

Revelation 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Analysis

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, an... This verse from Revelation's vision of vision of the glorified christ - his majesty, authority, and presence among the churches employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points

to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

Historical Context

John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 1:11 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?
2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?
3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

Interlinear Text

λεγούσης	Ἐγώ	εἰμι	ταῖς	Α	καὶ	ταῖς	Ω,	ταῖς
Saying	I	am	which	Alpha	and	which	Omega	which
G3004	G1473	G1510	G3588	G1	G2532	G3588	G5598	G3588
πρῶτος	καὶ	ταῖς	ἔσχατος·	καὶ	ὁ	βλέπεις	γράψον	εἰς
the first	and	which	the last	and	What	thou seest	write	in
G4413	G2532	G3588	G2078	G2532	G3739	G991	G1125	G1519
βιβλίον	καὶ	πέμψον	ταῖς	ἐπτὰ	ἐκκλησίαις	ταῖς		
a book	and	send	which	it unto the seven	churches	which		
G975	G2532	G3992	G3588	G2033	G1577	G3588		
ἐν	Ἀσίᾳ,	εἰς	Ἔφεσον	καὶ	εἰς	Σμύρναν	καὶ	εἰς
are in	Asia	in	Ephesus	and	in	Smyrna	and	in
G1722	G773	G1519	G2181	G2532	G1519	G4667	G2532	G1519
Πέργαμον	καὶ	εἰς	Θυάτειρα	καὶ	εἰς	Σάρδεις	καὶ	εἰς
Pergamos	and	in	Thyatira	and	in	Sardis	and	in
G4010	G2532	G1519	G2363	G2532	G1519	G4554	G2532	G1519
Φιλαδέλφειαν	καὶ	εἰς	Λαοδίκειαν					
Philadelphia	and	in	Laodicea					
G5359	G2532	G1519	G2993					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:4 (Parallel theme): John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Revelation 3:1 (Parallel theme): And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Habakkuk 2:2 (Parallel theme): And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Revelation 3:14 (Parallel theme): And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Revelation 2:12 (Parallel theme): And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Revelation 2:18 (Parallel theme): And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Revelation 2:8 (Parallel theme): And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Revelation 3:7 (Parallel theme): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Isaiah 30:8 (Parallel theme): Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

Jeremiah 30:2 (Parallel theme): Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.