

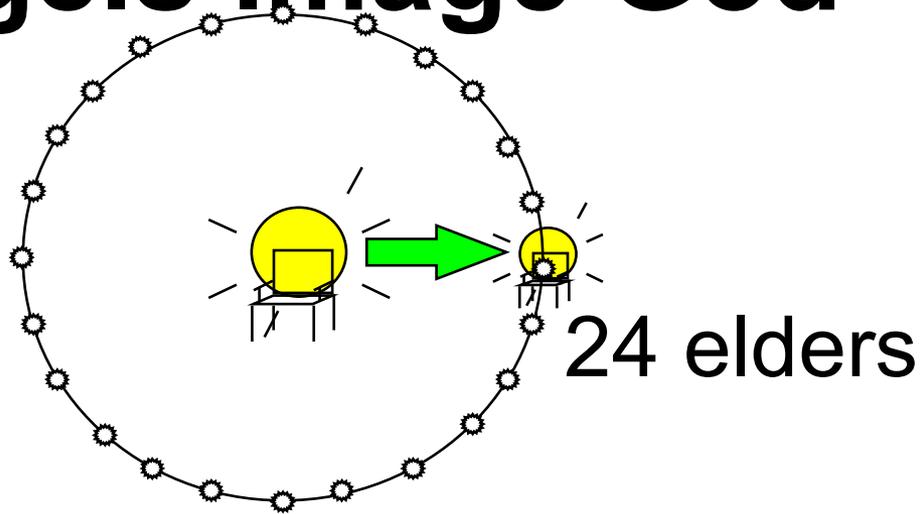
Theophany in Revelation

Vern Sheridan Poythress
Westminster Theological Seminary

Theophany: Basic Points

- 1 A. God's glory is reflected in creation
- 1 B. God's glory is the source for the plan of Revelation
- 1 C. Interpret the symbols of Revelation recognizing that God is at the center

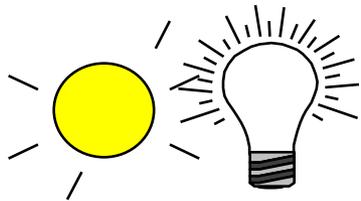
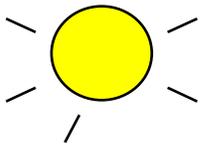
Angels Image God



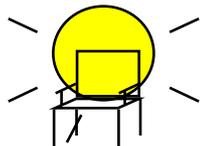
- 1 24 thrones image one throne (Rev. 4:4).
- 1 Angels are “sons of God” (Job 1:6; 2:1).
- 1 They execute God’s decrees (Isa. 6:6-7; Ezek. 9:4; 10:2; Ps. 103:20-21).

