

## *Appearances and Reality*

- When are things not what they appear to be?
- What is a façade?
- How might much of life really just be a façade?

**Pray:** Ask God  
to help us see  
the deeper reality



## Behind the Façade

### Revelation 4

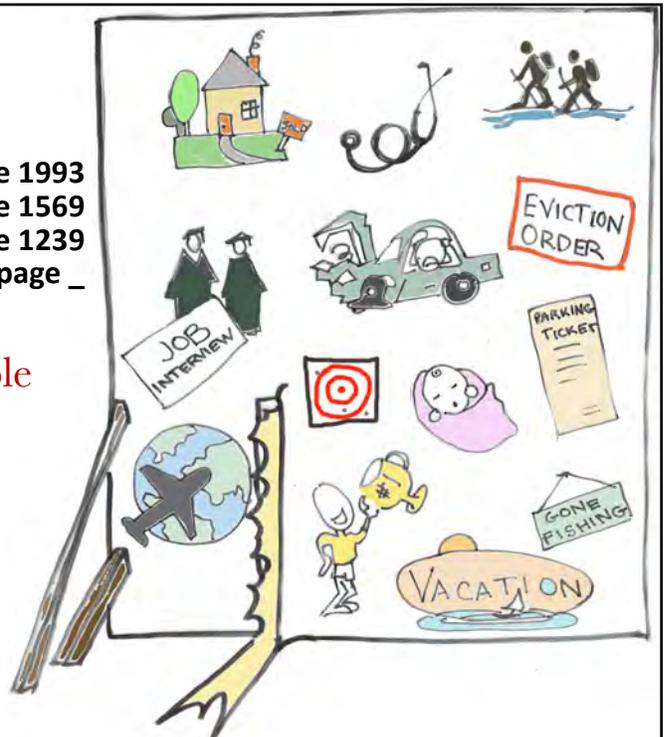
Chinese: page 1993  
Spanish: page 1569  
Brown: page 1239  
Green: page \_

### Setting of Revelation

- Emperor worshiped as a god
- Destruction of Jerusalem and temple
- Persecution of Christians

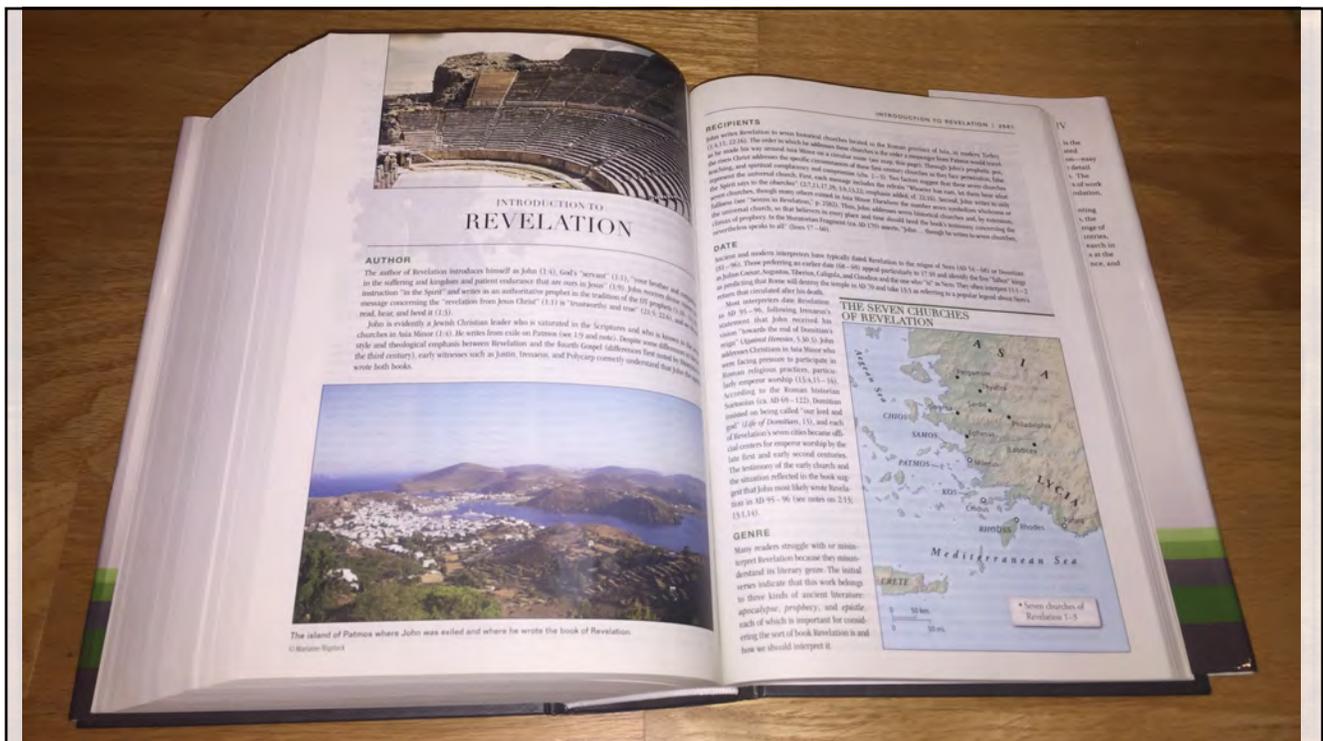
### Apocalyptic

- Special kind of biblical writing
  - Others: history, letter, poetry, prophecy



## 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



### *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 \_

### *Revelation 4*

1: John is invited to see 'deeper reality'

- Everything connected with earth will one day end

2-3: God on His **throne** (14 times in chapter, 47 in book)

