

# Revelation 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

## Analysis

**And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto ...** This verse from Revelation's vision of the lamb who is worthy - Christ's redemptive work, authority to open the scroll 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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 5:13 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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καὶ πάντα κτίσμα ἥστιν ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐν  
And all creature such as are in heaven And in  
G2532 G3956 G2938 G3739 G2076 G1722 G3588 G3772 G2532 G1722

τῇ γῆς καὶ ὑποκάτω τῇ γῆς καὶ ἐπὶ τῇ  
the earth And under the earth And in G3588 G1093 G2532 G5270 G1093 G2532 G1909 G3588

θαλάσσης ἥστιν καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτοῖς πάντα  
the sea such as are And in them all  
G2281 G3739 G2076 G2532 G1722 G846 G3956

ἔκουσα λέγοντας Τῷ καθημένῳ ἐπὶ τῷ θρόνῳ  
heard I saying G3588 be unto him that sitteth in G3588 the throne  
G191 G3004 G2521 G1909 G2362

καὶ τῷ ἀρνίῳ ἡ εὐλογία καὶ ἡ τιμὴ καὶ ἡ  
And G3588 unto the Lamb G3588 Blessing And G3588 honour And G3588  
G2532 G721 G2129 G2532 G5092 G2532

δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰώνων τῶν αἰώνων  
glory And G3588 power for G3588 and ever G3588 and ever  
G1391 G2532 G2904 G1519 G165 G165

## Additional Cross-References

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**Philippians 2:10** (Parallel theme): That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

**Revelation 5:3** (Parallel theme): And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

**Revelation 5:12** (Glory): Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

**1 Chronicles 29:11** (Glory): Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

**Romans 11:36** (Glory): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

**Luke 2:14** (Glory): Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**1 Peter 5:11** (Glory): To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**Revelation 5:6** (Parallel theme): And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

**Revelation 6:16** (Parallel theme): And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

**Romans 9:5** (Blessing): Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.