

Revelation 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Analysis

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them....

This verse from Revelation's vision of sealed servants and innumerable multitude - god's protection and salvation 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Revelation 7:15 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

διὰ	τοῦτό	εἰσιν	ἐνώπιον	τοῦ	θρόνου	τοῦ	θεοῦ	καὶ
Therefore	G5124	are they	before	G3588	the throne	G3588	of God	and
G1223		G1526	G1799		G2362		G2316	G2532
λατρεύουσιν	αὐτούς	ἡμέρας	καὶ	νυκτός	ἐν	τῷ	ναῷ	
serve	him	day	and	night	in	G3588	temple	
G3000	G846	G2250	G2532	G3571	G1722		G3485	
αὐτούς	καὶ	ὁ	καθήμενος	ἐπ'	τοῦ	θρόνου	σκηνώσει	
him	and	G3588	he that sitteth	among	G3588	the throne	shall dwell	
G846	G2532		G2521	G1909		G2362	G4637	
ἐπ'	αὐτούς							
among	him							
G1909	G846							

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:3 (References God): And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

1 Chronicles 23:25 (References God): For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever:

2 Corinthians 6:16 (Temple): And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 12:2 (References God): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 1:14 (Parallel theme): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

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