

Revelation 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Analysis

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem,... This verse from Revelation's vision of letters to sardis, philadelphia, laodicea - dead religion, faithful witness, lukewarmness 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 3:12 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?

- What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?
- 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

τὸ	νικῶν	ποιήσω	αὐτὸν	στῦλον	ἐν	τὸ	ναῷ	
which	that overcometh	will I make	Him	a pillar	in	which	the temple	
G3588	G3528	G4160	G846	G4769	G1722	G3588	G3485	
τὸ	θεοῦ	μου	καὶ	ἔξω	οὐ	μὴ	ἔξελθῃ	
which	God	I will write upon him my	and	out	G3756	G3361	he shall go	
G3588	G2316	G3450	G2532	G1854			G1831	
ἔτι	καὶ	γράψω	ἐπ'	αὐτὸν	τὸ	ὄνομά	τὸ	θεοῦ
more	and	I will write	upon	Him	which	name	which	God
G2089	G2532	G1125	G1909	G846	G3588	G3686	G3588	G2316
μου	καὶ	τὸ	ὄνομά	τὸ	πόλεως	τὸ	θεοῦ	
I will write upon him my	and	which	name	which	of the city	which	God	
G3450	G2532	G3588	G3686	G3588	G4172	G3588	G2316	
μου	τὸ	καινόν	Ἰερουσαλήμ	τὸ				
I will write upon him my	which	new	Jerusalem	which				
G3450	G3588	G2537	G2419	G3588				
καταβαίνουσα	ἐκ	τὸ	οὐρανοῦ	ἀπὸ	τὸ	θεοῦ		
cometh down	out of	which	heaven	from	which	God		
G2597	G1537	G3588	G3772	G575	G3588	G2316		
μου	καὶ	τὸ	ὄνομά	μου				
I will write upon him my	and	which	name	I will write upon him my	which			
G3450	G2532	G3588	G3686	G3450	G3588			
καινόν								
new								
G2537								

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

Revelation 21:2 (References God): And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 14:1 (Parallel theme): And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Revelation 2:17 (Parallel theme): 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.

Galatians 2:9 (Parallel theme): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Jeremiah 1:18 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

Hebrews 12:22 (References God): But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Psalms 48:8 (References God): As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah.

Isaiah 65:15 (References God): 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:

Ezekiel 48:35 (Parallel theme): It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.

