

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 9

Patience

I. (Rev.1:9 NKJV) *⁹I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

A. In this passage, John calls himself our brother and companion in three things: in the tribulation, Kingdom, and patience of Jesus Christ.

B. He is not referring to the Great Tribulation here, but to the pressures and trials that we must persevere through in this life as we walk out our faith in Jesus Christ.

C. For the next few lessons, we are going to take some time to understand the relationship between the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.

II. Last time we talked about the Kingdom of God.

A. Those of us who believe in Jesus are brothers and companions in the Kingdom of God.

B. There are two aspects to the Kingdom of God that we need to understand.

1. The present, invisible aspect.

2. The future, visible aspect.

C. We enter into this present, invisible aspect of the Kingdom of God when we are born again.

D. In the not-so-distant future, we will experience the visible manifestation of the Kingdom when Jesus returns and begins to reign as King not only over our hearts, but over the nations as well. We shall reign with Him.

III. In the meantime, we are called to patience.

A. The Greek word that was translated patience (5281) here means "cheerful or hopeful endurance and constancy" in this present world system.

B. The same word that was translated as "patience" in our text, was also used in (Heb. 12:1, 2 NKJV) where it is translated endurance. *¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

C. There is a race to be run between the time we enter this present, invisible aspect of the Kingdom and the time the future, visible aspect of the Kingdom is revealed.

D. In the meantime, we must run this race with cheerful, hopeful endurance and constancy.

E. The only way we are going to be able to do this is to stay focused on Jesus and lay aside weights and besetting sins.

F. (Matt. 24:3-14 NKJV) describes the days we are living in. ³*Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* ⁴*And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.* ⁵*"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.* ⁶*"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.* ⁷*"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.* ⁸*"All these are the beginning of sorrows.* ⁹*"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.* ¹⁰*"And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.* ¹¹*"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.* ¹²*"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* ¹³*"But he who endures to the end shall be saved.* ¹⁴*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

1. Here the word that was translated "endures" (5278) in verse 13 means to undergo, to bear trials, to have fortitude, and to persevere.

2. Salvation is promised to those who persevere in the faith until the end.

3. (Col. 1:21-23 NKJV) says the same thing. ²¹*And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled* ²²*in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—* ²³*if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

4. So it is necessary to have patience, to endure, and to persevere in the faith through the trials of life and especially the trials of the age we are living in.

IV. Genuine faith in the heart will produce patience, cheerful, hopeful endurance and constancy when the trial comes.

A. (James 1:2, 3 NKJV) ²*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

B. When the trial or challenge comes into contact with genuine faith, patience will be the result.

C. The trial in itself does not produce the patience. Faith produces the patience when it is challenged by the trial. Otherwise, everyone would have patience because everyone has trials.

D. The very nature of faith is to believe and trust God and His Word in the face of contradictory sense knowledge.

E. Genuine faith is revealed through the trial by faith's perseverance.

F. When cheerful, hopeful endurance and constancy have had their complete work, the result will be that you will be perfect and complete, lacking nothing because you stood your ground in faith and the promise of God was realized in your life.

V. Patience is essential because in this present world system, even though the Kingdom of God is within us and we are in the Kingdom of God, we will encounter tribulation.

A. He is not referring to the Great Tribulation here, but to the pressures and trials that we must persevere through in this life as we walk out our faith in Jesus Christ.

B. The Greek word translated "tribulation" in this passage means pressure. It refers to the pressures and hostile opposition of men in the world system.

C. Tribulation comes from the world system. (John 16:33 NKJV) ³³*"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

D. Why?

1. Because the world system is dominated by the devil. (1 John 5:19 NKJV) ¹⁹*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

2. Because the world system is contrary to Christ. (John 15:18, 19 NKJV) ¹⁸*"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹"If you were*

of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

3. Therefore, we must patiently endure. (Acts 14:21, 22 NKJV) ²¹*And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*