

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

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

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

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

καὶ	πάντα	κτίσμα	ὃ	ἐστίν	ἐν	τῷ	οὐρανῷ	καὶ	ἐν
And	all	creature	such as	are	in	G3588	heaven	And	in
G2532	G3956	G2938	G3739	G2076	G1722		G3772	G2532	G1722
τῇ	γῆς	καὶ	ὑποκάτω	τῆς	γῆς	καὶ	ἐπὶ	τῆς	
G3588	the earth	And	under	G3588	the earth	And	in	G3588	
	G1093	G2532	G5270		G1093	G2532	G1909		
θαλάσσης	ὃ	ἐστίν	καὶ	τὰ	ἐν	αὐτοῖς	πάντα		
the sea	such as	are	And	G3588	in	them	all		
G2281	G3739	G2076	G2532		G1722	G846	G3956		
ἤκουσα	λέγοντας	Τῷ	καθημένῳ	ἐπὶ	τοῦ	θρόνου			
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

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.