

# Revelation 16:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

## Analysis

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**For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty....** This verse from Revelation's vision of seven bowls of wrath - final judgments, battle of armageddon, babylon's fall announced 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

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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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 16:14 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

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εἰσὶν	γὰρ	πνεύματα	δαιμόνων	ποιοῦντα	σημεῖα		
<b>they are</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>the spirits</b>	<b>of devils</b>	<b>working</b>	<b>miracles</b>		
G1526	G1063	G4151	G1142	G4160	G4592		
ἐκπορεύεσθαι	ἐπὶ	τοὺς	βασιλεῖς	τῆς	γῆς	καὶ	τῆς
<b>which go forth</b>	<b>unto</b>	G3588	<b>the kings</b>	G3588	<b>of the earth</b>	<b>and</b>	G3588
G1607	G1909		G935		G1093	G2532	
οἰκουμένης	ὅλης	συναγαγεῖν	αὐτοὺς	εἰς	τὸν	πόλεμον	
<b>world</b>	<b>of the whole</b>	<b>to gather</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>to</b>	G3588	<b>the battle</b>	
G3625	G3650	G4863	G846	G1519		G4171	
τῆς	ἡμέρας	ἐκείνης	τῆς	μεγάλης	τοῦ	θεοῦ	τοῦ
G3588	<b>day</b>	<b>of that</b>	G3588	<b>great</b>	G3588	<b>of God</b>	G3588
	G2250	G1565		G3173		G2316	
παντοκράτορος							
<b>Almighty</b>							
G3841							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 17:14** (Kingdom): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

**1 Timothy 4:1** (Spirit): Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

**Revelation 20:8** (Parallel theme): And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

**1 John 5:19** (Evil): And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

**James 3:15** (Evil): This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

**Revelation 16:16** (Parallel theme): And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

**Revelation 12:9** (Evil): And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**John 8:44** (Evil): Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

**Mark 13:22** (Parallel theme): For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

**Matthew 24:24** (Parallel theme): For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.