

When the gym teacher arrived...

1

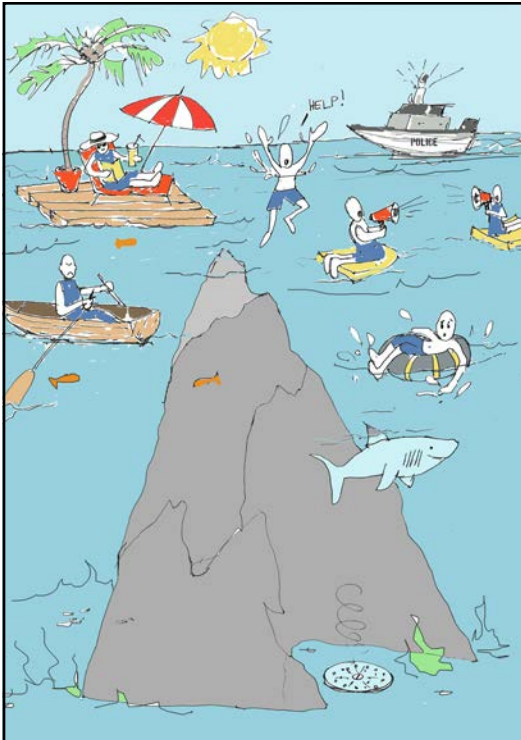
Not the way it should be...

- What is not the way it should be in the world?
 - Sometimes it is outside of myself
 - Sometimes it is me

How are we to live in a world that is not the way it should be?

- It can be discouraging. We can be tempted to give up
- What gives you and me the strength...
 - to see the race to its end?
 - to be hopeful rather than to despair?
 - to have real hope rather than “useful fictions”?

2



One Holy God Revelation 4

bib.ly/Rev4.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

3

Setting of Revelation

I, John,
your brother and companion

in

the suffering

Living in a world that is not the way it's supposed to be
Living by values that sometimes do not match the world
Sometimes being rejected by the world

and kingdom

The Kingdom Jesus proclaimed is...

- already here: "the kingdom of God is in your midst."
- not yet fully here: "ready to be revealed in the last time"

and patient endurance

Letters: blessing to the ones who are victorious/overcomers

that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because
of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. *Revelation 1:9*

4

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

There is a “deeper reality” that is not obvious to our senses

What is it? How can we know it?

”Come up here, and I will show you...”

5

Revelation 4:2-6a

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a **throne** in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the **throne**. Surrounding the **throne** were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the **throne** came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the **throne**, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the **throne** there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

6

Revelation 4:6b-8

In the center, around the **throne**, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

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

7

Revelation 4:9-11

Whenever the living creatures **give glory, honor and thanks** to him who sits on the **throne** and **who lives for ever and ever**, the twenty-four elders **fall down** before him who sits on the **throne** and **worship** him **who lives for ever and ever**. They **lay their crowns** before the **throne** and say:

**“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.”**

8

Some notes about the passage

God is the unrivaled King

- “Throne”=symbol of highest authority → 24 times in 11 verses!
- Appearance of greatest glory
 - without even describing the one who sits on the throne
- Theme of Revelation: Even in chaos and conflict, God is in charge

The greatest created powers bow before God alone

- 24 elders: maybe Israel (12 tribes) plus the Church (12 apostles)
- 4 living creatures: perhaps wise angels with greatest powers of wild and domesticated animals, humanity, and creatures of the air

Unceasing worship of God’s unending glory

- “You are holy, almighty, eternal”
- “You alone are worthy!”
- “You are the creator and sustainer of all that lives and all that is”

9

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

10

Revelation 4:2-6a

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a **throne** in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the **throne**. Surrounding the **throne** were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the **throne** came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the **throne**, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the **throne** there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

11

Revelation 4:6b-8

In the center, around the **throne**, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

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

12

Revelation 4:9-11

Whenever the living creatures **give glory, honor and thanks** to him who sits on the **throne** and **who lives for ever and ever**, the twenty-four elders **fall down** before him who sits on the **throne** and **worship** him **who lives for ever and ever**. They **lay their crowns** before the **throne** and say:

**“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.”**

13

The Big Idea

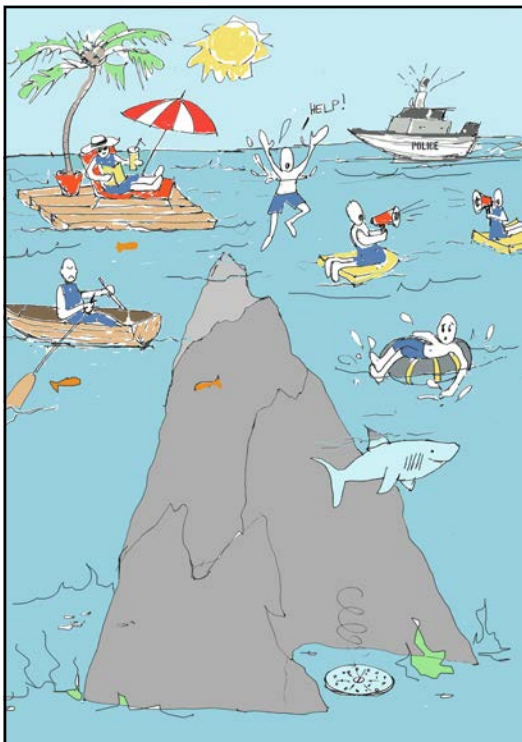
**The one holy, creator God
alone
will receive
all the worship of all creation**

14

Application

**Know that God is the only One on the throne
...now and forever**

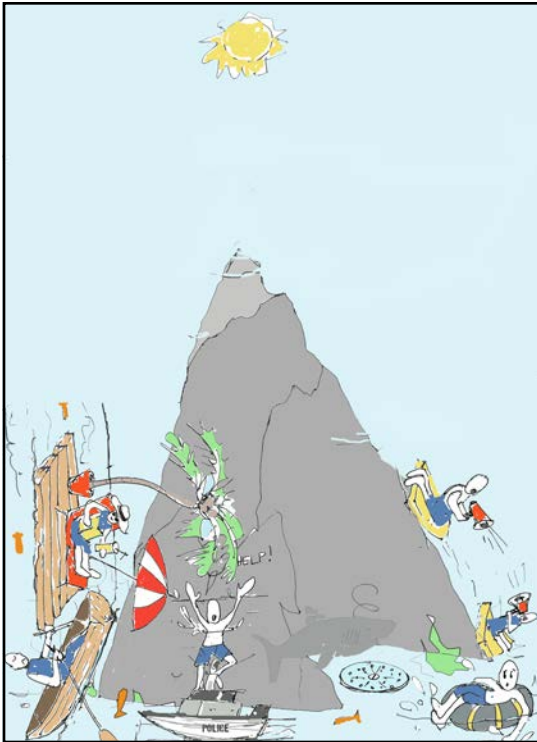
15



**Often, we can only see the chaotic waters
that cover the mountain/throne of God**

**We see powerful people,
and helpless people, and hurting people,
and struggling people, and rich people
and poor people, and broken systems,
and...**

16



**When Jesus returns, the sea
that hides the mountain/throne of God
will be drained away**

**The mountain/throne of God
will be fully visible,
and all will fall below Him**

**The mountain/throne of God
is immovable forever
and nothing can stand against it**

17

*What is the world's
tallest mountain?*

~~Mt. Everest: 8,848 m, 29,031 ft~~

Mauna Kea: 4,207 m; 13,803 ft

– 10,000 m; 32,808 ft

– (over half of it is under water)

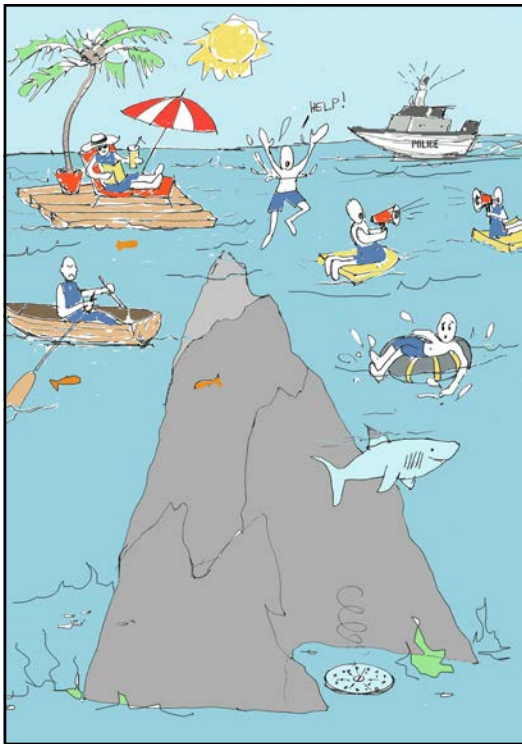
Muirfield Seamount: 0 m; 0 ft

– 4,800 m; 15,748 ft

– (all of it is under water!)



