

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 10

Tribulation

I. Review: (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. Review: 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. Review: 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. **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.**

F. 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.

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

H. 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."*

I. Why?

1. Because the world system is dominated by the devil.

2. Because the world system is contrary to Christ.

J. 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,* ²²*strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*

1. When he speaks of entering the Kingdom of God, he is speaking of entering that future visible aspect of the Kingdom, because these believers had all ready entered the present invisible realm of the Kingdom.

2. Between the time we are saved and the time the Kingdom is visibly manifested on the earth we must endure many tribulations.

3. That's why he exhorted them to continue in the faith...to exercise cheerful, hopeful, endurance and constancy (that's patience)...not to become discouraged and quit.

IV. You see, tribulation arises for the Word's sake.

A. **(Matt. 13:18-21 NKJV)** ¹⁸*"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: "* ¹⁹*"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the*

wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹"yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

B. Tribulation does not come to teach you lessons or to make you a better person.

C. Tribulation comes to produce stumbling and falling away.

D. Tribulation and persecution is sent by the devil, not by God, in order to steal the Word out of your heart and stumble you so that you will not endure; thus, tribulation is sent to overthrow your faith.

E. The devil is seeking to steal, kill, and destroy. He would like to overthrow you. So he raises up a tribulation, a pressure, or a persecution against you.

F. If the Word is not firmly rooted in your heart, then you will not endure when the tribulation comes.

G. But if the Word is firmly rooted in your heart, then your faith will be strong and will endure and overcome when the tribulation comes.

H. When faith is tried by the tribulation, faith's corresponding action will be cheerful, hopeful, endurance and constancy.

I. (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.*

J. When the tribulation comes, your faith will respond with endurance. When endurance has had its perfect work, then you will come out on the other end of the tribulation perfect and complete and lacking nothing.

K. The end result will be victory, wholeness, completeness, and deliverance from any lack of what is needed.

L. That's why we can count it all joy when we fall into various trials.

M. Tribulation itself will not produce patience. Tribulation stumbles, offends, and overthrows.

N. (Rom. 5:3 NKJV) ³*And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. On its face, it seems like this verse says that perseverance comes from tribulation. Actually, faith's response to tribulation produces patience. Because we trust in God and in His Word, we hang on to His promise in spite of outward opposition and contradiction of the senses. We are persuaded*

that He told us the truth; therefore, we hang on to His promise and persevere. We know that He is faithful who promised, so we hold fast our confession of faith.

O. The Bible tells us that by faith coupled with patience we inherit the promises. (Heb. 6:10-12 NKJV) ¹¹*And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,* ¹²*that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*