

Revelation 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Analysis

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things wh... This verse from Revelation's vision of throne room of heaven - god's sovereignty, holiness, and worship 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 4:1 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

μετὰ	ταῦτα	εἶδον	καὶ	ἰδοῦ,	θύρα	ἠνεωγμένη	ἐν	τῷ
After	this	I looked	and	behold	a door	was opened	in	G3588
G3326	G5023	G1492	G2532	G2400	G2374	G455	G1722	
οὐρανῷ	καὶ	ἡ	φωνὴ	ἡ	πρώτη	ἃ	ἤκουσα	
heaven	and	G3588	voice	G3588	the first	things which	I heard	
G3772	G2532		G5456		G4413	G3739	G191	
ὥς	σάλπιγγος	λαλούσης	μετὰ	ἐμοῦ	λέγουσα,			
was as it were of	a trumpet	talking	After	me	which said			
G5613	G4536	G2980	G3326	G1700	G3004			
Ἀνάβα	ᾧδε	καὶ	δείξω	σοι	ἃ	δεῖ	γενέσθαι	
Come up	hither	and	I will shew	thee	things which	must	be	
G305	G5602	G2532	G1166	G4671	G3739	G1163	G1096	
μετὰ	ταῦτα							
After	this							
G3326	G5023							

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:12 (Parallel theme): And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Exodus 24:12 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Revelation 1:19 (Parallel theme): Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 1:10 (Parallel theme): I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Mark 1:10 (Parallel theme): And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

Revelation 16:17 (Parallel theme): And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

Revelation 22:6 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

John 16:13 (Parallel theme): Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Acts 7:56 (Parallel theme): And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Exodus 19:24 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.