

Revelation 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Analysis

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.... This verse from Revelation's vision of two witnesses and seventh trumpet - faithful testimony, christ's kingdom proclaimed 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 11:15 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

καὶ	ὁ	ἑβδομος	ἄγγελος	ἐσάλπισεν·	καὶ	ἐγένοντο	
And	G3588	the seventh	angel	sounded	And	are become	
G2532		G1442	G32	G4537	G2532	G1096	
φωναὶ	μεγάλαι	ἐν	τῷ	οὐρανῷ	λέγουσαι,	ἐγένοντο	αἱ
voices	great	in	G3588	heaven	saying	are become	G3588
G5456	G3173	G1722		G3772	G3004	G1096	
βασιλεῖαι	τοῦ	κόσμου	τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν	καὶ	
The kingdoms	G3588	of this world	G3588	Lord	the kingdoms of our	And	
G932		G2889		G2962	G2257	G2532	
τοῦ	Χριστοῦ	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	βασιλεύσει	εἰς	τοὺς	αἰώνων
G3588	Christ	of his	And	he shall reign	for	G3588	and ever
	G5547	G846	G2532	G936	G1519		G165
τῶν	αἰώνων						
G3588	and ever						
	G165						

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 7:14 (Kingdom): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:27 (Kingdom): And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Revelation 12:10 (Kingdom): And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 10:7 (Parallel theme): But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Revelation 19:1 (References Lord): And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Zechariah 14:9 (Kingdom): And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Luke 1:33 (Kingdom): And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Exodus 15:18 (Kingdom): The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

Daniel 7:18 (Kingdom): But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Revelation 16:17 (Parallel theme): And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.