

Keys to Reading Revelation

- Apocalyptic
 - The “plain reading of the text” rarely helps you capture the intended meaning of the text
 - Don’t “travel” there without a “tour guide”
 - Study Bibles, commentaries
- Don’t get bogged down in the details
 - See the broader perspective → the greatness of God no matter what happens from our perspective

Revelation 4

1: John is invited to see ‘deeper reality’

- Everything connected with earth will one day end

2-3:

4:

5-6a:

6b-8a:

8b-11:

Chinese: page 1993

Spanish: page 1569

Brown: page 1239

Green: page _

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- Indescribable glory and complete authority

4:

5-6a:

6b-8a:

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“God, the blessed and only Ruler, the **King of kings** and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and **who lives in unapproachable light**, whom no one has seen or can see.”

1 Timothy 6:15-16

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- Perhaps the greatest, representing all of humanity

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- Most obviously related visions of God's presence
 - **Exodus 19-20**: God at Mt. Sinai
 - God's presence, thunder, lightning
 - **Isaiah 6**: Isaiah's vision of God
 - Angels with 6 wings singing, "Holy, holy, holy!"
 - **Ezekiel 1**: Ezekiel's vision of God
 - 4 living creatures
 - Lightning and glory

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5-6a: Tangible glory: sights and sounds of God's presence

6b-8a: 4 living beings defending the throne

- Perhaps the greatest among all creation

8b-11: All worship the One on the throne

- He is Holy, Almighty, and Eternal

The Big Idea

The unending reality of God's limitless glory

usually only known by faith until "that day"

