

Introduction:

Sometimes in life, conditions can be harsh even though Jesus is sovereign and my king (4, 10-11, 13-14, Ephesians 1:20-22, Revelation 5, John 16:33, 1 Peter 4:16).

Ephesians 1:20 God the Father powerfully raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

Revelation 5. King, seated in heaven. reigning over all things for you, but we know from both life and Scripture that this does not mean that all things will go as you want them to go, and that you will have hardships, suffering, and many disappointments in life.

Jesus promised, after all, in John 16:33: "In the world you will have troubles."

Peter says that **because** you are a Christian, you will suffer, in 1Peter 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

1. While things are harsh in life, patiently endure (16, 2 Timothy 2:3, Hebrews 12:2-3, 7, 1 Peter 2:20, Revelation 1:9, 2:3, 3:10, 13:10, 14:12).

2Timothy 2:3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

1Peter 2:20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 2:3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Revelation 3:10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

Revelation 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

Revelation 14:12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

How can you do this? What can motivate you to patiently endure, even when you'll live the rest of your life while Jesus is king in heaven, yet doesn't stop **all** suffering, hardship, and disappointments for you, as a member of His kingdom, the Church?

One thing we'll look at this morning, that God calls you to, that is both a motivation for you, but also a central truth of the Christian faith, displayed helpfully in Rehoboam and the people here:

2. Be patient for Christ's return, and endure in my faith when life gets difficult (when life gets hard) because eternal inheritance is only in Jesus (16, John 14:6, 17:3).
 - a. The reason for the later exile of God's people was in part the people's lack of patience with the son of David

and their lack of enduring as subjects in his (Rehoboam's) kingdom (16). Their fatal mistake is what they say and do in v. 16. They say, "What share do we have in David?"

"Share" is a special word in the Old Testament, for it's a word that gets put together with the word, "inheritance."

- 1) The people's "share" was their inheritance, which was their place (plot of land) in the Promised Land.
- 2) The key for remaining and being at rest in the Promised Land was being under a son of David as king (2 Samuel 7:10-11).
- 3) To say, "What share have we in David?" was the near equivalent of willingly abandoning their place/inheritance in the Promised Land (16). like giving their houses and property away. (the O & the B)

Thus, the people's lack of patience with the son of David and their lack of enduring as his/Rehoboam's subjects were half [explain] of the reason that the Israelites who would up in exile in Babylon, like Daniel, and lost in their lifetimes their inheritances (land) in the Promised Land, being in exile in Babylon instead, being excluded from the inheritance God had purposed for them.

so, how does this relate to you? Now, we're going to piece this all together and see how this whole occurrence is also a prefiguring and foreshadowing of the good news of Jesus, so pay attention! :)

b. The New Testament says the prize for:

- 1) My retaining Jesus as my king, (which the people in this passage didn't do, as they walked away from the son of David)
- 2) patiently enduring in my faith in Him (which the people in this passage didn't do)
- 3) amid many hardships in life (John 16:33, 1 Peter 4:13), (which the people in this passage had (due to Solomon and Rehoboam!)), but that you have and will have because you're a Christian, as Jesus said in John 16:33 and Peter said in 1 Peter 4:16 [when] you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.
- 4) and not abandoning Jesus, nor saying, like the people in this passage, "Forget it! If this is what life is like under the son of David, I'm out! I reject the son of David as my king!" (16, Matthew 13:20-21)

Your prize for being patient for the return of Christ and for enduring in your faith until then is an eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15, Matthew 25:34, Acts 20:32, Ephesians 1:14, Colossians 1:12, 3:24, 1 Peter 1:4). Hebrews 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance,

Colossians 3:24 . . . you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1 Peter 1:3-4. "the Father . . . in his great mercy he has given us . . . an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you

c. Having Jesus, the son of David, as your king, believing that eternal inheritance is only through Him, is what

secures your forever-inheritance.

- 1) First we note that Jesus is not a king like Rehoboam, who brings hardship on me through harshness or lack of wisdom on His part (8-15),
- 2) But Jesus is sovereign, and He allows hardship in my life (and my being a Christian is the cause of some of that) (Ephesians 1:22, Matthew 5:11). Matthew 5:11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you *because of me*.

you and I all have to deal with that—that He’s sovereign and allows suffering in your life. This is *anti-prosperity* gospel! That being the case,

- 3) The question and challenge of my life will be: “Will I abandon Jesus as my king (like these Israelites) because He allows me to suffer?”
 - a) “Will I be like the gospel seed on rocky soil, that leaves the Church when hardship comes and will I show that my being in the Church was just for a while, and not out of genuine, saving faith, or will my faith prove to be a lasting faith—and my soul prove to be good soil (Matthew 13:20-23, James 2:14)?”
 - b) My continuing faith will always be a belief that there is no king better than Jesus and no other way to inheritance than His being my king (and that the hardship He allows upon me in life is worth it) (John 14:6, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18). 2Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For *our light and momentary troubles* are achieving for us an *eternal glory* that *far outweighs* them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
- 4) Maintain my faith in Jesus, believing that He is the only component to my obtaining an eternal inheritance (2 Corinthians 4:18, John 6:67-69, Hebrews 12:2-3).

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

John 6:67 “You do not want to *leave* too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to *whom* shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life. 69 We believe and know that *you* are the Holy One of God.”

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him *endured* the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who *endured* such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Through endurance, Jesus obtained eternal blessing and an inheritance at the right hand of His Father in heaven . . . through His endurance through the hardship He faced. So let us be like Him, and endure till the end, as He did, going to the cross to obtain for us our eternal inheritances, and giving Himself in faithfulness to His Father with His dying breath.

Summary: Though Jesus is my king, I will still experience difficulties in life. But I can endure them with patience, knowing that His being my king is the only thing I need to obtain an eternal inheritance.