

1 Timothy 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Analysis

Which in his times he shall shew (ἢν καιροῖς ἰδίοις δεῖξει, hēn kairois idiois deixeit)—'which He will bring about at the proper time.' Kairos means appointed time, opportune moment. God has set the time for Christ's appearing; it's not arbitrary or delayed but perfectly timed. **Who is the blessed and only Potentate** (ὁ μακάριος καὶ μόνος δυνάστης, ho makarios kai monos dynastēs)—'the blessed and only Sovereign.' Makarios means blessed, happy. Dynastēs means ruler, potentate, sovereign.

The King of kings, and Lord of lords (ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν βασιλευόντων καὶ κύριος τῶν κυριεύοντων, ho basileus tōn basileuontōn kai kyrios tōn kyrieuontōn)—'King of those who reign as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords.' This doxological title affirms God's absolute sovereignty over all earthly powers. No matter how powerful human rulers seem, God reigns supreme.

Paul bursts into worship, affirming God's sovereign control over history. Christ will appear exactly when God ordains—not early, not late, but at the perfect moment. This sovereignty comforts persecuted believers: earthly rulers are temporary; God is eternal King.

Historical Context

Roman emperors claimed divine honors and absolute authority. Christians confessed 'Jesus is Lord,' denying Caesar's ultimate claims. Paul's doxology asserts

God's supremacy: He is the only true Sovereign, King over all kings (including Caesar). This was treasonous language in the empire but expressed core Christian conviction—God alone rules history, and Christ will ultimately triumph over all opposition.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over history's timing comfort believers awaiting Christ's return?
2. What does it mean practically to confess God as 'King of kings' when earthly powers seem dominant?
3. How should this vision of God's absolute rule shape our response to political authority?

Interlinear Text

ἥν	καιροῖς	ἰδίοις	δείξει	τῶν	μακάριος	καὶ	μόνος
Which	times	in his	he shall shew	who	is the blessed	and	only
G3739	G2540	G2398	G1166	G3588	G3107	G2532	G3441
δυνάστης	τῶν	βασιλεὺς	τῶν	βασιλευόντων	καὶ	κύριος	
Potentate	who	the King	who	of kings	and	Lord	
G1413	G3588	G935	G3588	G936	G2532	G2962	
τῶν	κυριεύοντων						
who	of lords						
G3588	G2961						

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:16 (Kingdom): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 17:14 (Kingdom): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

1 Timothy 1:17 (Kingdom): Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 47:2 (Kingdom): For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

Jeremiah 10:10 (Kingdom): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

1 Timothy 1:11 (Blessing): According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Proverbs 8:15 (Kingdom): By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

Jeremiah 46:18 (Kingdom): As I live, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come.

Daniel 4:34 (Kingdom): And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: