

Revelation 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Analysis

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.... 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 14:7 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

λέγοντα	ἐν	φωνῇ	μεγάλῃ,	Φοβήθητε	τὸν	θεὸν	καὶ
Saying G3004	with G1722	voice G5456	a loud G3173	Fear G5399	G3588	God G2316	and G2532
δότε	αὐτοῦ	δόξαν	ὅτι	ἦλθεν	ἡ	ώρα	τῆς κρίσεως
give G1325	of his G846	glory G1391	for G3754	is come G2064	G3588	the hour G5610	judgment G2920
αὐτοῦ	καὶ	προσκυνήσατε	τῷ	ποιήσαντι	τὸν	οὐρανὸν	
of his G846	and G2532	worship G4352	G3588	him that made G4160	G3588	heaven G3772	
καὶ	τὴν	γῆν	καὶ	θάλασσαν	καὶ	πηγάς	ὕδατων
and G2532	G3588	earth G1093	and G2532	the sea G2281	and G2532	the fountains G4077	of waters G5204

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 20:11 (Creation): For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Revelation 15:4 (Judgment): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Nehemiah 9:6 (Creation): Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Revelation 11:18 (Judgment): And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give

reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Revelation 4:11 (Glory): Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 11:13 (Glory): And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Psalms 33:6 (Creation): By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Revelation 4:9 (Glory): And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

Revelation 18:10 (Judgment): Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

Revelation 16:9 (Glory): And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.