God's Glory Reflected

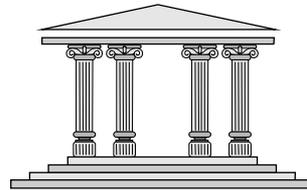
light



kingship



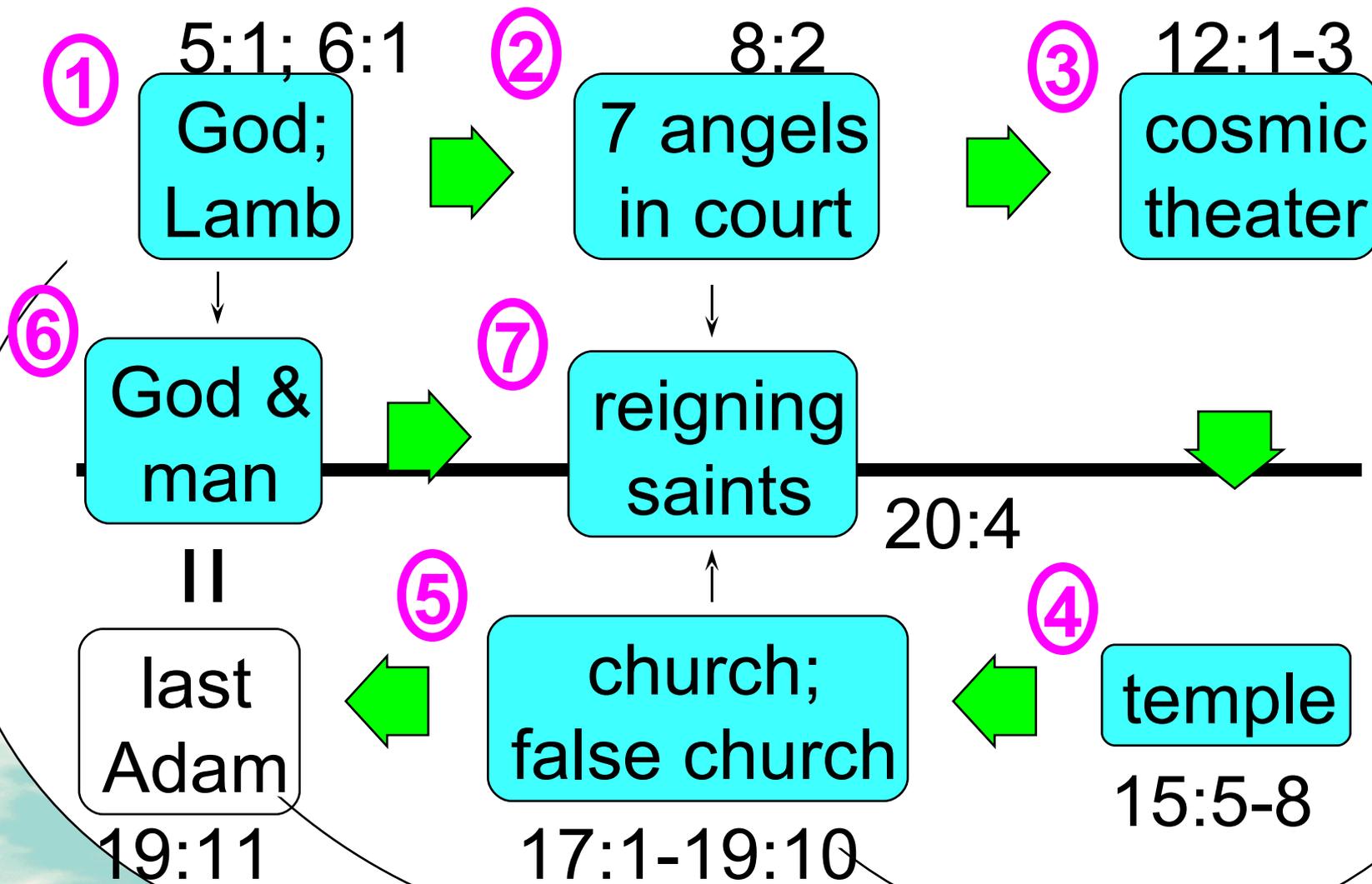
presence



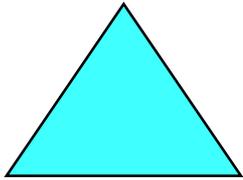
beauty



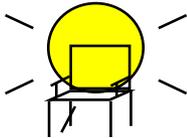
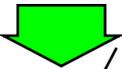
7 Cycles Follow Reflection



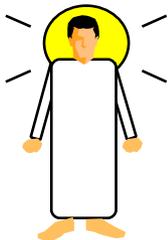
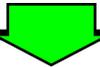
God's Mystery Reflected in Symbols



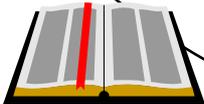
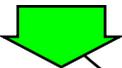
God's Trinitarian nature



God's appearing in Rev.



God's surroundings



all of Revelation

A. Theophany in General

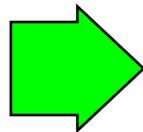
Definition of Theophany

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

Theophany in Spiritual Growth

- 1 Know God as revealed in Rev.
- 1 2 Cor. 3:18 applies theophanic language to the heart of Christian experience.
- 1 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

