

Revelation 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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This verse from Revelation's 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 1:9 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

Ἐγὼ Ἰωάννης τὴν καὶ ἀδελφὸς ὑμῶν καὶ συγκοινωνὸς
I **John** **who** **also** **brother** **am your** **also** **companion**
 G1473 G2491 G3588 G2532 G80 G5216 G2532 G4791

ἐν τὴν θλίψει καὶ ἐν τὴν βασιλείᾳ καὶ ὑπομονῇ
in **who** **tribulation** **also** **in** **who** **the kingdom** **also** **patience**
 G1722 G3588 G2347 G2532 G1722 G3588 G932 G2532 G5281

Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγενόμην ἐν τὴν νήσῳ τὴν καλουμένη
of Jesus **Christ** **was** **in** **who** **the isle** **who** **that is called**
 G2424 G5547 G1096 G1722 G3588 G3520 G3588 G2564

Πάτμῳ διὰ τὴν λόγον τὴν θεοῦ καὶ διὰ τὴν
Patmos **for** **who** **the word** **who** **of God** **also** **for** **who**
 G3963 G1223 G3588 G3056 G3588 G2316 G2532 G1223 G3588

μαρτυρίαν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
the testimony **of Jesus** **Christ**
 G3141 G2424 G5547

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:10 (Word): Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Acts 14:22 (Kingdom): Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

John 16:33 (Parallel theme): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Revelation 1:2 (Word): Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Revelation 13:10 (Word): He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Philippians 4:14 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

Revelation 7:14 (Parallel theme): And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 12:11 (Word): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Romans 8:25 (Parallel theme): But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

2 Timothy 1:8 (Witness): Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;