

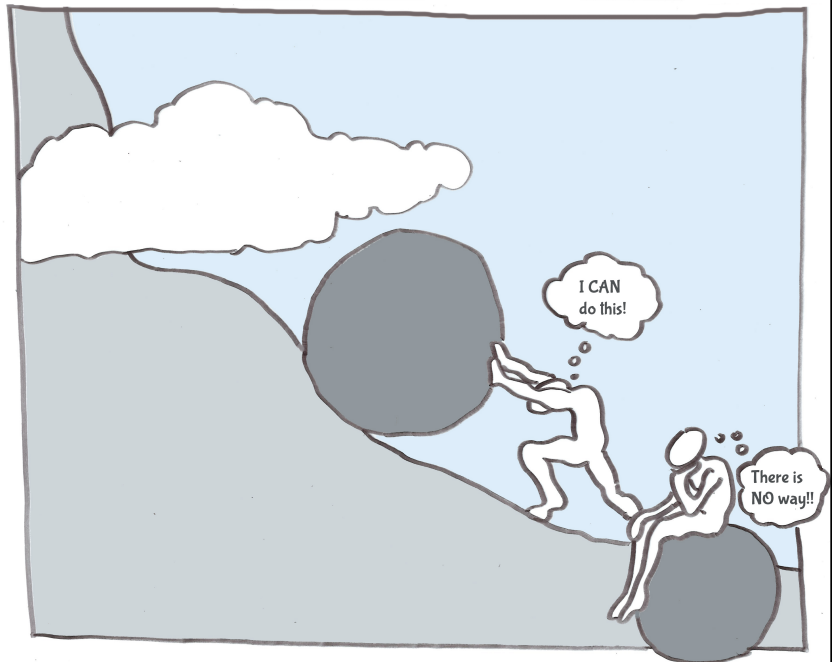
- **Thanks to the worship team!**
 - Vocals and instruments
 - Jean Eddy, and now Keiko Nakamura, planning
 - Keiko Nakamura, Jim & Jean Eddy, Kim Friesen, and Holly Brown doing administrative/support work
 - Vern Gibbs managing the sound system
 - Plus many related ministries and tasks!
- We want to learn and grow, especially learning from other church traditions and practices
 - We invite your suggestions and service

Seemingly Impossible Tasks

- What are some seemingly impossible tasks or goals?
- What's your advice for yourself or others about these things?
 - Portuguese saying:
“He who doesn't have a dog hunts with a cat.”
- Where is God in these things?

Only One Worthy Revelation 5

Chinese: page 1994
Spanish: page 1570
Brown: page 1240
Green: page _



Keys to Reading Revelation

- Apocalyptic (“revelation”)
 - **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
 - Example: “She has eyes on the back of her head.”
- Don’t get lost in the details
 - See the broader perspective → the greatness of God no matter what happens from our perspective

Revelation 4

A dramatic scene of worship toward God by all:

**The unending reality of God's limitless glory
instills worship by all of creation
for His holiness,
His complete and final authority,
and His eternality**

“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.”

Revelation 4:11

Revelation 5

1-2:

3-4:

5:

6-7:

8-14:

Chinese: page 1994

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“For you this whole vision is nothing but **words sealed in a scroll**. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say, ‘Read this, please, they will answer, **‘I can’t; it is sealed.’** Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, ‘Read this, please,’ they will answer, ‘I don’t know how to read.’”

Isaiah 29:11-12

Revelation 5

1-2: Enacting God's restoration requires a **worthy** hero

- Otherwise, God's good plans are sealed forever

3-4:

5:

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3-4: Catastrophe: **no creature** in all of creation is worthy

- Evil wins. Creation is spoiled. Justice is but a dream. Blessing is only for the lucky few.