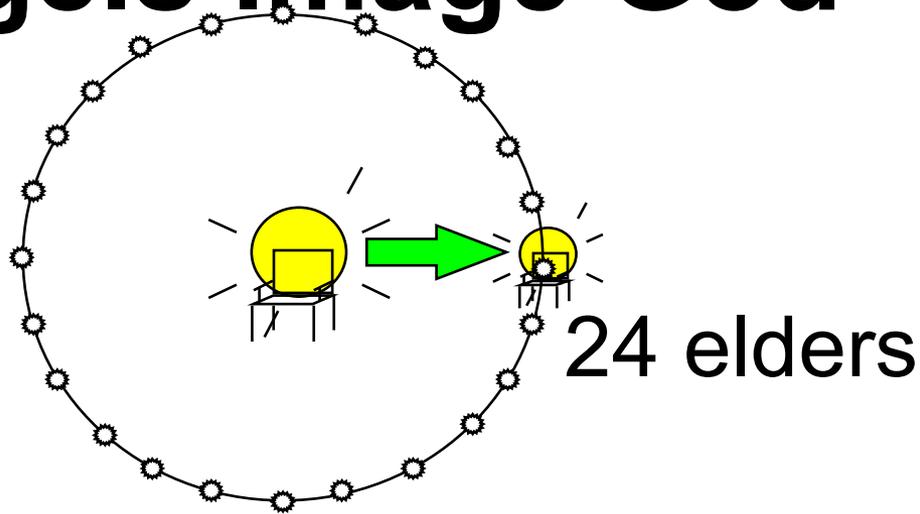
Empowers judgments 6:1-22:5

1:12-22:5 as a whole



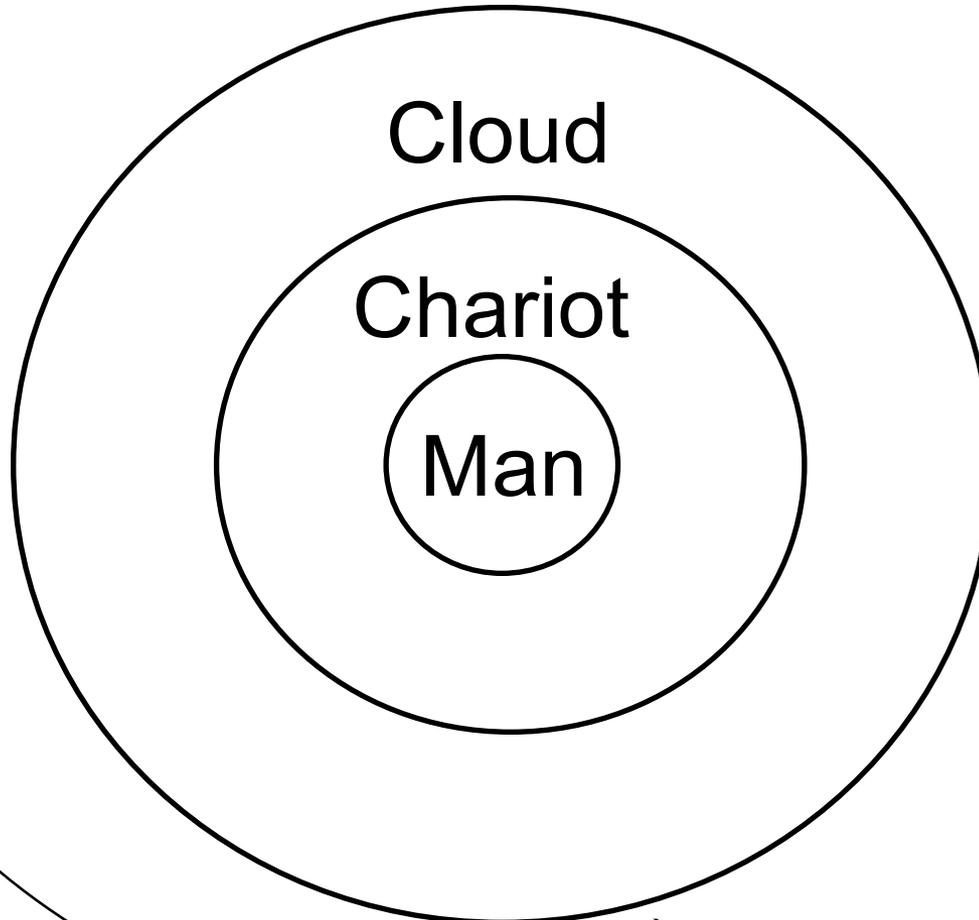
B. Imaging in Theophanies

Angels Image God

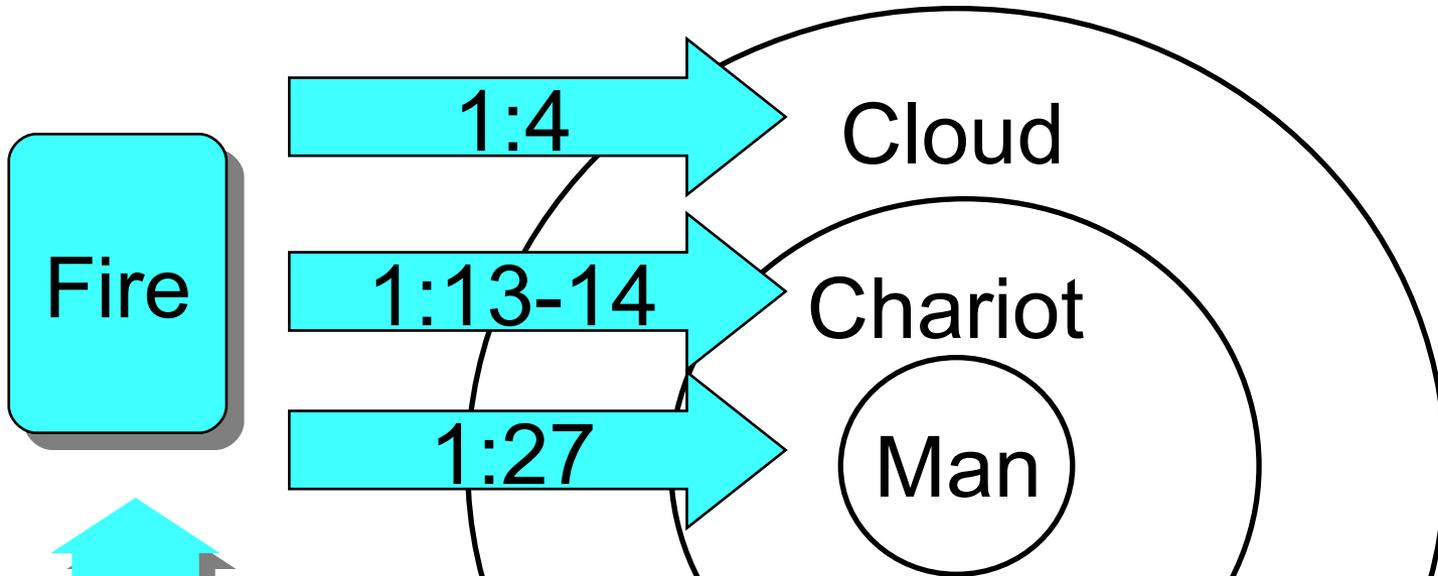


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- 1 Angels are “sons of God” (Job 1:6; 2:1).
- 1 They execute God’s decrees (Isa. 6:6-7; Ezek. 9:4; 10:2; Ps. 103:20-21).

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

Voice

1 1:4

9:3-4

1 1:7

1:24

1 1:27; 8:2?

1:25,28

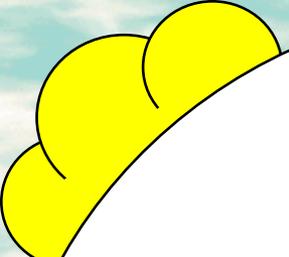
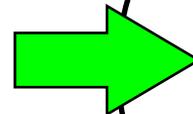
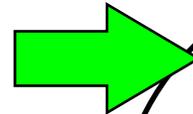
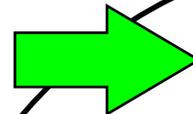
meaning: firm-
ness of judgment

