

Revelation 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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 the... This verse from Revelation's vision of woman, child, and dragon - cosmic conflict, satan's defeat, messiah's victory 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 12:10 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 ἤκουσα φωνὴν μεγάλην λέγουσαν ἐν τοῦ οὐρανῷ
And I heard voice a loud saying in which heaven
G2532 G191 G5456 G3173 G3004 G1722 G3588 G3772

Ἄρτι ἐγένετο τοῦ σωτηρία καὶ τοῦ δύνάμις καὶ τοῦ
Now is come which salvation And which strength And which
G737 G1096 G3588 G4991 G2532 G3588 G1411 G2532 G3588

βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν καὶ τοῦ ἐξουσία τοῦ
the kingdom which God of our And which the power which
G932 G3588 G2316 G2257 G2532 G3588 G1849 G3588

Χριστοῦ αὐτῶν ὅτι κατέβλήθη τοῦ κατήγορος τοῦ
Christ of his for is cast down which accused which
G5547 G846 G3754 G2598 G3588 G2725 G3588

ἀδελφῶν ἡμῶν τοῦ κατηγορῶν αὐτῶν ἐνώπιον τοῦ
brethren of our which the accuser of his before which
G80 G2257 G3588 G2723 G846 G1799 G3588

θεοῦ ἡμῶν ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτός
God of our day And night
G2316 G2257 G2250 G2532 G3571

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:31 (Parallel theme): And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Revelation 11:15 (Kingdom): 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.

Daniel 2:44 (Kingdom): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

1 Chronicles 29:11 (Kingdom): Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Matthew 28:18 (Parallel theme): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Job 1:11 (Parallel theme): But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 1:9 (References God): Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Revelation 2:26 (Parallel theme): And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Job 2:5 (Parallel theme): But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Matthew 6:10 (Kingdom): Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.