

Jude 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty,
dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Analysis

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. Jude concludes with ascription of praise to God. "The only wise God our Saviour" (Greek *monō theō sōtēri hēmōn*, μόνῳ θεῷ σωτῆρι ἡμῶν) combines several crucial attributes. "Only" (Greek *monō*, μόνῳ) emphasizes monotheism—one true God in contrast to pagan polytheism and false teachers' distortions. "Wise" (Greek *sophō*, σοφῷ) celebrates divine wisdom—God's perfect knowledge and skillful execution of His purposes. Against false teachers claiming superior knowledge, Jude affirms God alone possesses true wisdom. "Our Saviour" identifies God as the source and accomplisher of salvation—He saves, we don't save ourselves.

The fourfold ascription—"glory and majesty, dominion and power" (Greek *doxa kai megalōsynē kratōs kai exousia*, δόξα καὶ μεγαλωσύνη κράτος καὶ ἐξουσία)—comprehensively praises God's attributes. "Glory" (Greek *doxa*) refers to divine radiance, majesty, worthiness of honor. "Majesty" (Greek *megalōsynē*) denotes greatness, grandeur, exalted status. "Dominion" (Greek *kratos*) means might, strength, sovereign rule. "Power" (Greek *exousia*) indicates authority, right to rule, legitimate sovereignty. Together, these affirm God's absolute supremacy over all creation, all powers, all authorities—including false teachers and their demonic influences.

"Both now and ever" (Greek *kai nyn kai eis pantas tous aiōnas*, καὶ νῦν καὶ εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας) emphasizes eternal duration—God's glory exists presently

and throughout all ages to come. "Amen" (Greek *amēn*, ἀμήν), from Hebrew *amen* meaning "so be it, truly, certainly," affirms the truth and adds assent—may it be so indeed. This liturgical conclusion invites readers to join in affirming these truths.

Historical Context

Jewish doxologies traditionally ascribed glory to God alone, refusing to share divine honor with any creature. Early Christians maintained this strict monotheism while recognizing Christ's deity—doxologies addressed to God sometimes include Christ (2 Peter 3:18, Revelation 1:5-6). Jude's doxology to "God our Saviour" can include both Father and Son, as New Testament applies "Saviour" to both (Luke 1:47, Titus 2:13).

The fourfold attributes echo Old Testament praise (1 Chronicles 29:11, Psalm 145). Jewish and Christian worship emphasized God's incomparable greatness, particularly important when facing opposition. Persecuted believers found comfort in God's sovereign power—earthly authorities might threaten, but God's dominion surpasses all. Eternal perspective relativized temporal troubles.

Early church worship incorporated such doxologies liturgically. Believers would respond "Amen" corporately, affirming truth and joining in praise. This communal affirmation strengthened unity and orthodox confession. Heretics often distorted worship by directing praise to lesser beings or deifying creation. Orthodox doxologies maintained pure worship of the one true God.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does ending with God-centered doxology provide proper perspective on the serious warnings Jude delivered?
2. What does it mean practically to ascribe 'glory, majesty, dominion, and power' to God in daily life?
3. How should corporate worship incorporate doxologies and 'Amens' to strengthen faith and resist false teaching?

Interlinear Text

μόνῳ	σοφῷ	Θεῷ	σωτῆρι	ἡμῶν	δόξα	καὶ	μεγαλωσύνη
To the only	wise	God	Saviour	our	be glory	and	majesty
G3441	G4680	G2316	G4990	G2257	G1391	G2532	G3172
κράτος	καὶ	ἐξουσία	καὶ	νῦν	καὶ	εἰς	πάντας τοὺς
dominion	and	power	and	now	and	ever	G3956 G3588
G2904	G2532	G1849	G2532	G3568	G2532	G1519	
αἰῶνας	ἀμήν.						
G165	Amen						
	G281						

Additional Cross-References

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

John 5:44 (References God): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Romans 11:36 (Glory): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 12:2 (Salvation): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Psalms 147:5 (Parallel theme): Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

Revelation 1:6 (Glory): And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:8 (Parallel theme): Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Romans 16:27 (Glory): To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Daniel 4:37 (Parallel theme): Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Titus 2:13 (Salvation): Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;