

Revelation 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

The Trinitarian greeting reflects the eternal, unchanging nature of God. 'Which is, and which was, and which is to come' echoes Exodus 3:14 ('I AM'), affirming God's self-existence and sovereignty over all time. The 'seven Spirits' likely represents the Holy Spirit in His fullness (Isaiah 11:2 lists seven aspects), with seven symbolizing completeness. This Trinitarian structure—Father, Spirit, Son (v. 5)—grounds the church's peace in the eternal counsel of the Godhead, not temporal circumstances. Grace and peace flow from divine sovereignty, a cornerstone of Reformed soteriology.

Historical Context

The seven churches in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) represented actual congregations facing real persecution. The explicit Trinitarian greeting countered both Jewish rejection of Christ's divinity and Roman emperor worship. By invoking the eternal God, John challenged Caesar's temporal claims to deity.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's eternal existence ('which is, and which was, and which is to come') provide stability in your changing circumstances?
2. What comfort does the Trinitarian source of grace and peace offer when facing spiritual opposition?

Interlinear Text

Ἰωάννης τοῦ ἐπτά ἐκκλησίαις τοῦ ἐν τοῦ
John **him which** **the seven** **churches** **him which** **are in** **him which**
G2491 G3588 G2033 G1577 G3588 G1722 G3588

Ἀσία· χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ τοῦ τοῦ
Asia **Grace** **be unto you** **and** **peace** **from** **him which** **him which**
G773 G5485 G5213 G2532 G1515 G575 G3588 G3588

ὧν καὶ τοῦ ἦν καὶ τοῦ ἐρχόμενος καὶ ἀπὸ
G5607 **and** **him which** **is** **and** **him which** **to come** **and** **from**
G2532 G3588 G2258 G2532 G3588 G2064 G2532 G575

τοῦ ἐπτά πνευμάτων ἃ ἐστὶν ἐνώπιον τοῦ
him which **the seven** **Spirits** **which** **are** **before** **him which**
G3588 G2033 G4151 G3739 G2076 G1799 G3588

θρόνου αὐτοῦ
throne **his**
G2362 G846

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:2 (Spirit): And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Psalms 90:2 (Parallel theme): Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

John 1:1 (Parallel theme): In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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

Revelation 4:5 (Spirit): And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 5:6 (Spirit): And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 1:8 (Parallel theme): I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 3:1 (Spirit): 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.

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Zechariah 4:10 (Parallel theme): For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.