

Patience and Faith

Revelation 13, 7 to 10 *“It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.”*

We hear in christian and charismatic circles often the message of triumphalism. We will have always the bright side of life and have victory over sickness and all troubles. We will be taken up in the first rapture before anything terrible is happening. The danger is if we are not prepared to suffer, we could get shipwrecked in our faith. All the pastors who teach this have a great responsibility towards the body of Christ and are guilty if believers lose faith because of their teaching of delusion.

I just want to point out that this is only one side of the coin and it is true that the elect ones will not be part of the last great judgment that will take place for all those, who worshiped the beast and took on the mark of the beast on their forehead or hand. But that does not mean that no suffering is coming to the believers at all.

But like the children of Israel, we also will suffer under the first plagues that will come on this earth in the endtime. In Genesis, that has to do with the beginning, it will repeat in the end. 10 plagues also in the book of revelation.

Luke 18, 6-8 *“And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you; he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”*

To hold on in faith to the Lord is a real battle and not to keep busy with unimportant stuff. The whole letter to the Hebrews is written to Jewish people who are long-time believers and who got confused and tired in faith.

Hebrews 3, 6 ***“but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”***

I like this King James translation where is said “rejoicing of the hope”. If I rejoice, I have taken it into my possession. Whoever can stay in the joy of the Lord in this time will be attractive for the people and the kingdom of God.

James 1, 3 - 4, ***“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”***

Patience and perseverance and faith are considered as very important ingredients of our life in the endtime.

What does patience and perseverance mean practically? We will not give up very quickly if we believe something is from the Lord.

We are not perplexed over the many troubles in our time and come under a spirit of fear. Rumors: Matthew 24,7 ***do not panic***

If you panic your actions are not anymore controlled by the Lord.

War is not only negative. Jesus is at war. The angel of Israel, Michael, is at war with the dragon. It is a misunderstanding that every war is wrong – there is a just war. I am not saying it about this war.

Revelation 19, 18 ***I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.***

We come back to the suspect of real faith. As it comes to the point of worshipping any idol, there have been 3 men who would rather suffer than worship idols. They decided beforehand, that they would suffer death rather than enter into idol worship. Their relationship with God, with Yeshua, was more important than their lives. It was the 3 friends of Daniel.

Daniel 3,16 -18 ***Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not,***

we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

It was a real temptation for the disciples to leave the Lord after his speech in Capernaum as he said in John 6, 53 to 57 ***“Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.”***

No one could know that the Lord was speaking about the communion because he only gave it to them on the last day of his life. They also did not understand. How does this sound for a Jewish person who is not even allowed to eat meat that was not slaughtered in a kosher way?

John 6, 67 - 69 “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The 72 disciples that went before Jesus to the villages and cast out demons in his name, left him. I hope that some of them came back after Pentecost.

Why did Peter and the other 11 not leave Jesus? Because they had no backdoor open. There was no way anymore to live without Jesus. They could not go back anymore to the old life. No turning back, as the song says.

I don't think that patience and this kind of faith is really pointed out in our time. We speak more from the faith as healing power and miracles. But in the very troubled times we need this faith to endure, and patience with others and ourselves, standing in hope that comes from the Lord.

Other Scriptures:

Colossians 1,11 ***being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,***

Titus 2,2 Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.

What does it do to us if someone has patience with us? If we see someone has patience? It increases our faith and we can believe that if man has patience with us God has it too and we will make it.

Hebrews 3, 8 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house – whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Hebrews 3,9 But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Hebrews 6, 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate. those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

James 5,10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.