

Revelation 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Analysis

John's role as faithful witness establishes the apostolic authority behind Revelation's visions. The Greek 'emarturēsen' (bore witness) emphasizes John's firsthand testimony of Christ's resurrection and ministry, now extended to include these prophetic visions. This triple witness—the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus, and all things seen—forms a complete foundation for the book's authority. Reformed theology emphasizes Scripture's sufficiency, and John's careful attestation underscores that these visions carry divine authority equal to the Gospel accounts.

Historical Context

Written circa AD 95 during John's exile on Patmos under Domitian's persecution. As the last surviving apostle, John's eyewitness testimony carried unique weight for second-generation Christians facing imperial persecution. His dual role as Gospel writer and apocalyptic prophet unified the church's understanding of Christ's past work and future return.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does John's faithful witness even in exile encourage your own testimony in difficult circumstances?
2. What does the triple emphasis (Word, testimony, things seen) teach about the comprehensive nature of God's revelation?

Interlinear Text

ὅς ἔμαρτύρησεν τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὴν
Who bare record G3588 of the word G3588 of God G2316 and G3588
G3739 G3140 G3056 G2316 G2532 G3588

μαρτυρίαν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ὅσα τε εἶδεν
of the testimony of Jesus Christ of all things and that he saw
G3141 G2424 G5547 G3745 G5037 G1492

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:6 (Witness): Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

Revelation 12:17 (Word): And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John 19:35 (Parallel theme): And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

1 John 1:1 (Word): That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

John 21:24 (Witness): This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

Revelation 1:9 (Word): 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.

Revelation 1:19 (Parallel theme): Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Acts 26:16 (Witness): But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

John 12:17 (Parallel theme): The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

Revelation 6:9 (Word): And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

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