

# Revelation 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

## Analysis

**I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was s...**

This verse from Revelation's vision of letters to ephesus, smyrna, pergamum, thyatira - love lost, faithful suffering, compromise 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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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 2:13 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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Οἶδα	τὰ	ἔργα	σου,	καὶ	ποῦ	κατοικεῖ	ὅπου	ό
I know	G3588	works	thy	and	where	dwelleth	even where	G3588
G1492		G2041	G4675	G2532	G4226	G2730		G3699
θρόνος	τοῦ	Σατανᾶς	καὶ	κρατεῖς	τὸ	ὄνομά	μου	
seat	G3588	Satan	and	thou holdest fast	G3588	name	my	
G2362		G4567	G2532		G2902		G3686	G3450
καὶ	οὐκ	ἡρυγήσω	τὴν	πίστιν	μου	καὶ	ἐν	ταῖς
and	not	denied	G3588	faith	my	and	in	G3588
G2532	G3756	G720		G4102	G3450	G2532	G1722	G2250
ἐν	ὅς	Ἀντιπᾶς	ό	μάρτυς	μου	ό	πιστός	ὅς
in	who	Antipas	G3588	martyr	my	G3588	faithful	who
G1722	G3739	G493		G3144	G3450		G4103	G3739
ἀπεκτάνθη	παρ'	ὑμῖν	ὅπου	κατοικεῖ	ό	Σατανᾶς		
was slain	among	you	even where	dwelleth	G3588	Satan		
G615	G3844	G5213	G3699					G4567

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 5:8** (Faith): But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

**Revelation 3:11** (Parallel theme): Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

**Acts 22:20** (Parallel theme): And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

**2 Timothy 2:12** (Parallel theme): If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

**Revelation 14:12** (Faith): Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

**Revelation 2:2** (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

**Revelation 3:3** (Parallel theme): Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

**Hebrews 10:23** (Faith): Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

**Matthew 24:9** (Parallel theme): Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

**2 Timothy 1:13** (Faith): Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.