

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION 8

### The Kingdom of God

**I. (Rev.1:9 NKJV)** *<sup>9</sup>I, 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. We will begin by gaining a proper understanding of 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.

1. (John 3:3-7 NKJV) *<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

2. Here, Jesus is telling Nicodemus how to enter into the Kingdom of God.

3. He speaks of a birth by water, which is the natural birth.

4. And He speaks of a spiritual birth by the Holy Spirit called being born again.

5. When a man receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he is born of the Spirit. (John 1:12, 13 NKJV) *<sup>12</sup>But as many as received Him, to them He gave the*

*right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

6. When we receive the new birth by the Holy Spirit, we enter into this present, invisible aspect of the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of God (which is the rule of God) comes within us. (Luke 17:20,21 NKJV) <sup>20</sup>*Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; <sup>21</sup>"nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*

D. The Bible tells us that in this present, invisible kingdom there is:

1. **Righteousness, peace, and joy, in the Holy Spirit.** (Rom 14:17 NKJV) <sup>17</sup>*for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

2. **Deliverance from the devil's dominion.** (Col. 1:13 NKJV) <sup>13</sup>*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.*

3. **Healing for our bodies.** (Luke 10:8,9 NKJV) <sup>8</sup>*"Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. <sup>9</sup>"And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'*

4. **Blessing for every area of life.** (Eph. 1:3 NKJV) <sup>3</sup>*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

E. In the not so distant future, we will experience the visible manifestation of the Kingdom of God when Jesus returns and begins to reign as King not only over our hearts, but over the nations as well. (Rev. 1:7 NKJV) <sup>7</sup>*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

F. We shall reign with Him. (Rev. 5:9,10 NKJV) <sup>9</sup>*And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup>And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

H. However, in the mean time, from the time we enter the invisible aspect of the Kingdom of God until the visible aspect of the Kingdom of God comes to pass, we are called to patiently endure tribulation, that is the persecutions, trials and pressures in this life that arise due to the oppositions of people who are being influenced by the devil. (Acts 14:21, 22 NKJV) <sup>21</sup>*And when they had preached the*

*gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, <sup>22</sup>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."*

I. This is what John the apostle is talking about in our text: *<sup>9</sup>I, 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.*