pronounce
judgment

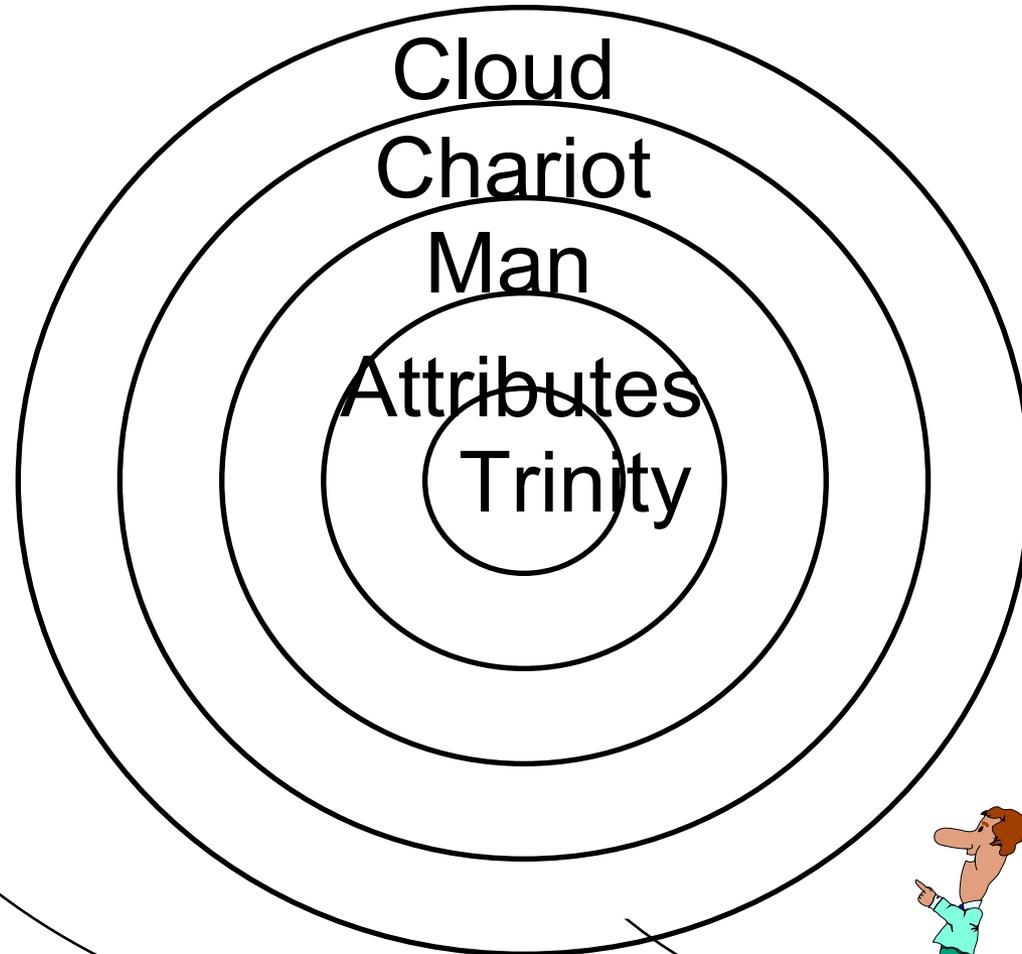
Cloud

Chariot

Man



Inner Meaning of Man Theophany



deep



Attributes in Human Form

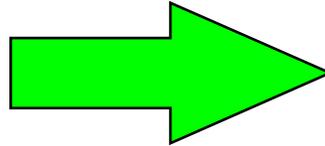
- 1 **Eyes** 1 **Knowledge, Prov. 15:3; 2 Chron. 16:9; Ps. 80:14; Jer. 32:19; Ps. 11:4.**
- 1 **Ears** 1 **Answering prayer, Ps. 34:15.**
- 1 **Arm** 1 **Power, Luke 1:51; Ps. 44:3.**
- 1 **Hand** 1 **Care, Isa. 49:2; Ezek. 8:1; 37:1.**
- 1 **Feet** 1 **Dominion, Isa. 60:13; 63:3.**
- 1 **Face** 1 **Presence,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

Attributes and Spirit

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

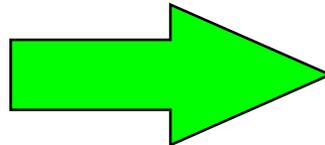
Attributes and Trinity

Individual
attributes

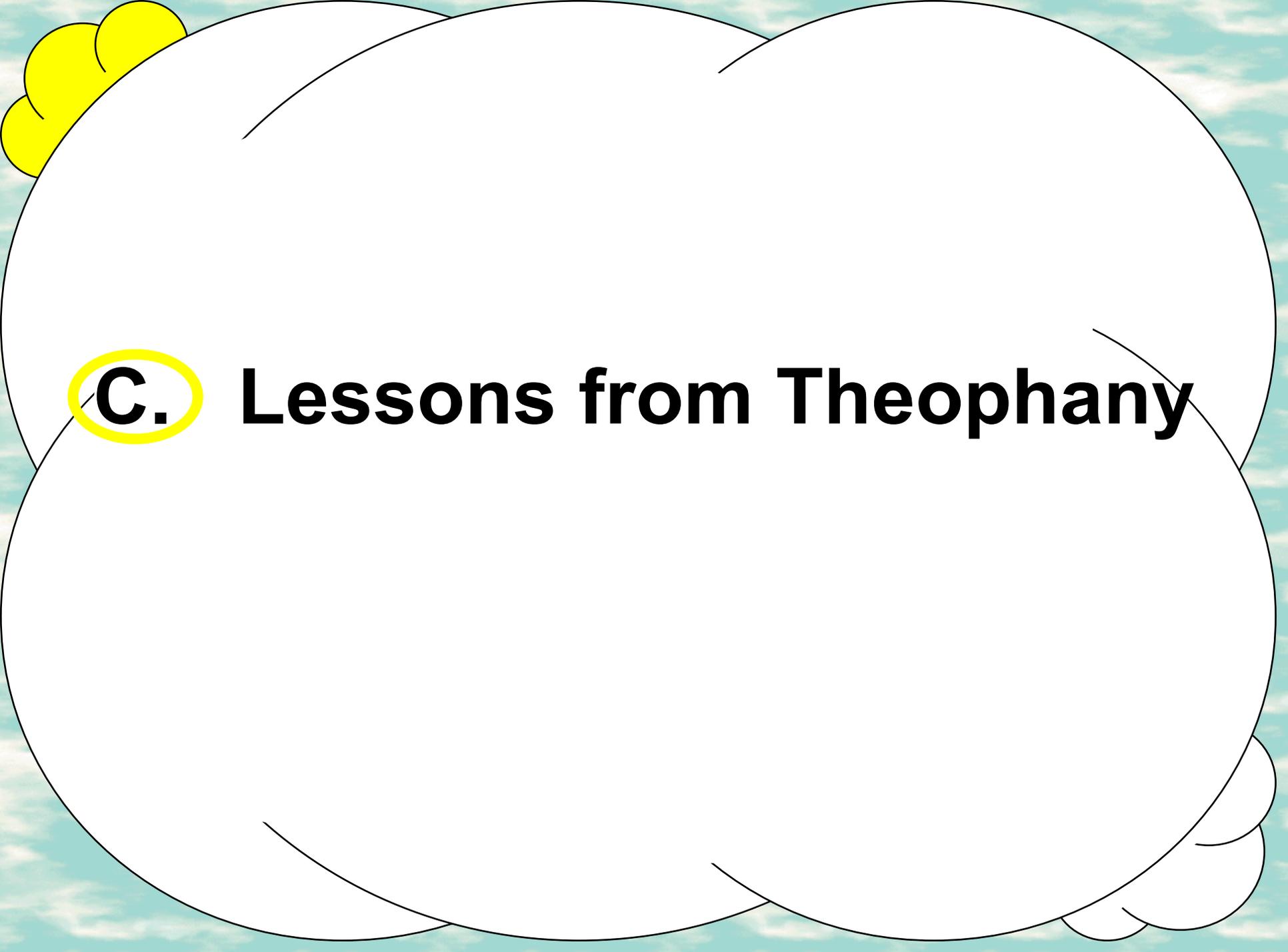


Holy
Spirit

Whole human
figure



Christ
Incarnate



C. Lessons from Theophany

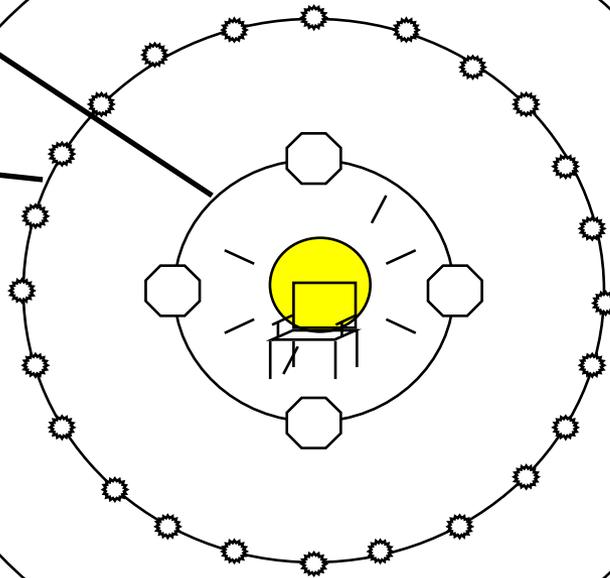
God Centered Universe

4 living creatures

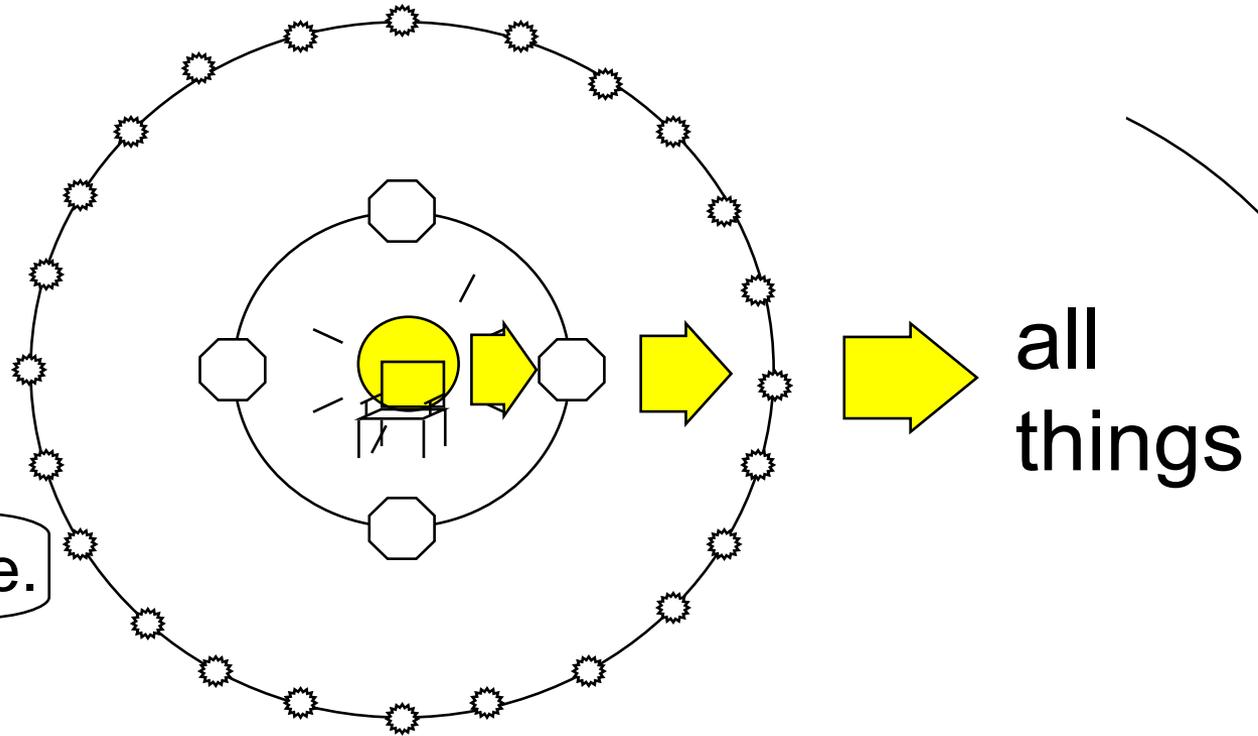
24 elders

myriads of angels

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



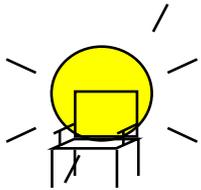
God's Glory in History



God's Glory Copied

reality

man-centered
thinking



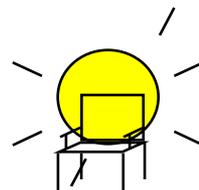
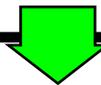
original
King



literal
human king



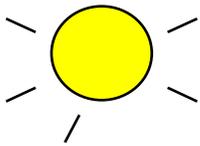
copy
king



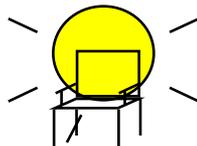
God as merely
metaphorical
King

God's Glory Reflected

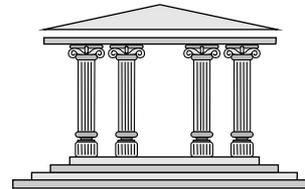
light



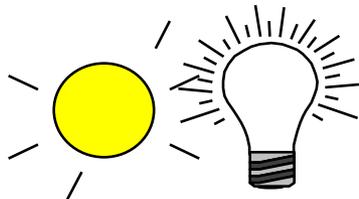
kingship



presence



beauty



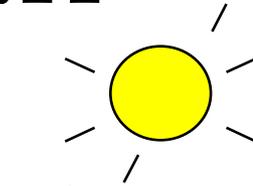
God's Glory Now

l In redemption, 5:2-6

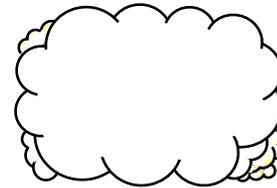


l In creation, 4:11

u Light



u Cloud



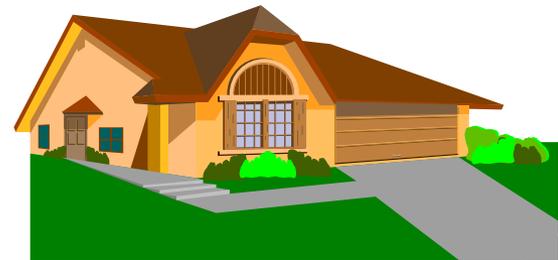
u Thunder



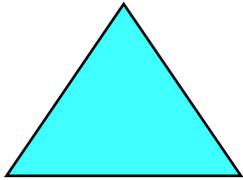
u Trees (life)



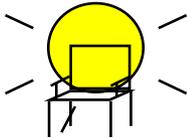
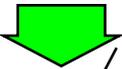
u Houses



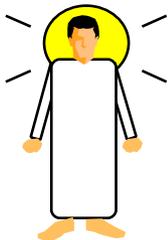
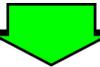
God's Mystery Reflected in Symbols



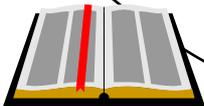
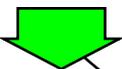
God's Trinitarian nature



God's appearing in Rev.