instills worship by all of creation

since He is the creator of everything

for His holiness,

distinct, right, good, beautiful

His complete and final authority,

nothing can begin to challenge or threaten it

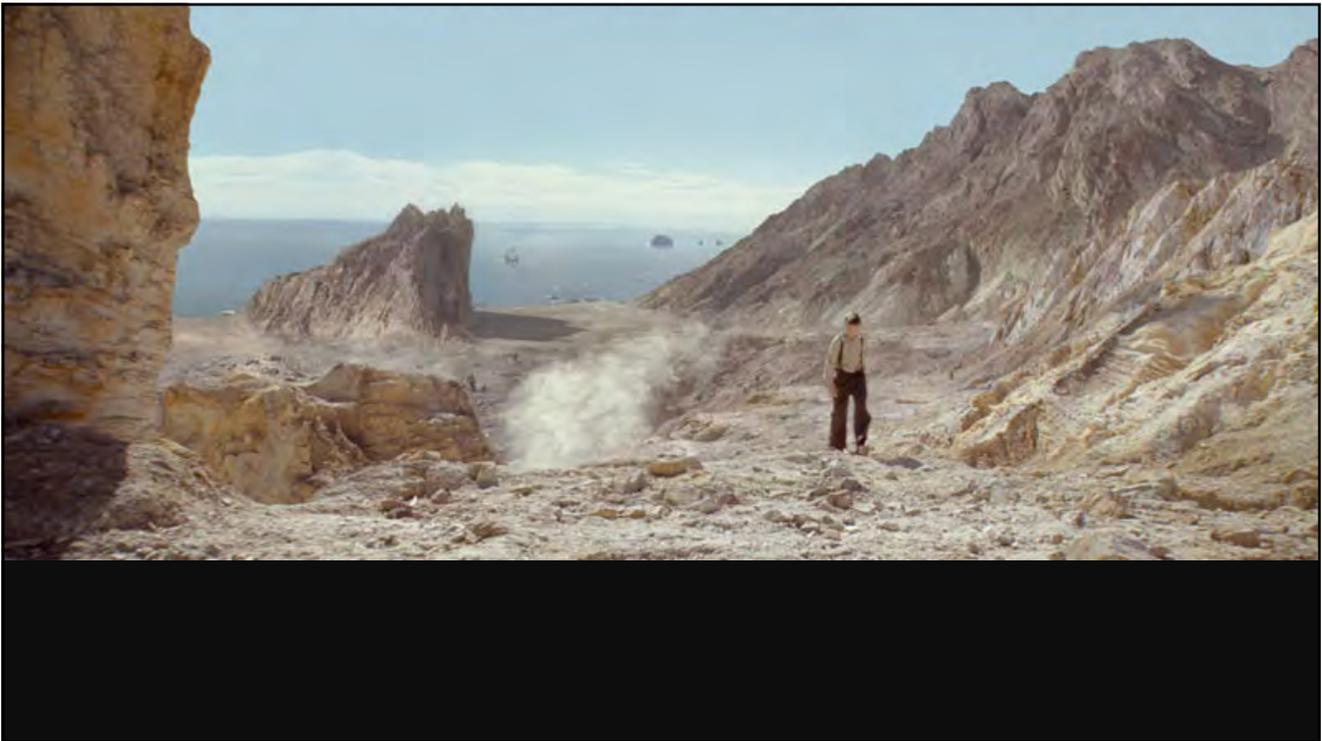
and His eternality

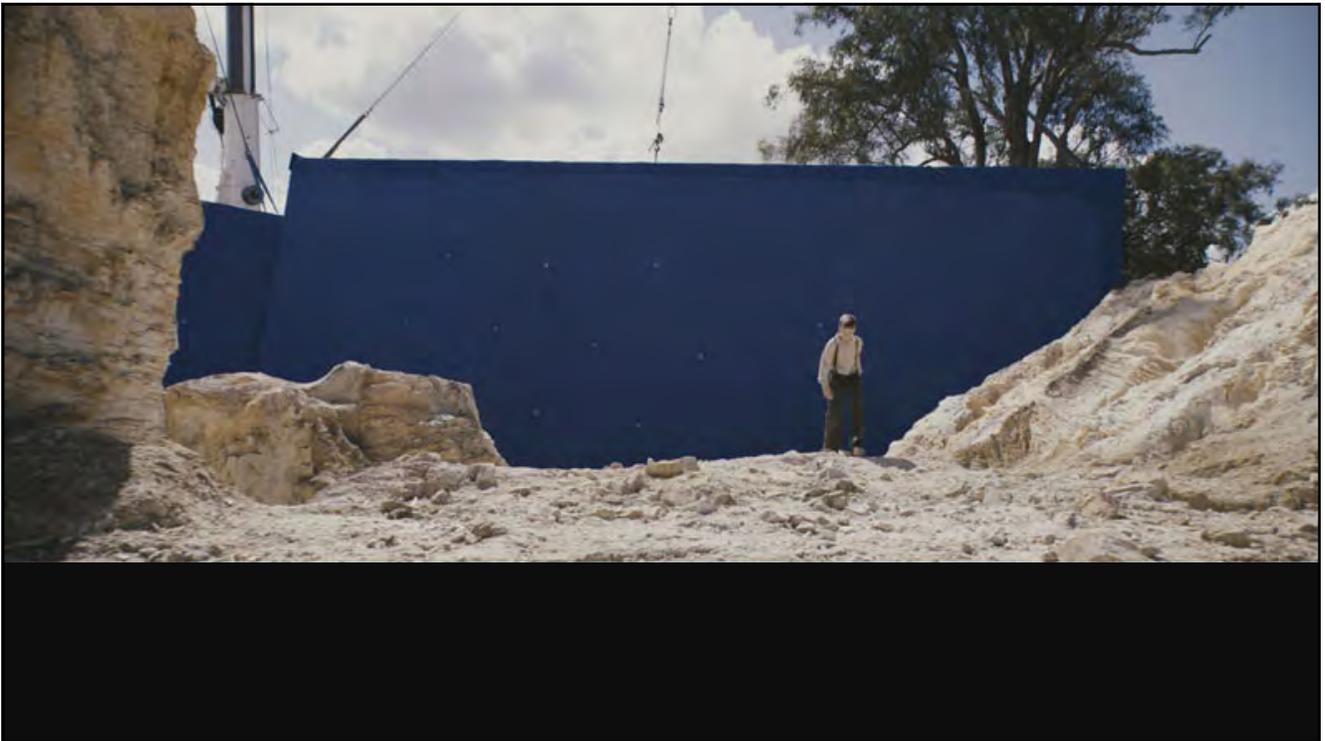
nothing came before Him,

and nothing will ever outlast or overcome Him

What we see each day is
the façade of life

What God reveals to us is
the enduring reality





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Application

- Worship God
 - See His glory, authority, and grandeur
 - Breathe deep in His glory, authority, and grandeur
 - Even (especially) in the face of things that go against Him

Application

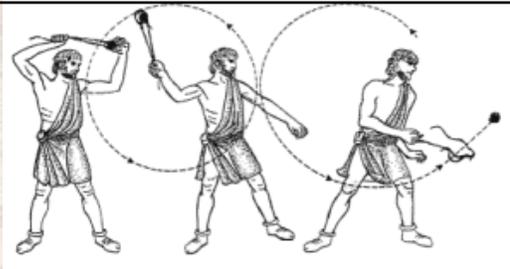
- Worship God
- Stop our **fear** of human grandeur
 - If this God is for us, who can be against us?
 - What other crown can impress us?
 - Who can claim a crown as one's own in His presence?
 - He invites us to share in His glory, so why pursue any other crown?

Application

- Worship God
- Stop our **fear** of human grandeur
- Persevere
 - This is the deeper reality that is always true
 - Those who persevere will one day enjoy it forever!
 - The heavenly view gives strength for the earthly struggle

- Slingshot

- Sometimes an essential part of effective forward motion includes backward motion
- Sometimes the best path toward God’s perfect Kingdom involves suffering and mystery
- “No matter what happens on earth, God is truly in charge of it all, and one day, we will see the wisdom of His plan that is often not clear to us today”



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distinct, right, good, beautiful
 His complete and final authority,
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 and His eternality
nothing came before Him,
and nothing will ever outlast or overcome Him

“Holy, holy, holy
 is the Lord God Almighty,
 who was, and is, and is to come.”

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
 to receive glory and honor and power,
 for you created all things,
 and by your will they were created
 and have their being.”