

Revelation 19:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Analysis

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is... This verse from Revelation's vision of hallelujah chorus, marriage supper, christ's return - final victory, word of god rides forth 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 19:10 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	ἔπεσον	ἔμπροσθεν	τῶν	ποδῶν	αὐτῷ	προσκύνησον	
And	I fell	at	G3588	feet	him	to worship	
G2532	G4098	G1715		G4228	G846	G4352	
αὐτῷ	καὶ	λέγει	μοι	Ὅρα	μή·	σύνδουλός	σου
him	And	he said	unto me	See	thou do it not	fellowservant	of thy
G846	G2532	G3004	G3427	G3708	G3361	G4889	G4675
εἰμι	καὶ	τῶν	ἀδελφῶν	σου	τῶν	ἐχόντων	τὴν μαρτυρίαν
I am	And	G3588	brethren	of thy	G3588	that have	G3588 the testimony
G1510	G2532		G80	G4675		G2192	G3141
τοῦ	Ἰησοῦ	τῷ	θεῷ	προσκύνησον	ἡ	γὰρ	μαρτυρία τοῦ
G3588	of Jesus	G3588	God	to worship	G3588	for	the testimony G3588
	G2424		G2316	G4352		G1063	G3141
Ἰησοῦ	ἐστίν	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τῆς	προφητείας		
of Jesus	is	G3588	the spirit	G3588	of prophecy		
G2424	G2076		G4151		G4394		

Additional Cross-References

John 5:39 (Witness): Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Revelation 4:10 (Worship): The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Hebrews 1:14 (Spirit): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Revelation 12:11 (Witness): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:17 (Witness): And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:25 (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

1 John 5:10 (Witness): He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Exodus 34:14 (Worship): For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Matthew 4:10 (Worship): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Revelation 14:7 (Worship): 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.