn't continue believing God, but you held on. Instead of turning your back on Jesus, you continue to believe Him for deliverance. You have called out to the Lord, and He has heard you and is bringing you out of your situation into something greater. This time of trouble you have been in will not be wasted time.

Declare it like the psalmist did and believe, "Lord, You are going to put something on me that I've never had before. I'm going to another level. The enemy will not laugh at me and mock me. I'll not lose my honor. I will not be put to shame. I will not lose my greatness. Instead, I will have more."

Trust God that He is going to cause you to do greater in your ministry, greater in your career, greater in your business, and greater in your finances. Believe that He is going to cause greater miracles to come your way, greater doors to open, greater platforms to

be established, and greater wisdom and grace to be granted. A greater favor is coming on your life than you've ever had before. God's about to open the door, and the door is called Greater.

As I received the word of the Lord for this unique season of difficulty we've faced collectively and individually, I heard Him say to His people, "I'm opening the door of favor, but I'm also opening the door of *greater* favor. There's more favor than you've ever known before. Great resources are about to be put in your hands—great relationships and connections. You're going to meet greater people, and I'm going to take you to greater places. I'm going to give you greater influence. What you thought the locust ate, I am here to restore to you in greater measure than you could ever ask or imagine."

The Lord says, "When this is all over and some people have not made it through, you're going to come out greater. Even though it looks like things began in a bad place, get ready for an upgrade because your end will be better than your beginning. I'm putting a greater crown on your head—greater authority and power. You will have a greater anointing to preach and to prophesy, to cast out devils and heal the sick. I am putting a greater anointing on you to get wealth. I will multiply you and bring you to a greater place of honor, greatness, and favor."

Greatness is something we need to embrace, and you need to believe God for it. Because of the greatness

# IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES, GOD IS SETTING YOU UP FOR THE GREATEST BREAKTHROUGH YOU'VE EVER KNOWN!

Take comfort in knowing God will remember and vindicate every tear you've cried and restore to you more than what the enemy stole and the locust ate.

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Uncover fresh revelations from Psalms and Proverbs and examine snapshots of the lives of Gideon, Joseph, Abraham, and Job. You will see how God is turning your worst tests and trials around for your good and using them to prepare you for greatness.

It may be tempting to give up hope or throw in the towel, but do not give in to discouragement, hopelessness, depression, doubt, or defeat. Despite what you see, God is still on the throne. There is hope for you. For all that you've pressed through and endured, let God put a new level of honor on your life. He will take you from least to greatest, and you shall recover all!



**APOSTLE JOHN ECKHARDT** is overseer of Crusaders Ministries, located in Chicago. Gifted with a strong apostolic anointing, he has ministered throughout the United States and overseas in more than eighty nations. He is a sought-after international conference speaker and has authored more than forty books, including *Prayers That Rout Demons* and

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