



* **CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPIRIT FILLED MINISTRY** *

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE GREAT TRIBULATION

by: *David W. Lankford*

P.O. Box 669 Alexis, NC 28006

704-263-1945

(Blog Talk Radio on website)

www.thevoiceofevangelism.com

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As we begin this newsletter, we would like to take our scripture text from **Revelation 1:9**, "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ". Let me be very emphatic with this statement I am about to make: "The Great tribulation and the Kingdom of God are inextricably attached". Regretfully, in the last 130 to 150 years men have predetermined to separate the great tribulation from the kingdom of God. However, when one does a thorough examination of the holy scriptures we see they are forever inextricably attached. Even in our scripture text, we see that John as he is inspired by the Holy Ghost, he links the two together. Paul the apostle, as well, attached the two when he declared in **Acts 14:22**, "And that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God". In this scripture passage Paul did not use the word great, however, he used the word much #4183 and in the Strong Exhaustive Concordance the word much means: *largely, mostly, great, plenteous, and straightly*. So we see from Paul's perspective he declares that the child of God must enter into the kingdom of God through much or great tribulation. Now let us take a close examination of **Romans 8:35**, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword"? In this particular passage of scripture Paul addresses the child of God and he assures us that we will face times of great adversity. However, this great adversity, better known as great

tribulation, will not separate the child of God from the kingdom of God, for the kingdom of God already resides within the life of the child of God. Here in Romans eight verse 35, Paul speaks of tribulation then he addresses the word distress. Jesus declared emphatically in **Luke 21:25**, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring". Jesus has forewarned the child of God that there would be great distress of nations in the time of the end. Here in Romans eight, Paul went on to address persecution. Needless to say, great persecution is coming to the church in these last days. We are already witnessing many Christians throughout the entire world who are being beheaded for their faith in Jesus Christ. Just because persecution has not become fully blown here in America, you can rest assuredly it will come. Paul also addressed famine found here in Romans chapter eight. Jesus himself addressed famine in **Matthew 24:7**, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places". We also see famine addressed here in **Revelation 6:6**, "And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beast say, a measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine". We also see that Paul addresses nakedness, which refers to spiritual nakedness. Thus we are warned in **Revelation 3:18**, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and

white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see". We also receive another warning in the book or Revelation concerning spiritual nakedness; for we read in **Revelation 16:15**, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame". Now as we continue here in Romans chapter 8, we see Paul addresses the word peril in which Paul gave a dire warning found in **2nd Timothy 3:1**, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come". And last but not least, here in Romans chapter 8, Paul addresses the word sword. We read in **Revelation 6:4**, "And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword". I hope you're beginning to grasp and fathom how inextricably the tribulation period and the kingdom of God are permanently attached. Though men may try and separate the two, it is impossible for the scriptures consistently tie the two entities together. For the sake of paper, ink, and time we want to narrow down two passages of scripture that demonstrate the kingdom of God, great tribulation, and damnation in how that they are all linked together. In Matthew chapter 22, we have the parable of the wedding banquet and how it is associated with the kingdom of God. Jesus said in **Matthew 22:2**, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which had a marriage for his son". In this parable, Jesus

described how that the king/father sent forth his servants to bid many to come to the wedding feast prepared for his son, but they would not come. Jesus said that they took his servants and entreated them spitefully and thus they slew them. But when the king/father heard this he was very wroth and he sent forth his armies and destroyed those murderers and burned up their city. This is exactly what happened in 70 A.D. when Vespasian, his son Titus, and the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem. Now in these last days, servants such as myself, are to go into the highways and hedges and compel many to come to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. God the Father will furnish the wedding with guests. But in this parable we see the wedding feast has come to fruition and there is a man in the feast which was not wearing a wedding garment. This man tried to get into the wedding feast by his own self righteousness. There are no works that any man can do or perform that will suffer him or allow him to inherit eternal life. The king questioned the man and said, "friend how camest thou in not having a wedding garment"? The man was speechless we are told. We then see that the king demanded this self-righteous man, who was a self-appointed guest, was to be bound hand and foot and to be cast into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. In this scripture passage we have witnessed the continuity of the coming of Jesus Christ, the destruction of Jerusalem, the preaching of the gospel, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and finally the expulsion of wicked men who will be damned to hell. It is men who have tried to sever the ties of the contiguous boundaries of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to now look at the story of the ten

virgins found in **Matthew 25:1**, "**Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom**". In this particular passage of scripture, we see that all the virgins had the same desire and impetus and that was to meet the bridegroom at his coming. The bible says that five of them were wise and five were foolish. The bible declares that the foolish took their lamps but took no oil with them. We see while the bridegroom tarried that they all slumbered and slept. But suddenly, at midnight there was a cry made, "behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him". We now see that all the virgins arose at the same time but the foolish sought the wise to give them some of their oil. However, the wise would not do so because there was not enough for both parties. Notice how that the wise told the foolish to go and buy for themselves. And while they went to buy the bridegroom came. What I find very interesting in this passage of scripture is that it ties in directly with **Revelation 13:16-18**, "**And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six**". While the foolish virgins went to buy the bridegroom came and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage and the door was shut. We then see how that afterward the foolish virgins came and cried, "Lord, Lord, open to us, But he answered, and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not". Again we witness how inextricably the tribulation, the

coming kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and judgment are all contiguously attached. I trust in this very short newsletter you have come to grasp as John declared here in **Revelation 1:9**, that the great tribulation and the kingdom of God cannot be detached one from another. Time and paper does not allow me to address the other word in this scripture passage which is patience. I do want you to understand that no less than seven times in the book of Revelation the saints of God are admonished to keep their patience. Jesus even admonished us in **Luke 21:19**, "**In your patience possess ye your souls**". We are admonished in **Revelation 13:10**, "**Here is the patience and the faith of the saints**". We also read in **Revelation 14:12**, "**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus**". Nowhere in the scriptures does the word of God make a delineation or distinction between saints and great tribulation saints: that is mere conjecture on the part of men. May you hunger and thirst after his righteousness more than ever before. As always, thank you for your generous love and support for The Voice of Evangelism. Until next month, please keep your lamps trimmed and burning ever so brightly.

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford