



Theophany in Revelation



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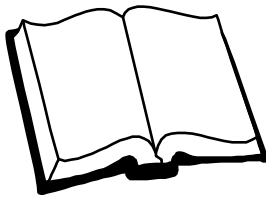


A. Theophany in General

Theophany as All-Encompassing

Theophany

Covenant

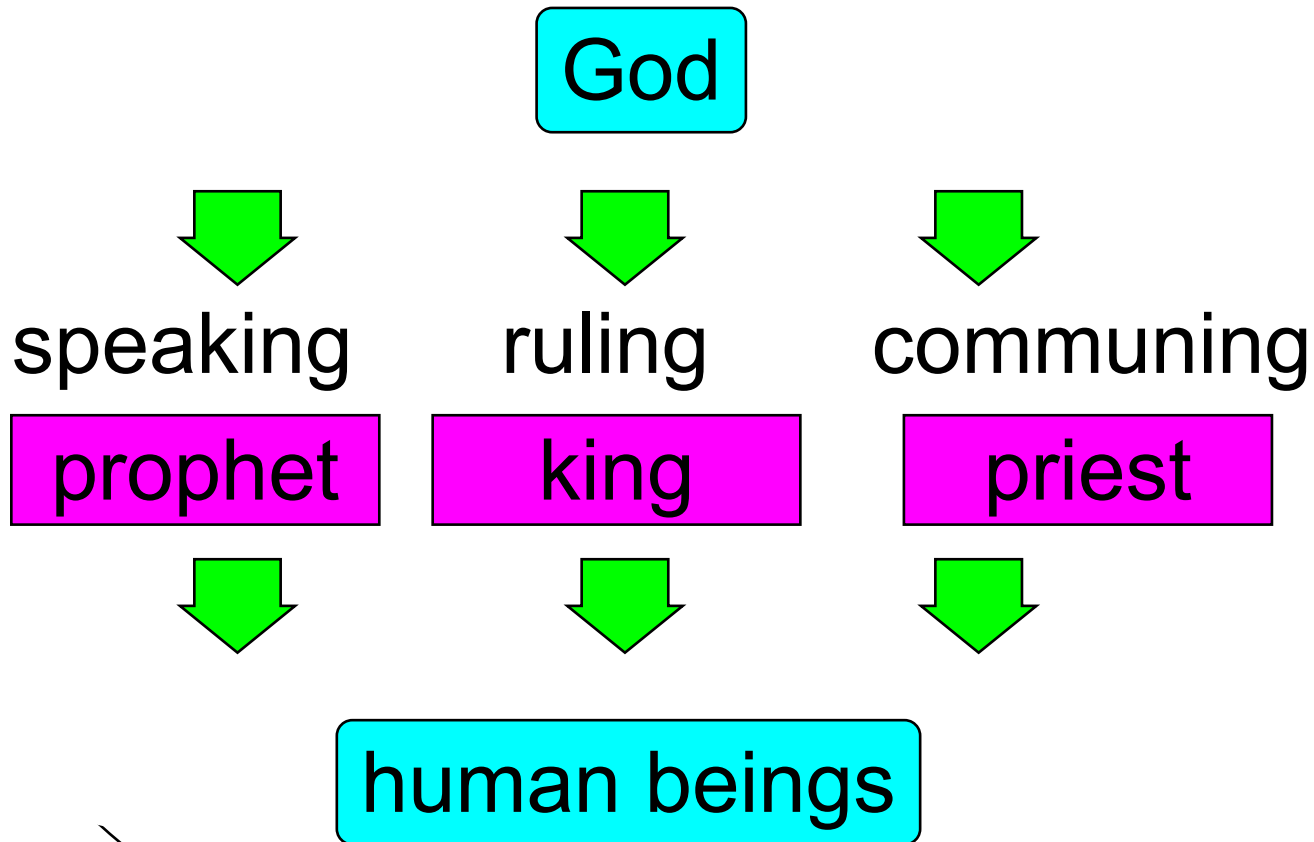


- See Samuel Terrien, *The Elusive Presence*

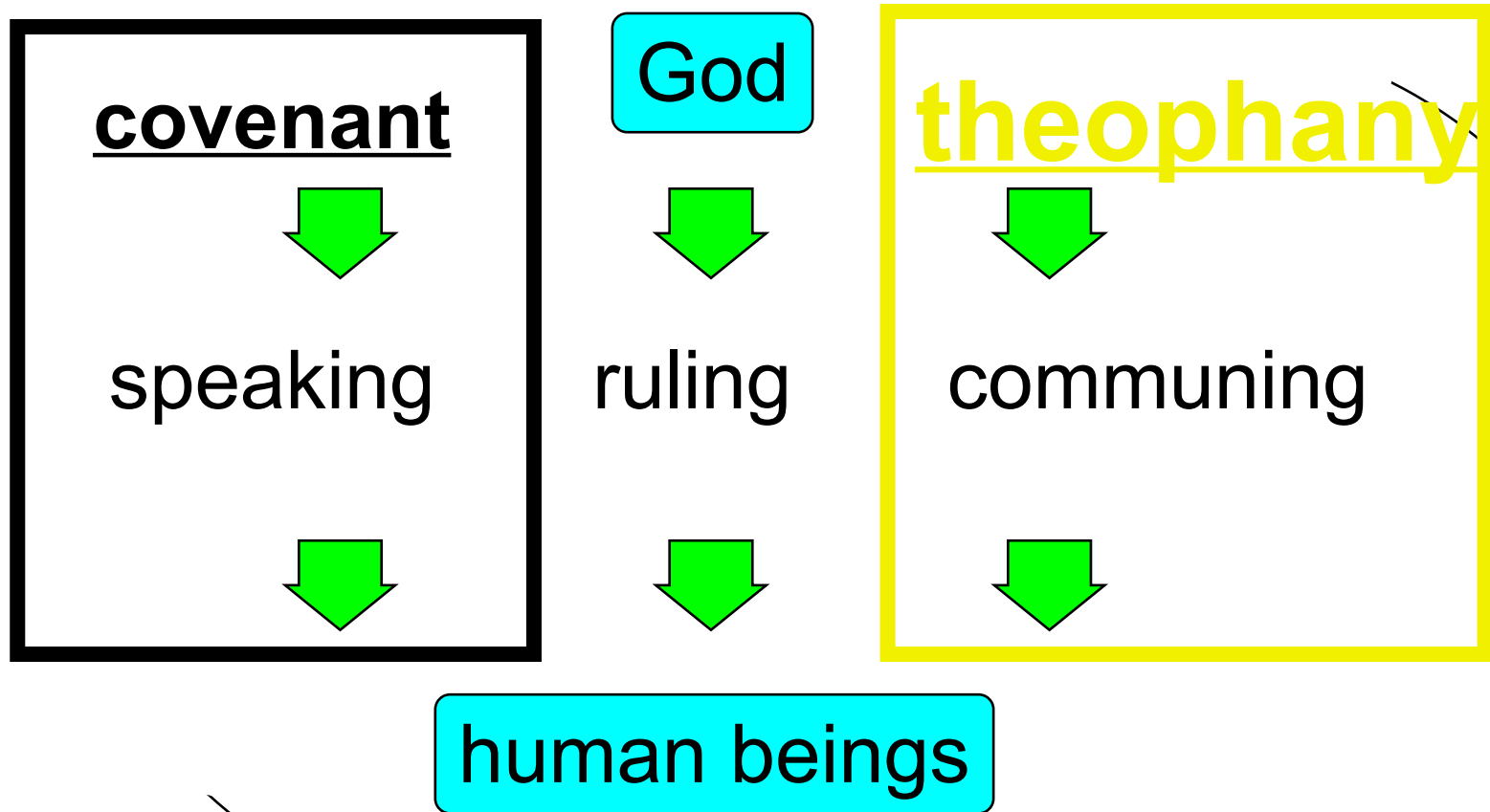
Definition of Theophany

- More than one definition is possible.
- I want a broad definition.
- “An encounter with divine presence accompanied by extraordinary manifestation or display mediating that presence.”
- Include veiled or elusive manifestations.

Theophany and Other Themes



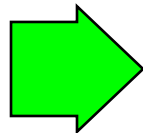
Theophany and Covenant



Theophany in Spiritual Growth

- Know God as revealed in Rev.
- 2 Cor. 3:18 applies theophanic language to the heart of Christian experience.
- Growth in Christ is unbounded, Eph. 3:18-19.

theophany
in Christ



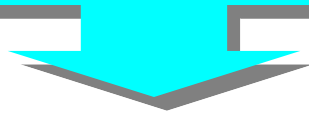
transformation of
believers in Christ

Inexhaustible.



Theophany in Revelation

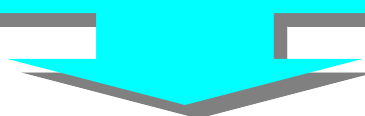
Christophany in 1:12-20



Theophany in 4:1-5:14



Empowers judgments 6:1-22:5



1:12-22:5 as a whole



B. Rev. 1:12-20

The Lampstands (1:12-13)

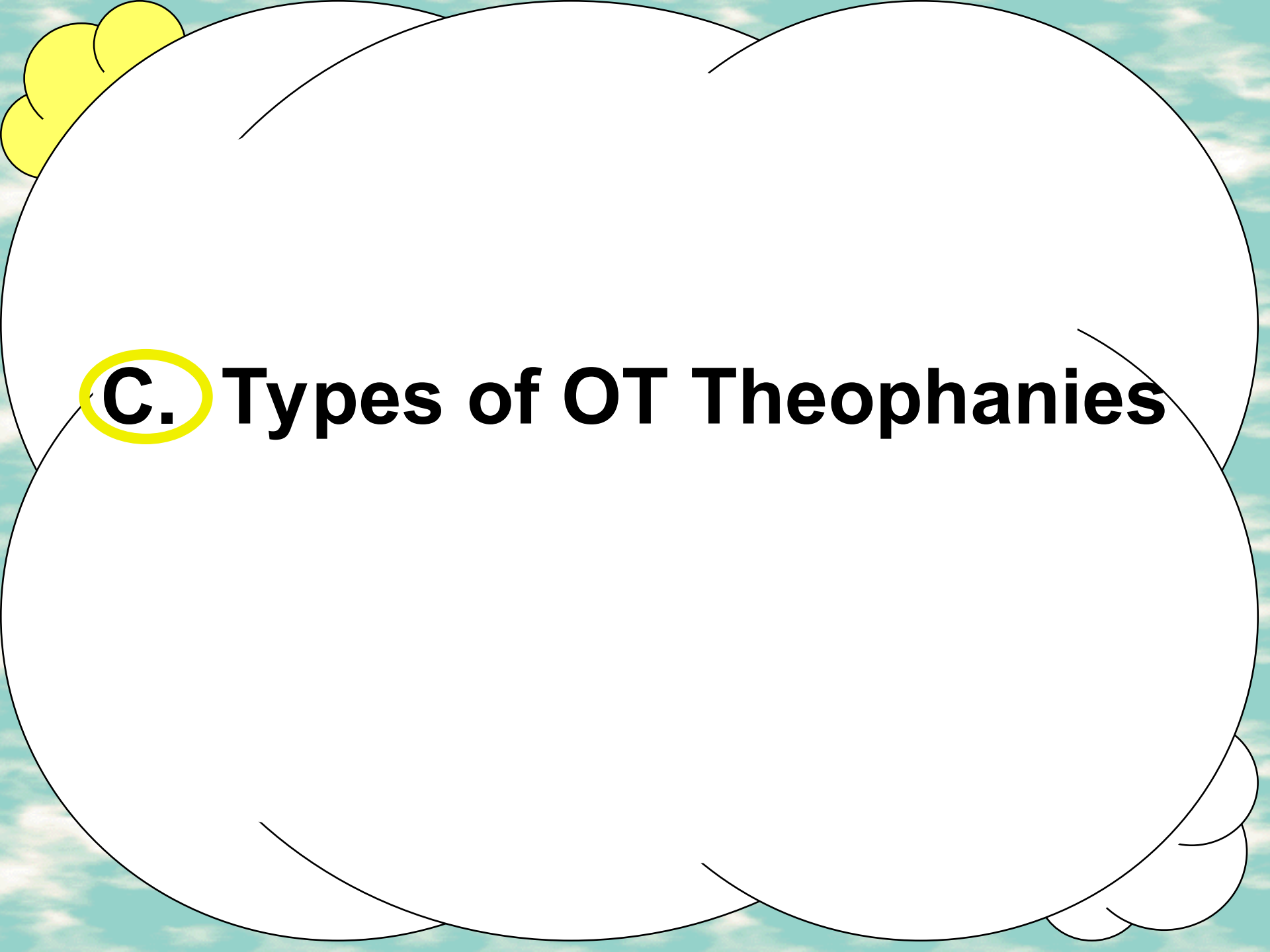
- **Primary connections: 1:20 (2:1).**
- **Significance: Christ is in the midst of the churches.**
- **Secondary connections:**
 - ◆ **tabernacle, temple**
 - ◆ **lights of heaven (stars in 1:20)**
 - ◆ **disciples as light, Matt 5:14**

Vision of Christ (1:12-16)

- **Primary connections: 14:14; Dan. 7:13; 7:9-10; 10:5-6; Ezek. 1.**
- **Significance: Christ is divine judge and ruler, both for blessing and for curse.**
- **Secondary and tertiary connections: OT theophanies.**

Judging as a Theme

- Judgment in Ezek. 1 and Dan. 7:9-10.
- From Rev. 1-3:
 - ◆ 1:18, keys of death
 - ◆ 1:20, stars in the hand, with authority
 - ◆ Rev. 2-3, warnings and commendations
 - ◆ 2:8, 10, authority over death
 - ◆ 2:18, eyes searching the heart
- 14:14; 10:1; 19:12,15; 15:6 have judgment.



C. Types of OT Theophanies

Thunderstorm Theophanies



- Mt. Sinai as primary.
- Instances: Exod. 19; Ps. 18:7-15; Zech 9:14-15; Ps. 68:7-8(8-9); 144:5-6; 29:3-11; 50:3; 97:2-5; Isa. 64:1-3; Zeph. 1:15-16.
- Features: cloud, smoke, thunder, lightning, fire, maybe earthquake and wind.

Fire Theophanies

- **Exod. 3:1-6; Gen. 15:17; Exod. 13:21; 14:19, 24; Num. 9:15-23; Acts 2:1-3**
- **Connected with thunderstorm and glory theophanies**

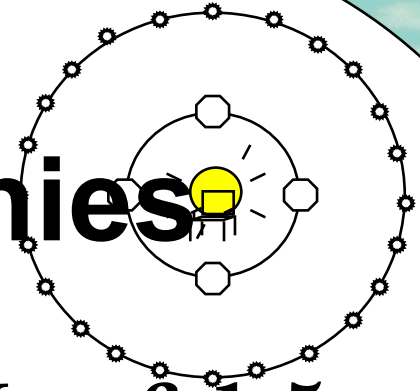
Temple/cloud Theophanies

- **Instances: Exod. 40:34-38; Num. 9:15-23; Deut. 4:32-36; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Ezek. 8:4; 10:3-4, 18-19; 43:2-7; 44:4.**
- **Connected with dedication of the tabernacle or temple, or speech from the temple.**

Glory Theophanies

- **Instances: Isa. 60:1-2; Mal. 4:2; Ps. 80:1, 3, 7, 19; 94:1.**
- **Connected with thunderstorm and temple theophanies.**

Court Theophanies



- **Instances: 1 Kings 22:19-22; Isa. 6:1-5; Job 1:6; 2:1; Dan. 7:9-10; Ps. 82; 89:5-14.**
- **With a Man in the center.**
- **Connected with chariot through 1 Chron. 28:18, where chariot = cherubim (court ministers).**



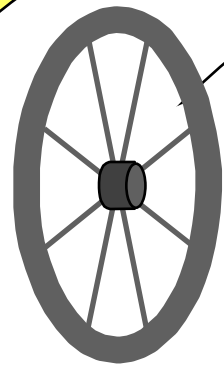
Individual Man Theophanies

- **Instances: Judg. 13:6-22; Gen. 18; Dan. 10:5; Rev. 10:1(?); Acts 9:3-7; Dan. 7:13; Rev. 19:11; etc.**
- **Second type of Man theophany.**
- **Some are preincarnate appearances of Christ.**

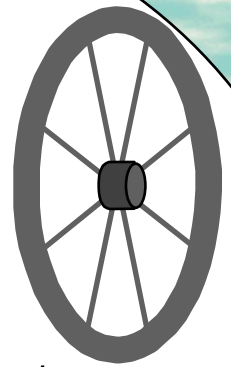
Warrior Theophanies



- Instances: Zech. 9:14-15; 14:3-5; Hab. 3:3-15; Isa. 63:1-6; 59:17-19; Zeph. 3:17; Josh. 5:13-15.
- A third type of Man theophany.



Chariot Theophanies



- **Instances: Isa. 66:15; Hab. 3:8; Dan. 7:9-10; 2 Kings 2:11-12; 6:17; Ps. 68:17(18), 4(5), 33(34); Deut. 33:26; Isa. 19:1; Ps. 65:11.**
- **Poetic, context of judgment.**
- **God going to war.**

Creation as Theophany

- Instances: Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:1-4; 93:1-2; 102:25-26. Building: Job 38:4-11; Prov. 8:27-31; Amos 9:5-6.
- Connected with temple theophanies, Ps. 78:69; 93:5; 11:4-5.

Summary of OT Theophany

- **Diverse, showing richness.**
- **Interrelated, showing unity and mystery.**
- **Classifiable up to a point.**

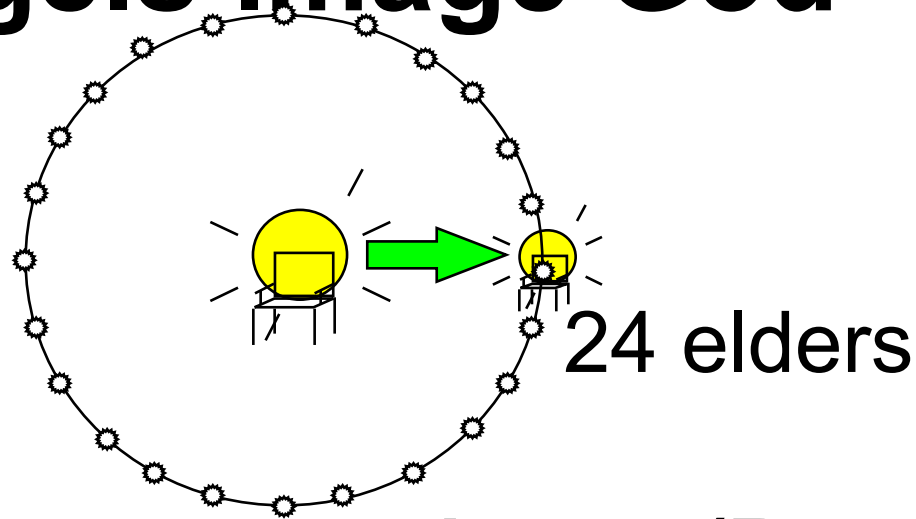
Showing
God's wisdom.





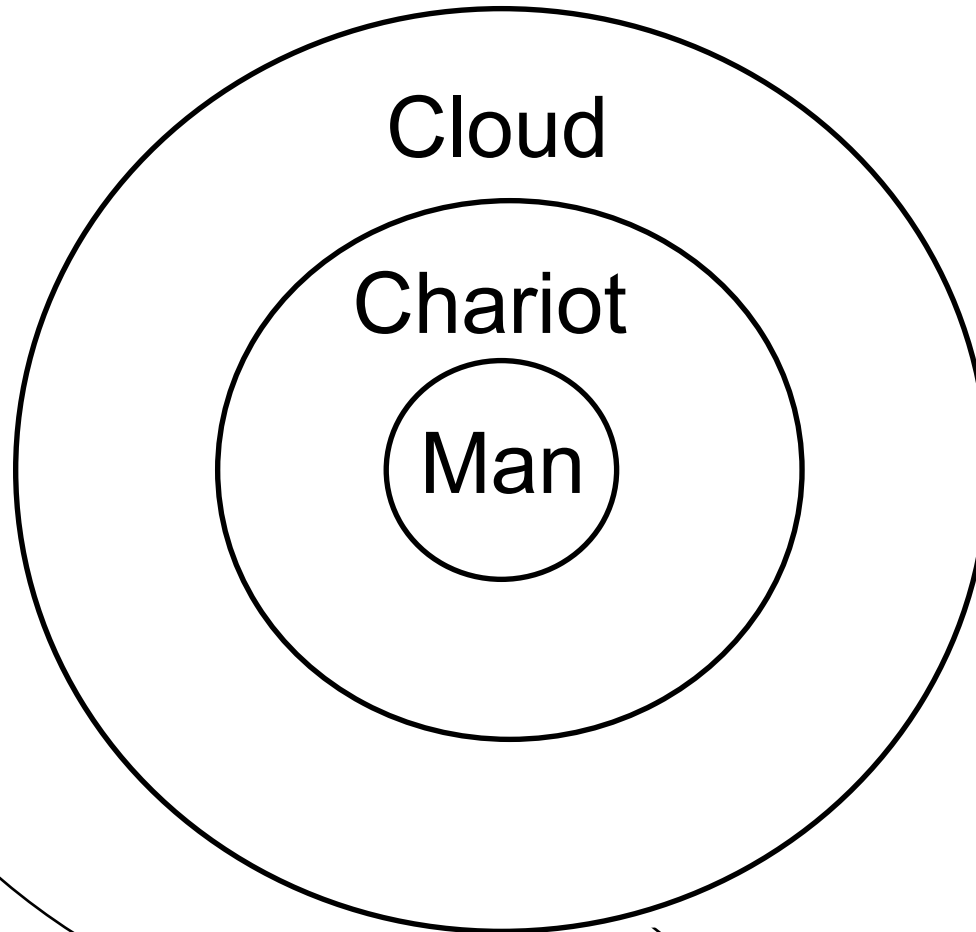
D. Imaging in Theophanies

Angels Image God

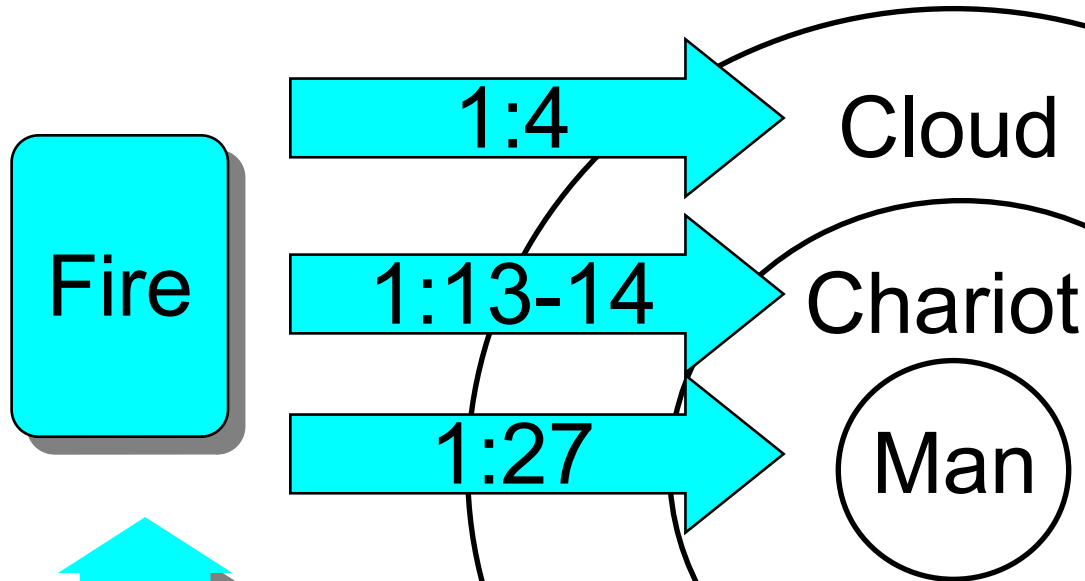


- **24 thrones image one throne (Rev. 4:4).**
- **Angels are “sons of God” (Job 1:6; 2:1).**
- **They execute God’s decrees (Isa. 6:6-7; Ezek. 9:4; 10:2; Ps. 103:20-21).**

3 Layers in Ezekiel 1



Fire Imaging in Ezekiel 1



meaning:
God's judgment
(Isa. 66:15; Ps. 97:3)

Imaging in Ezekiel 1

Bronze

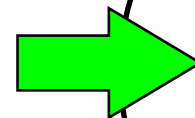
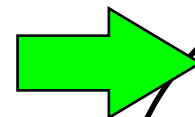
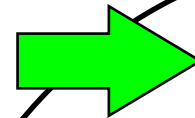
- 1:4
- 1:7
- 1:27; 8:2?

meaning: firm-
ness of judgment

Voice

9:3-4
1:24
1:25,28

pronounce
judgment



Cloud

Chariot

Man

Inner Meaning of Man Theophany

Cloud
Chariot
Man
Attributes
Trinity

deep



Attributes in Human Form

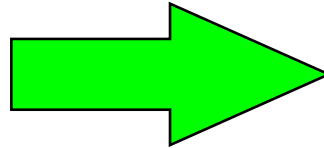
- **Eyes** ● Knowledge, Prov. 15:3; 2 Chron. 16:9; Ps. 80:14; Jer. 32:19; Ps. 11:4.
- **Ears** ● Answering prayer, Ps. 34:15.
- **Arm** ● Power, Luke 1:51; Ps. 44:3.
- **Hand** ● Care, Isa. 49:2; Ezek. 8:1; 37:1.
- **Feet** ● Dominion, Isa. 60:13; 63:3.
- **Face** ● Presence, Exod. 33:9-11, 18-23.
- **Nostrils** ● Wrath, Ps. 18:15, 8.
- **Mouth** ● Articulate speech.

Attributes and Spirit

- Face ● Ps. 139:7; 51:11; Ezek. 39:29
- Eyes ● Rev. 5:6; 1:4-5.
- Hand ● Ezek. 8:1 vs. 11:5.
- Finger ● Luke 11:20 vs. Matt. 12:28; 2 Cor. 3:3.
- Breath ● Ps. 18:15; Ezek. 37 (Ps. 104:3)
- Power ● Luke 1:35.
- Many ● Exod. 14:24; 15:6, 8, 12; Isa. 63:10-14.

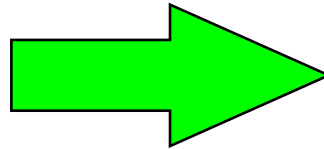
Attributes and Trinity

Individual
attributes



Holy
Spirit

Whole human
figure



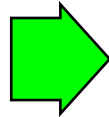
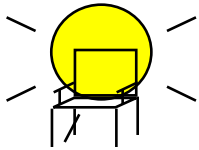
Christ
Incarnate



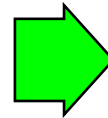
E. Imaging and Spatial Structure

Kingship Reflected

God



angelic
court



heaven
and earth

image

Adam

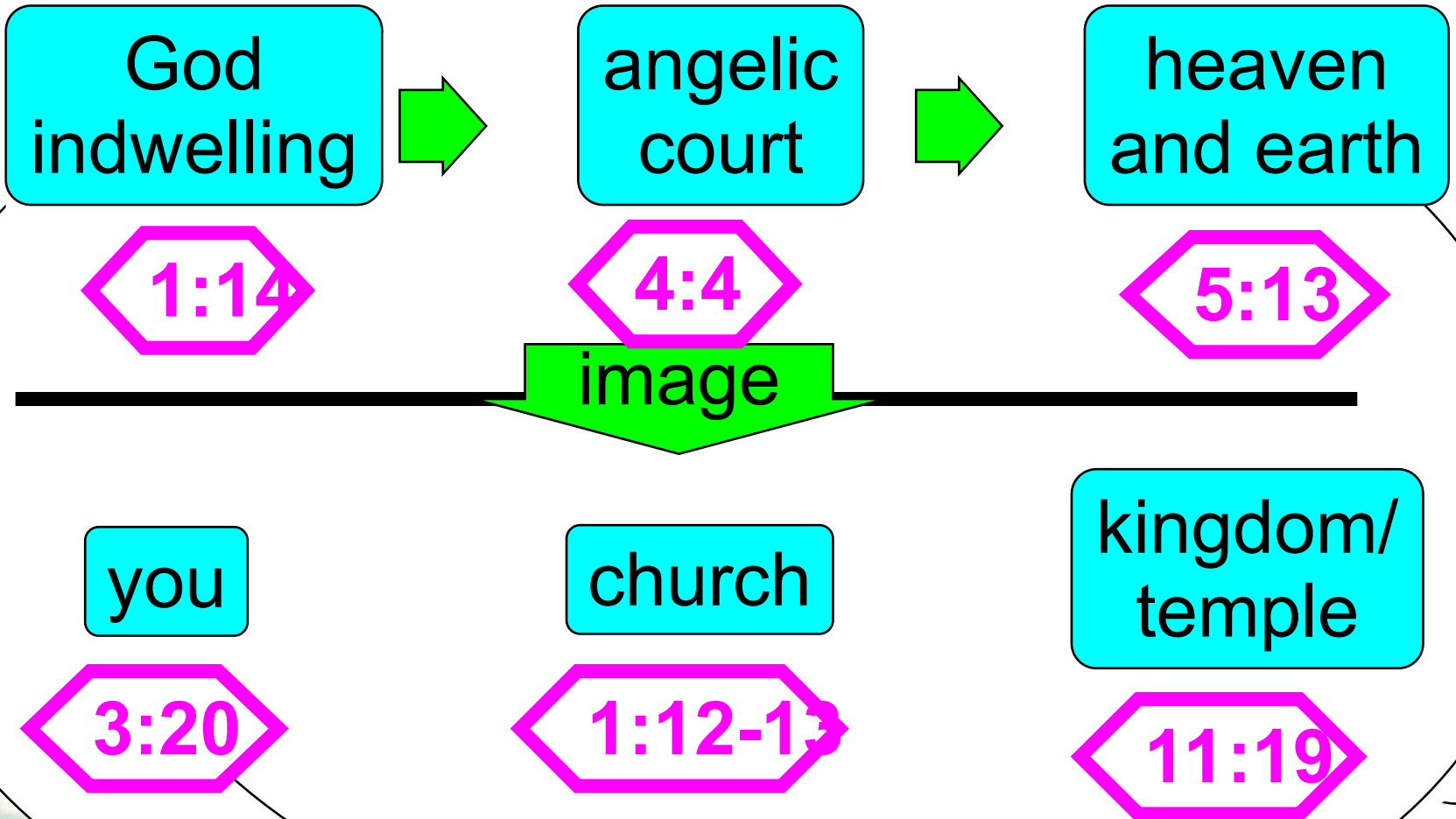


other
people

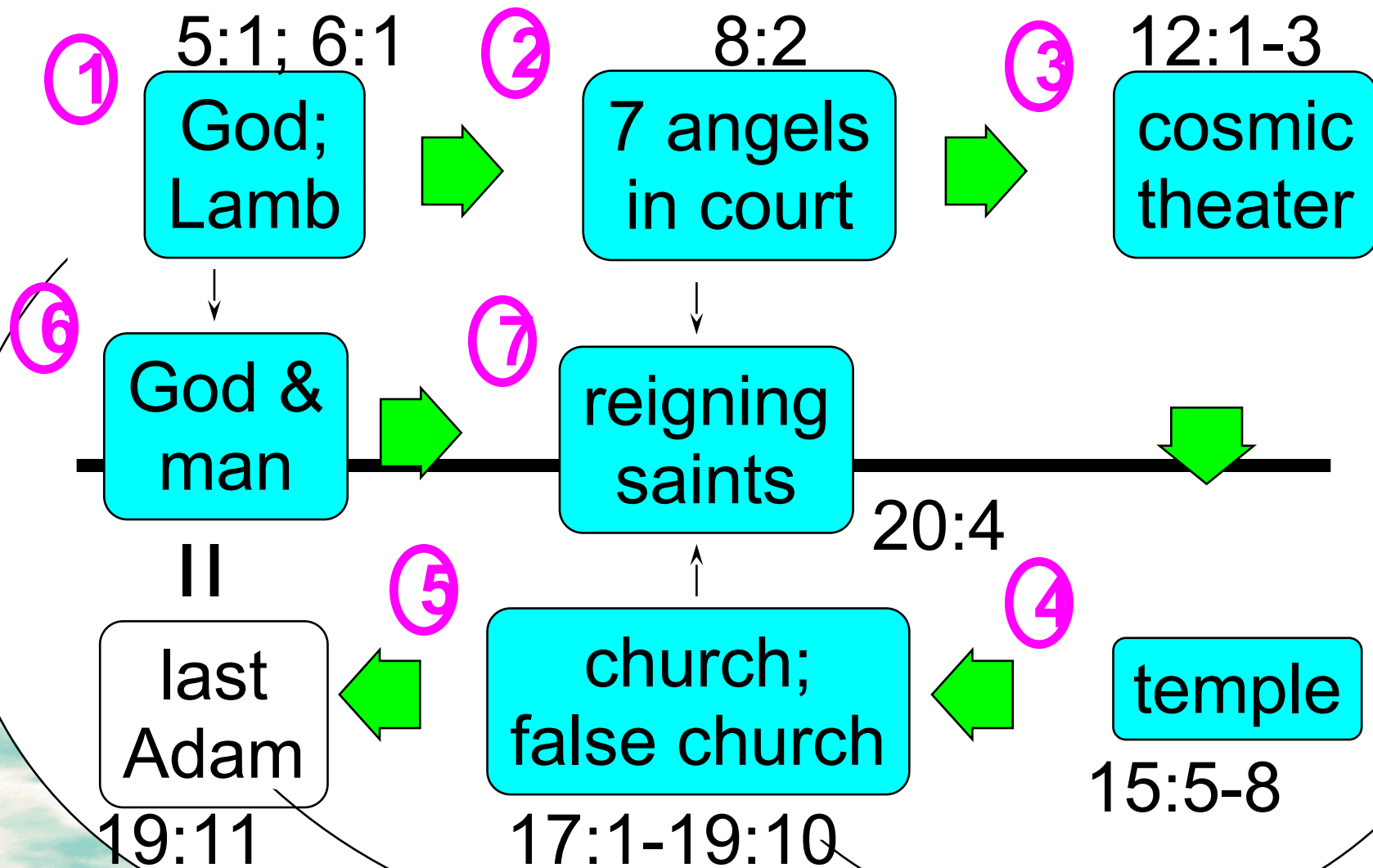
Eden

earth

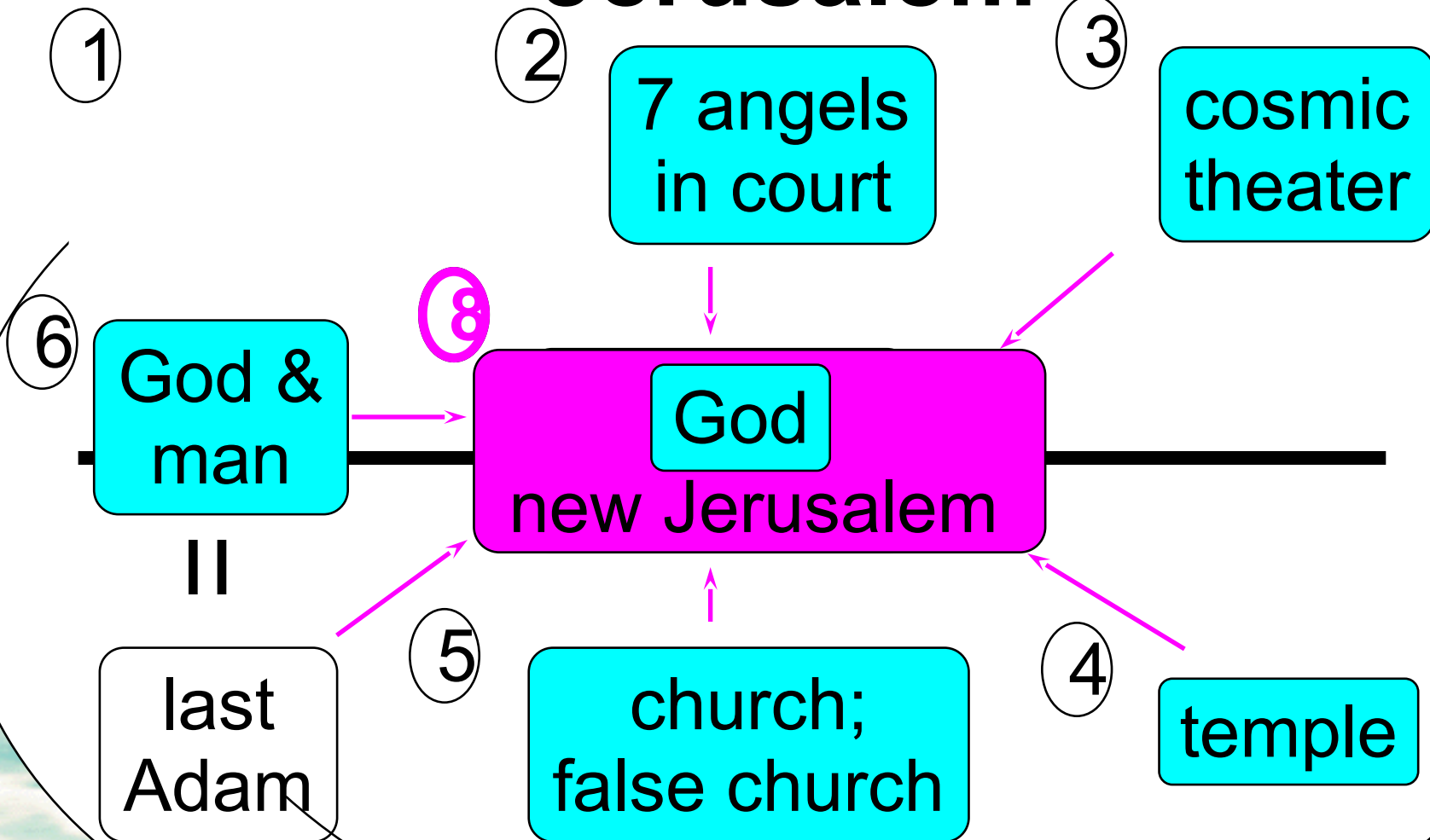
Presence Reflected



7 Cycles Follow Reflection



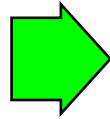
Final Reflection: New Jerusalem



Completed Reflection

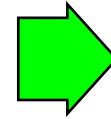
God
indwelling

22:1



angelic
court

21:12



heaven
and earth

21:23



you

22:4

church

1:12-13;

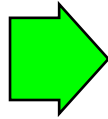
21:9

kingdom

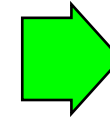
21:16

Beauty Reflected

God



angelic
court



heaven
and earth

Rev. 4:3;
splendor

Ezek. 1:16

Rev.
21:19-21

you

Exod.
28:15-21

church

Isa. 61:10;
62:3

kingdom

Rev.
21:19-21



F. Lessons from Theophany

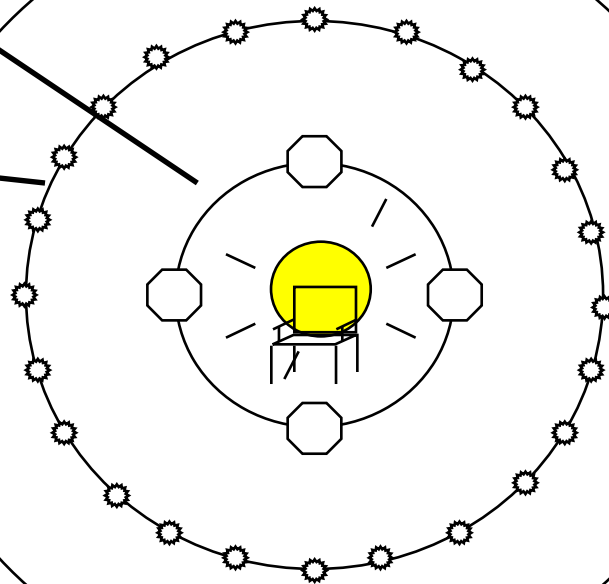
God Centered Universe

4 living
creatures

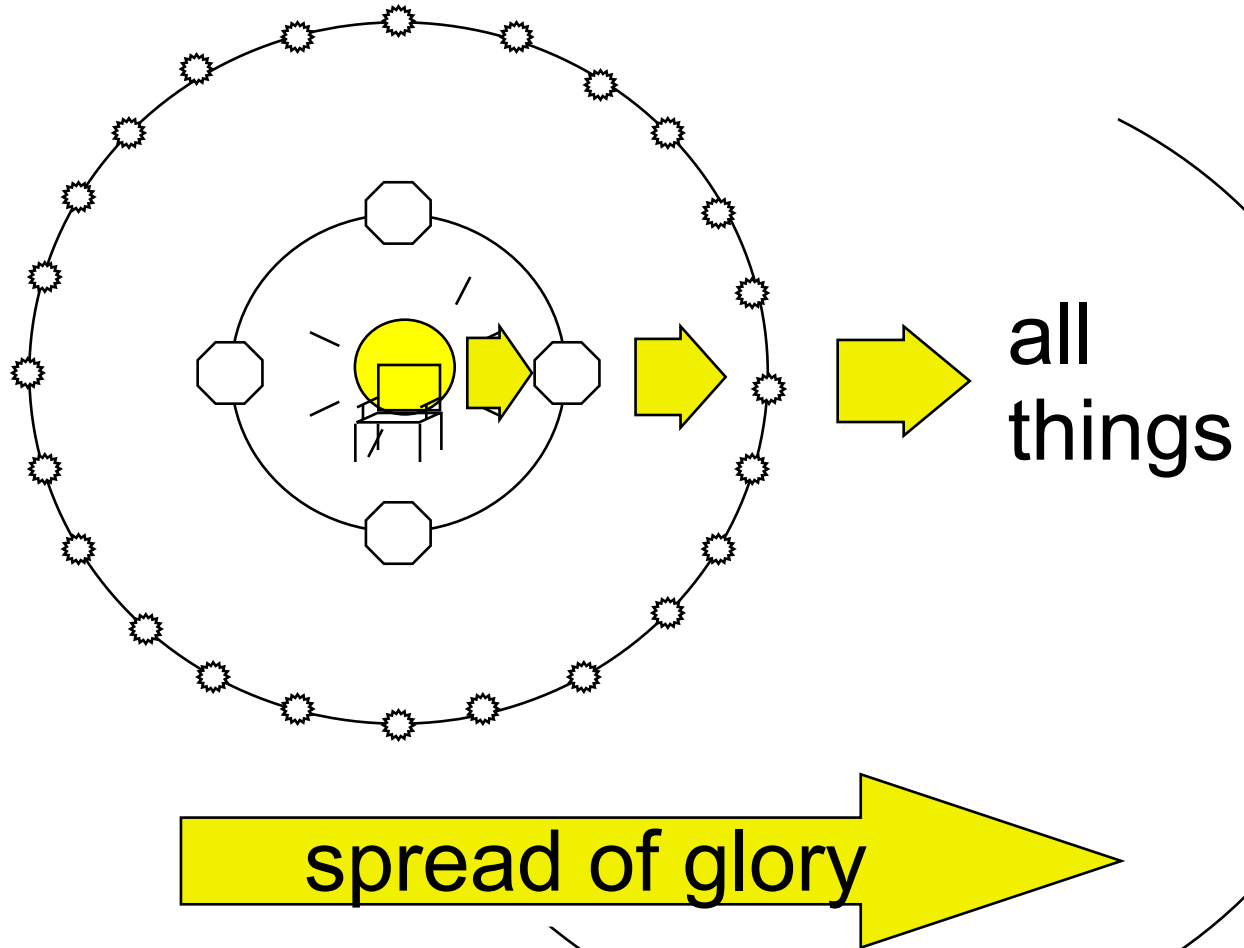
24 elders

myriads
of angels

every creature
in heaven, earth,
under the earth, sea



God's Glory in History

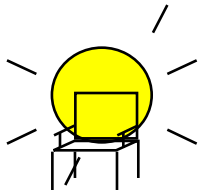


Unstoppable.



God's Glory Copied

reality

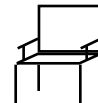


original
King

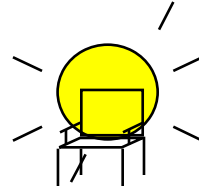


copy
king

man-centered
thinking



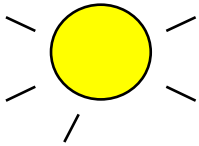
literal
human king



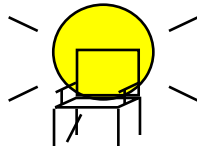
God as merely
metaphorical
King

God's Glory Reflected

light



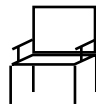
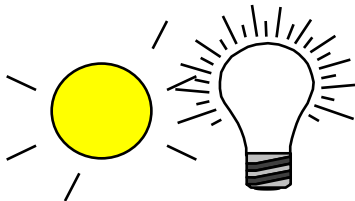
kingship



presence



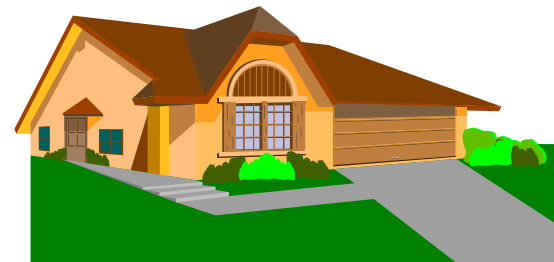
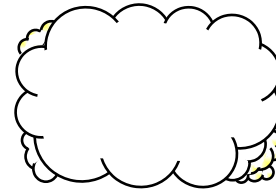
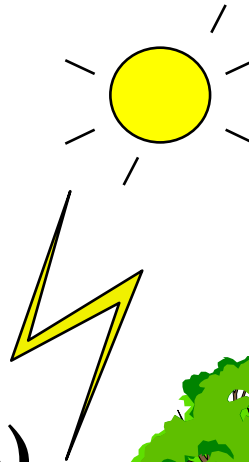
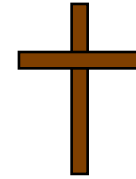
beauty



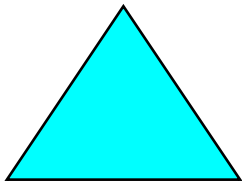
God's Glory Now

- In redemption, 5:2-6
- In creation, 4:11

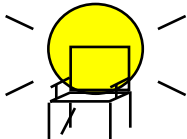
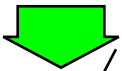
- ◆ Light
- ◆ Cloud
- ◆ Thunder
- ◆ Trees (life)
- ◆ Houses



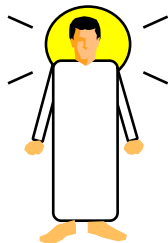
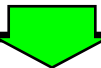
God's Mystery Reflected in Symbols



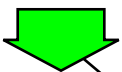
God's Trinitarian nature



God's appearing in Rev.



God's surroundings



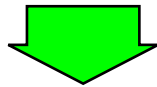
all of Revelation

Evangelism from Theophany

- Don Richardson, *Peace Child*, illustrates the challenges.
- You may start from general revelation: water, trees, the sun, marriage, power (kingship).

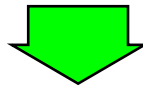
Worship from Theophany

Seeing God in majesty



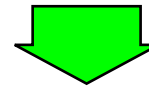
Praise

4:8



Awe

1:17



Imitation

2 Cor. 3:18

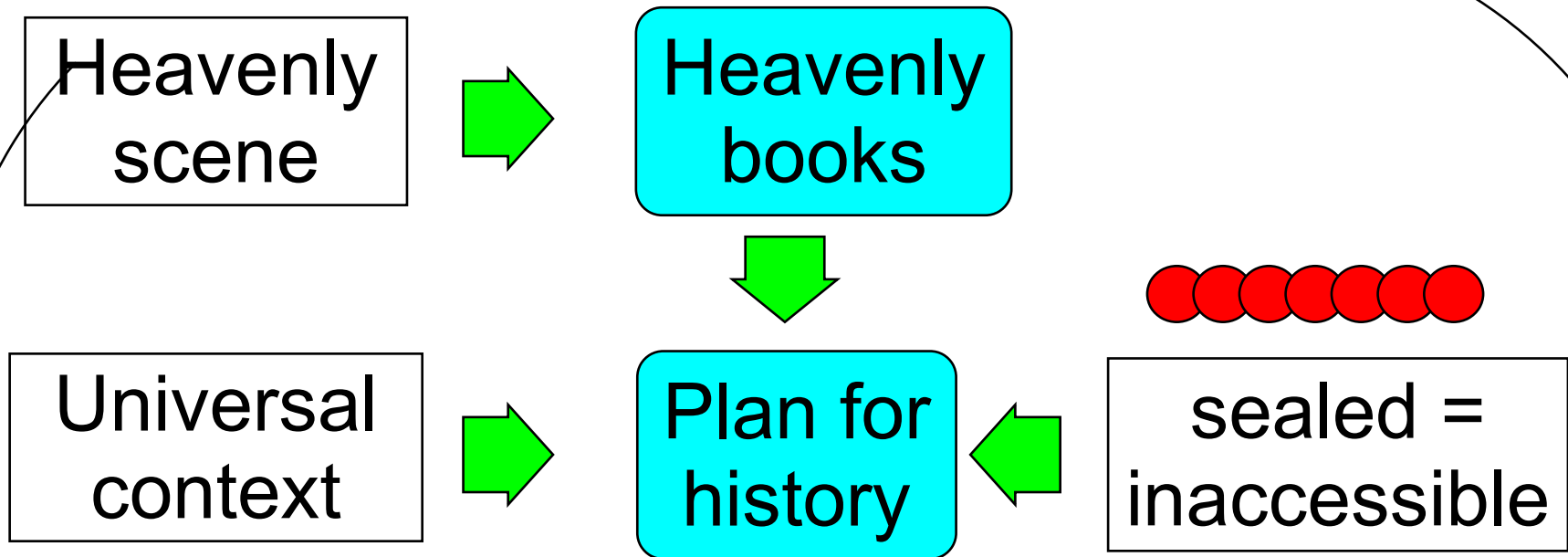


G. The Lamb and the Scroll



God's Scroll

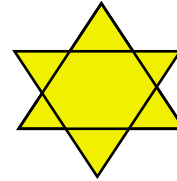
- Heavenly books contain God's **plans**,
Dan. 10:21; 12:4, 9; (8:26)



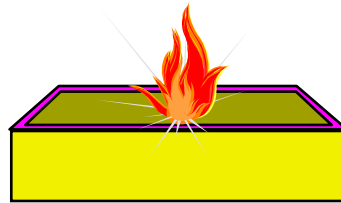
Who can bring God's plan to realization?

The Lamb's Ability (5:5-6)

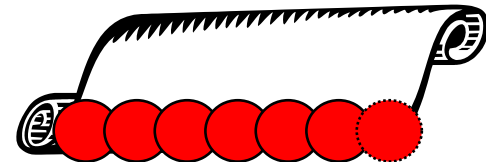
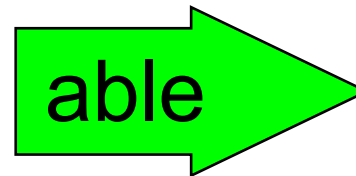
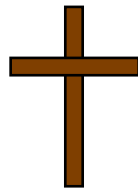
- **Lion, Root of David**



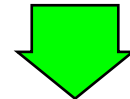
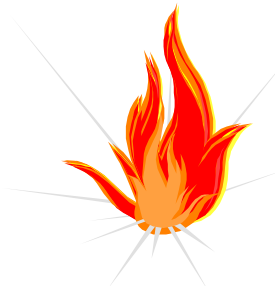
- **Lamb**



- **Slain**



- **With Spirit**



Yes!