- Indescribable glory and complete authority

4:

5-6a:

6b-8a:

8b-11:

“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*

### *Revelation 4*

1: John is invited to see 'deeper reality'

- Everything connected with earth will one day end

2-3: God on His **throne** (14 times in this chapter)

- Indescribable glory and complete authority

4: 24 elders surrounding the throne

- Perhaps the greatest, representing all of humanity

5-6a:

6b-8a:

8b-11:

### *Revelation 4*

1: John is invited to see 'deeper reality'

- Everything connected with earth will one day end

2-3: God on His **throne** (14 times in this chapter)

- Indescribable glory and complete authority

4: 24 elders surrounding the throne

- Perhaps the greatest, representing all of humanity

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

6b-8a:

8b-11:

- 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

#### *Revelation 4*

- 1: John is invited to see 'deeper reality'
  - Everything connected with earth will one day end
- 2-3: God on His **throne** (14 times in this chapter)
  - Indescribable glory and complete authority
- 4: 24 elders surrounding the throne
  - Perhaps the greatest, representing all of humanity
- 5-6a: Tangible glory: sights and sounds of God's presence
- 6b-8a: 4 living beings defending the throne
  - Perhaps the greatest, representing all of creation
- 8b-11:

### *Revelation 4*

1: John is invited to see 'deeper reality'

- Everything connected with earth will one day end

2-3: God on His **throne** (14 times in this chapter)

- Indescribable glory and complete authority

4: 24 elders surrounding the throne

- Perhaps the greatest, representing all of humanity

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*

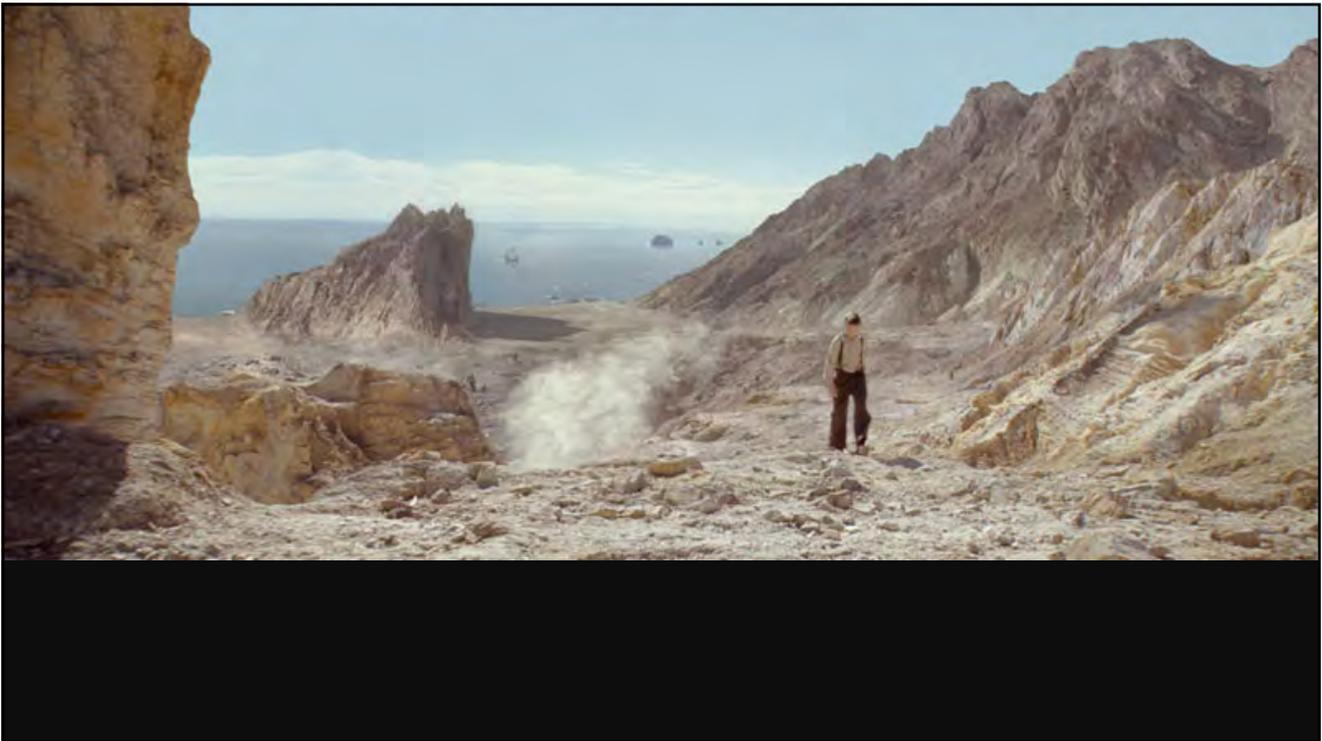
and His eternality

*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





*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*

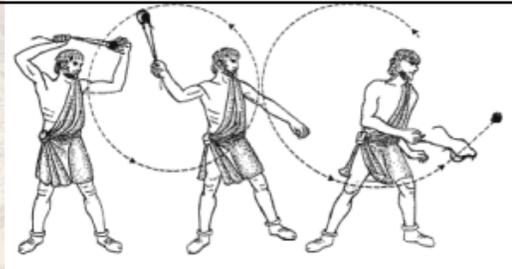
- Worship God
- Stop our **fear** of human grandeur
  - If this God is for us, who can be against us?
  - What other crown can impress us?
  - Who can claim a crown as one's own in His presence?
  - He invites us to share in His glory,  
so why pursue any other crown?

### *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”



### *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*

“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.”