God's surroundings



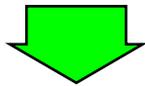
all of Revelation

Evangelism from Theophany

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

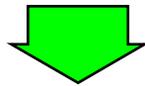
Worship from Theophany

Seeing God in majesty



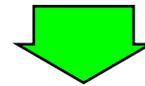
Praise

4:8



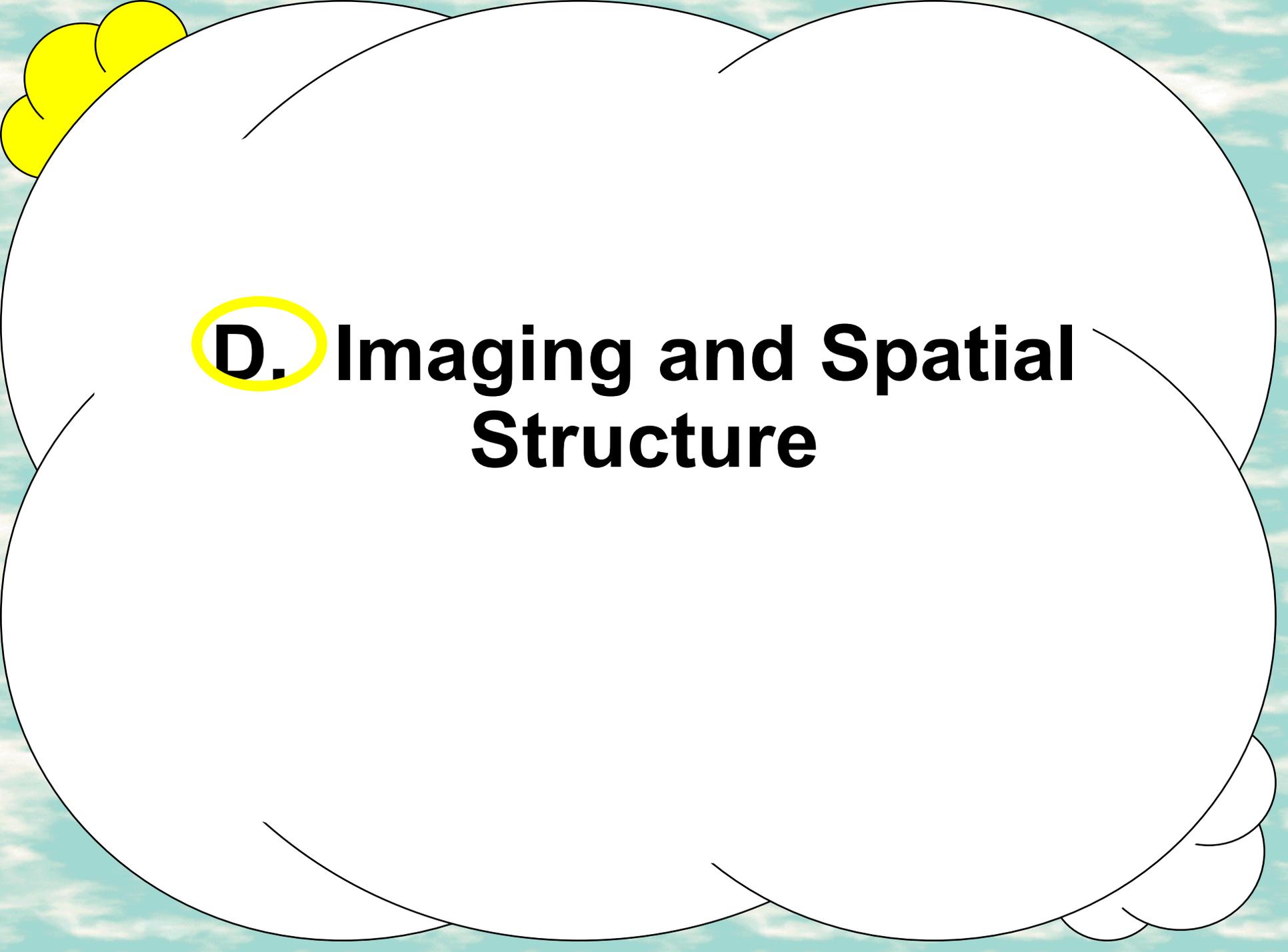
Awe

1:17



Imitation

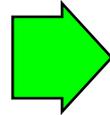
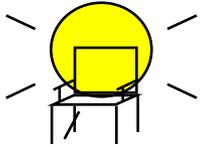
2 Cor. 3:18



