

Revelation 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

Analysis

And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.... 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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 19:5 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	φωνὴ	ἐκ	τοῦ	θρόνου	ἐξῆλθεν	λέγουσα	Αἰνεῖτε
And	a voice	out of	G3588	the throne	came	saying	Praise
G2532	G5456	G1537		G2362	G1831	G3004	G134
τὸν	Θεὸν	ἡμῶν	πάντες	οἱ	δοῦλοι	αὐτόν	καὶ οἱ
G3588	God	our	all ye	G3588	servants	him	And
	G2316	G2257	G3956		G1401	G846	G2532
φοβούμενοι	αὐτόν	καὶ οἱ	μικροὶ	καὶ οἱ	μεγάλοι		
ye that fear	him	And	G3588	small	And	G3588	great
G5399	G846	G2532		G3398	G2532		G3173

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 134:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD.

Psalms 150:6 (Resurrection): Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Psalms 135:1 (Resurrection): Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD.

Revelation 7:15 (References God): Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Psalms 22:23 (Resurrection): Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.

Revelation 20:12 (References God): And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

