

Revelation 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Analysis

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name w...

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

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 2:17 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

ο	ἔχων	οὐς	ἀκουσάτω	τί	τὸ	πνεῦμα	λέγει							
G3588	He that hath	G2192	an ear	G3775	let him hear	G191	what	G5101	G3588	the Spirit	G4151	saith	G3004	
ταῖς	ἐκκλησίαις	τῷ	νικῶντι	δώσω	αὐτῷ	φαγεῖν								
G3588	unto the churches	G1577	G3588	that overcometh	G3528	will I give	G1325	To him	G846	to eat	G5315			
ἀπὸ	τοῦ	μάννα	τοῦ	κεκρυμμένου	καὶ	δώσω	αὐτῷ							
of	G3588	manna	G3588	the hidden	G2928	and	will I give	To him	G575	G3131	G2532	G1325	G846	
ψῆφον	λευκὴν	καὶ	ἐπὶ	τὴν	ψῆφον	ὄνομα	καινὸν							
stone	a white	and	in	G3588	stone	name	a new	G5586	G3022	G2532	G1909	G5586	G3686	G2537
γεγραμμένον	ο	οὐδεὶς	ἔγνω	εἰ	μὴ	ο	λαμβάνων							
written	which	no man	knoweth	G1487	G3361	G3588	he that receiveth	G1125	G3739	G3762	G1097			G2983

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 62:2 (Parallel theme): And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Isaiah 65:15 (Parallel theme): And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:

Revelation 2:7 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 14:3 (Parallel theme): And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Revelation 3:6 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:22 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Isaiah 65:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:

Colossians 3:3 (Parallel theme): For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Psalms 36:8 (Parallel theme): They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.