

Revelation 15:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Analysis

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.... This verse from Revelation's vision of seven angels with seven plagues - completion of god's wrath, moses and lamb's song 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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 15:3 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 ᾁδουσιν τὴν ὄδην Μωσέως τοῦ δούλου τοῦ θεὸς
And **they sing** G3588 **the song** **of Moses** G3475 **the servant** G1401 **God** G2316
 G2532 G103 G5603 G3588 G1401 G2316

καὶ τὴν ὄδην τοῦ ἀρνίου λέγοντες Μεγάλα καὶ
And G3588 **the song** G3588 **of the Lamb** G721 **saying** G3004 **Great** G3173 **And** G2532
 G2532 G5603 G3588 G721 G3004 G3173 G2532

θαυμαστὰ τὰ ἔργα σου κύριε ὁ θεὸς ὁ
marvellous G3588 **works** G2041 **are thy** G4675 **Lord** G2962 **God** G3588
 G2298 G3588 G2041 G4675 G2962 G3588 G2316 G3588

παντοκράτωρ· δίκαιαι καὶ ἀληθιναὶ αἱ ὁδοί σου ὁ
Almighty G3841 **just** G1342 **And** G2532 **true** G228 **G3588** **ways** G3598 **are thy** G4675 **G3588**
 G3841 G1342 G2532 G228 G3588 G3598 G4675 G3588

βασιλεὺς τῶν ἀγίων
thou King G3588 **of saints** G40
 G935 G3588 G40

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 111:2 (References Lord): The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

Psalms 139:14 (Parallel theme): I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Psalms 145:17 (Righteousness): The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

Hebrews 3:5 (References Moses): And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

Isaiah 33:22 (Kingdom): For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Hosea 14:9 (Righteousness): Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

Zechariah 9:9 (Righteousness): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

John 1:17 (Truth): For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:2 (Righteousness): For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Revelation 14:3 (Parallel theme): And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org