18

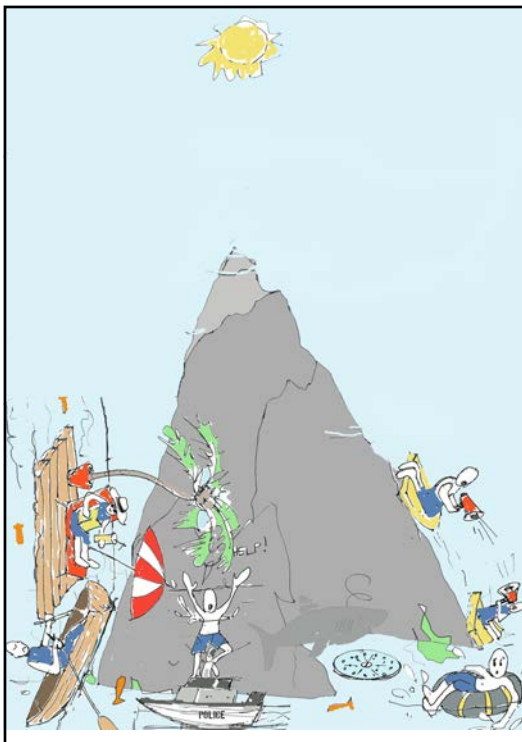


**The mountain of God
is the greatest power**

Yet we usually are blind to it

**But our blindness doesn't change
the reality of His greatness**

19



**The mountain of God
is the greatest power**

Yet we usually are blind to it

**But our blindness doesn't change
the reality of His greatness**

**And one day, every person will see Him
and every person and power
will submit to Him**

20

Application

**Know that God is the only One on the throne
...now and forever**

- The sea (chaos) is as nothing before God
 - “He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.” *Psalm 33:7*
- “Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, **and there was no longer any sea.**” *Revelation 21:1*

21

Application

Know that all crowns will submit to God

- By choice, we are invited to submit what is ours to Him
 - Our... **pride** **self-worth** **fears** **health**
convictions **freedom** **bitterness** **wealth**
sorrows **rights** **honor** **shame** **pleasures** **opinions**
strength
- Not merely letting go of these things
- It is submitting them to the throne of the One Holy God
- Either way, all will submit by the power of God’s majesty
 - Every authority and claim will one day bow before Him
 - Those who resist Him will suffer unspeakable loss

22

Know that all crowns will submit to God

“You deserve the greater glory
 overcome I lift my voice
 to the King in need of nothing,
empty handed I rejoice”

- Nothing I can give Him
 is worth anything compared to Him
 so I have nothing of value to give to Him
- Everything we claim,
 whether treasures or bitterness,
 whether valuables or griefs,
 whether pride or regrets,
 we put at His feet

23

Application

Join the song of worship to Him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever

- By what we do
 - Obey His Word, with boldness and with perseverance
 - Jesus said: “Love your neighbor as yourself”
 - Love does not dishonor others
 - Love is not self-seeking
 - Love is not easily angered
 - Love keeps no record of wrongs
- By our attitude
 - Rejoice even when His reign is not obvious to our senses
 - Praise His Holy Name, even when we have pain and loss

24

The Big Idea

**The one holy, creator God
alone
will receive
all the worship of all creation**

When the gym teacher arrived...

**When Jesus arrives, those who are watching for Him
will rejoice that His reign has come!**

25

Revelation 4:9-11

Whenever the living creatures **give glory, honor and thanks** to him who sits on the **throne** and **who lives for ever and ever**, the twenty-four elders **fall down** before him who sits on the **throne** and **worship** him **who lives for ever and ever**. They **lay their crowns** before the **throne** and say:

**“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.”**

26