

INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 1:1-8 - Review. Recall SS class on 2 seeds: enmity - Rv 17:14
2. Jn wrote Rv under persecution: a message from throne to fellow-sufferers

1st: John - One With Us In Jesus - v9a

1. *I, John* - Jn personally, in personal rlnshp w/ church: worshiping witnesses
 - i. Jn is Apostle - authority of King Jesus Himself - on 1st name basis
 - ii. Encouraged - someone we know & love who knows & loves us.
2. *your brother* - family rlnshp - Jn 1:12-13. "Brethren" = most frequent name for Church in NT.
3. *fellow partaker* - speaks to us as one of us, one w/ us & us w/ him
4. *the* - qualifies all 3 nouns [trib, kingdom, perseverance] inseparably united
 - i. *the tribulation*: - Jn 16:33; A 14:22.
 - ii. *Kingdom* - A 14:22: already [rule] - not yet [realm]
 - a. 1:6 - already royal priestly sons: rule in worship & witness
 - b. future revelation of kingdom: *Thy kingdom come* - rule & realm
 - c. Already Jesus is King: all authority - reigned until last enemy [death] is destroyed [1C 15:24ff]. CRUCIAL: redemptive kingdom: authority to forgive sins; admit into Father's presence; endow w/ HS enable to overcome.
 - iii. *perseverance* - Mat 24:13; beware of "just justification" mentality - regeneration issues into life of sanctification & leads to glorification.
 - a. The motif of Hebs - Hb 12:14-15a.
 - b. Eph, Thyatira, & Phil - *perseverance*: is both passive & active
 - 1) *continually devoted* - A 2:42
 - 2) Rv 14:12 bear up in trib & be devoted to obedient faith
 - 3) We must cultivate faith that is stronger than fear - Rv 21:8
 - i) *cowardly & unbelieving: Why are you afraid, you men of little faith* [Mat 8:26] - fear coupled w/ unbelief
 - ii) In battle, we will exp fear - overcome by strength of love for Christ wh/ is greater than love of self.
 - iii) Where can we find this courageous faith? Rm 15:5.
5. *in Jesus* - joined to *perseverance*. We persevere *in Jesus* - union w/ Christ

2nd: John - In Exile For Jesus - v9b

1. Patmos: island 60 miles off coast of Turkey [Eph] - cf Alcatraz.

2. Jn was old man: follower of JnB then Jesus - *pillar* in Jerusalem - banished under Domitian [95AD]; released & returned to Eph: "Love each other".
3. *b/c of the Word of God* = Script; preaching of Jesus & apostles - God's *testimony of Jesus*: key term: witness in court of law - God's court
4. 1:2 - Jn's *testimony* to Jesus defined him & he calls us to be fellow-partners

Applic #1: Be God's Royal Priestly Sons

1. Was Jesus the Christ? God's anointed One [prophet, priest, king? What was Jesus' experience - *in this world you have trib*.
2. Who are the royal priestly sons? They share in trib, kingdom, perseverance
3. Sons of Most High - cf Lk 6 - overcomers - Rm 16:20.
 - i. Followers of the Lamb - go the way of the cross
 - ii. Demonstrate our royal lineage: endurance in sanctity & service: reign
4. Faithful fidelity to Jesus - Rv 3:10; Rv 12:11
5. As Jesus' kingship was exercised by obedience thru suffering into resurrection glory, so too we, as royal priestly sons.
 - i. World sees us as *foolish nobodies*. Corinthians scandalized by cross.
 - ii. Paul's sanctified sarcasm - *you have bec/ kings* [1C 4:8]
 - a. Brethren - let us not strive to be Corinthian kings! We are royal priestly sons in the kingdom of Jesus.
 - b. Authorized to bear witness
 - c. Authorized to approach King Jesus Himself
6. Be courageous in the love of Christ!
7. Here is an old man - John - fellow-participant - calling us to join him in the victory which is ours in Jesus Christ.