

Revelation 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Analysis

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.... This verse from Revelation's vision of lamb and 144,000 - redeemed firstfruits, three angels' messages, harvest judgment 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 14:5 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	ἐν	τῷ	στόματι	αὐτῶν	οὐχ	εὑρέθη	δόλος·
And	in	G3588	mouth	their	no	was found	guile
G2532	G1722		G4750	G846	G3756	G2147	G1388

ἄμωμοί	γάρ	εἰσιν	ἐνώπιον	τοῦ	θρόνου	τοῦ	θεοῦ
without fault	for	they are	before	G3588	the throne	G3588	of God
G299	G1063	G1526	G1799		G2362		G2316

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 5:27 (Parallel theme): That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Psalms 32:2 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Zephaniah 3:13 (Parallel theme): The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

John 1:47 (Parallel theme): Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Colossians 1:22 (Parallel theme): In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprovable in his sight:

Luke 23:4 (Parallel theme): Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.

Psalms 34:13 (Parallel theme): Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Proverbs 8:8 (Parallel theme): All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

Matthew 12:34 (Parallel theme): O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

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