

Revelation 19:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

Analysis

And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.... 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 19:4 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	ἔπεσαν	οἱ	πρεσβύτεροι	οἱ	εἴκοσι	καὶ	τέσσαρα	
And	fell down		elders		twenty	And	the four	
G2532	G4098	G3588	G4245	G3588	G1501	G2532	G5064	
καὶ	τὰ	τέσσαρα	ζῶα	καὶ	προσεκύνησαν	τῷ	θεῷ	τῷ
And		the four	beasts	And	worshipped		God	
G2532	G3588	G5064	G2226	G2532	G4352	G3588	G2316	G3588
καθημένῳ	ἐπὶ	τοῦ	θρόνου,	λέγοντες	Ἀμήν	Ἀλληλουῖα		
that sat	on		the throne	saying	Amen	Alleluia		
G2521	G1909	G3588	G2362	G3004	G281	G239		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 5:14 (Worship): And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Psalms 106:48 (Worship): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

Nehemiah 8:6 (Worship): And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Revelation 19:1 (References God): And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Revelation 15:7 (References God): And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

Psalms 41:13 (References God): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 72:19 (Parallel theme): And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 89:52 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

Jeremiah 28:6 (Parallel theme): Even the prophet Jeremiah said, Amen: the LORD do so: the LORD perform thy words which thou hast prophesied, to bring again the vessels of the LORD'S house, and all that is carried away captive, from Babylon into this place.

Nehemiah 5:13 (Worship): Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.