5:

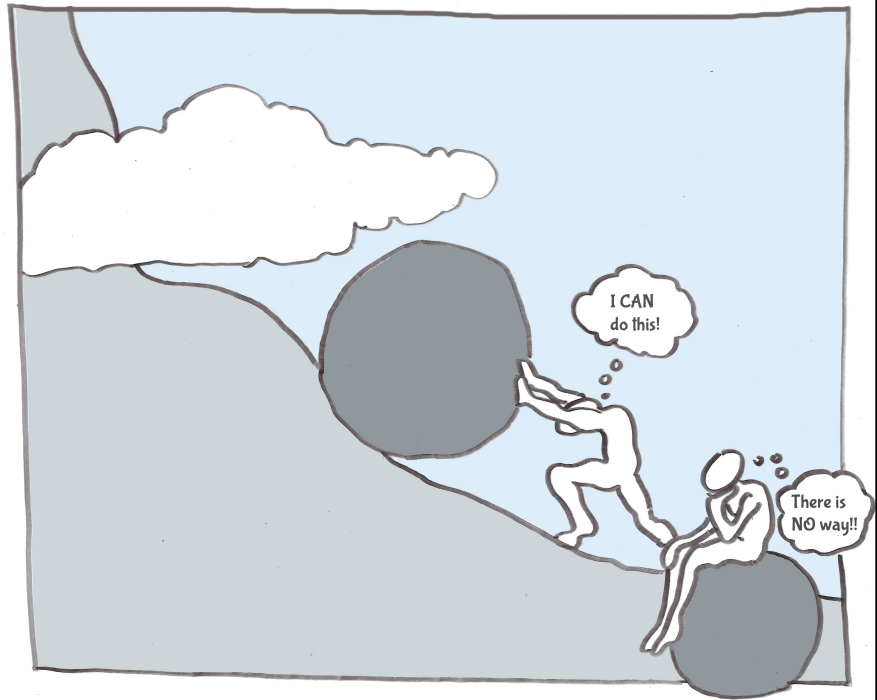
6-7:

8-14:

A lesson of the 20th century:

human solutions to human problems **always** reintroduce human problems

- Progress is possible
- Progress is always limited



- “Is there any meaning in my life that wouldn’t be destroyed by the death that inevitably awaits me?”
(Tolstoy, Confession)
- ...the death that inevitably awaits everyone I love or even know, and everyone who knows me?

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5: Relief & joy: the Lion of Judah (Messiah) is worthy

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“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
 from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
 the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
 the Spirit of counsel and of might,
 the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.” *Isaiah 11:1-3*

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 to enact God’s perfect restoration
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8-14: Every being worships the Father & the Son together

The Big Idea

The only real, final, just, good solution
to the human predicament

is Jesus

the Lion of Judah

and the killed and risen
perfect Lamb of God

Personal
Societal
All humanity

And now,
all powerful
and all wise

predicament = plight, impossible situation

Application

– Worship Jesus as God

- **Lamb:** It is wonderful that Jesus blessed children, welcomed tax collectors and prostitutes, tolerated attacks of religious leaders, submitted to judgment, torture, and crucifixion at the hands of men
- **Lion:** Yet, He also has the absolute authority of Almighty God to enact final judgment and to express the wrath of God against all evil
- Have we become too casual about Jesus?

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: ‘Do not be afraid.’”

Revelation 1:17

Application

– Worship Jesus as God

– Give up “idols”

- Anything or anyone I look to as a solution for the troubles of life **INSTEAD** of Jesus
- John wept because he saw that nothing/no one else is worthy
- I’m not saying it is wrong to use other tools or people or techniques. Work hard, see a doctor, build relationships...
 - Unless I do those things **INSTEAD** of faith in Jesus
- Idolatry = “crying out to” anything or anyone **INSTEAD** of Jesus
 - Hard work, despair, anger, regret, people, technique, reason...

Application

- Worship Jesus as God
 - Give up “idols”
 - Never give up hope **in God**
 - No situation is so bad that God cannot easily turn it for good!
 - In fact, God’s plan very often (usually?) involves turning trouble into good
- “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Mark 14:36

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

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Thank God for Jesus!

Pray

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Personal
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Act wisely, boldly, with perseverance

...as an act of faith

the Lion of Judah

Rejoice in His total authority!

and the killed and risen
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And now,
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predicament = plight, impossible situation