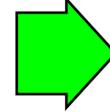
D. Imaging and Spatial Structure

Kingship Reflected

God



angelic
court



heaven
and earth

image

Adam

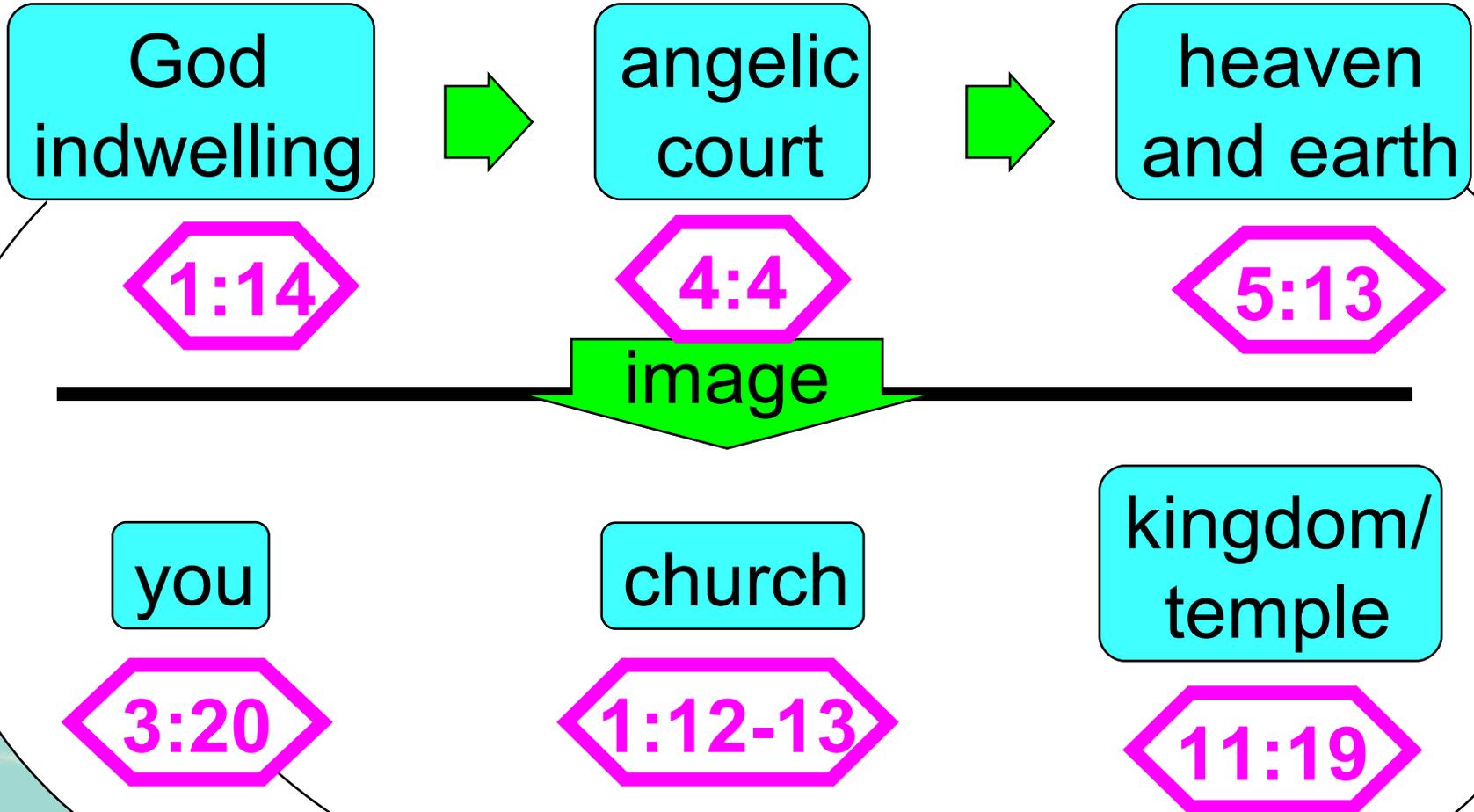


other
people

Eden

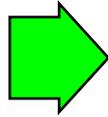
earth

Presence Reflected

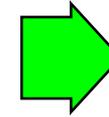


Beauty Reflected

God



angelic
court



heaven
and earth

Rev. 4:3;
splendor

Ezek. 1:16

Rev.
21:19-21

you

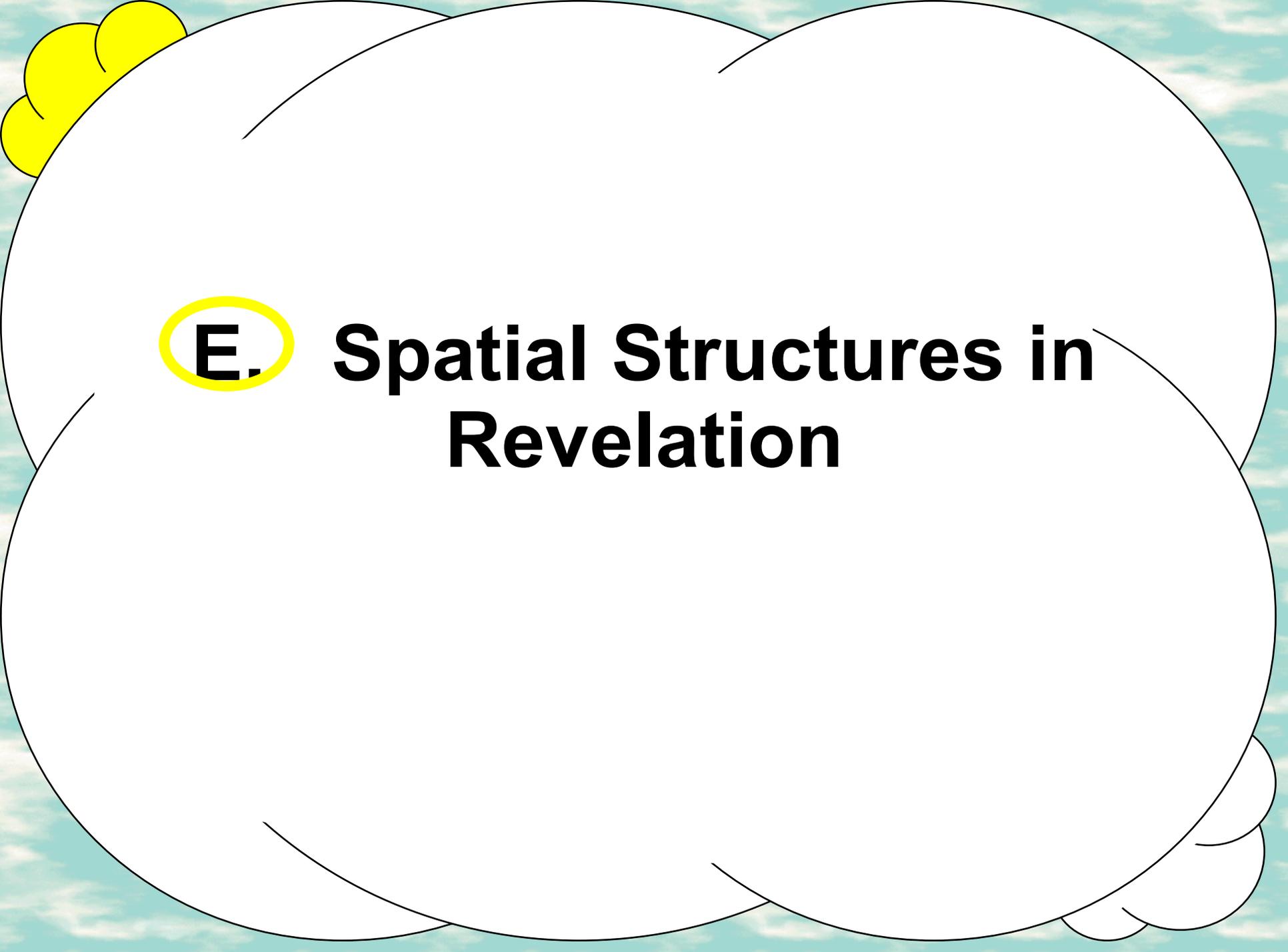
Exod.
28:15-21

church

Isa. 61:10;
62:3

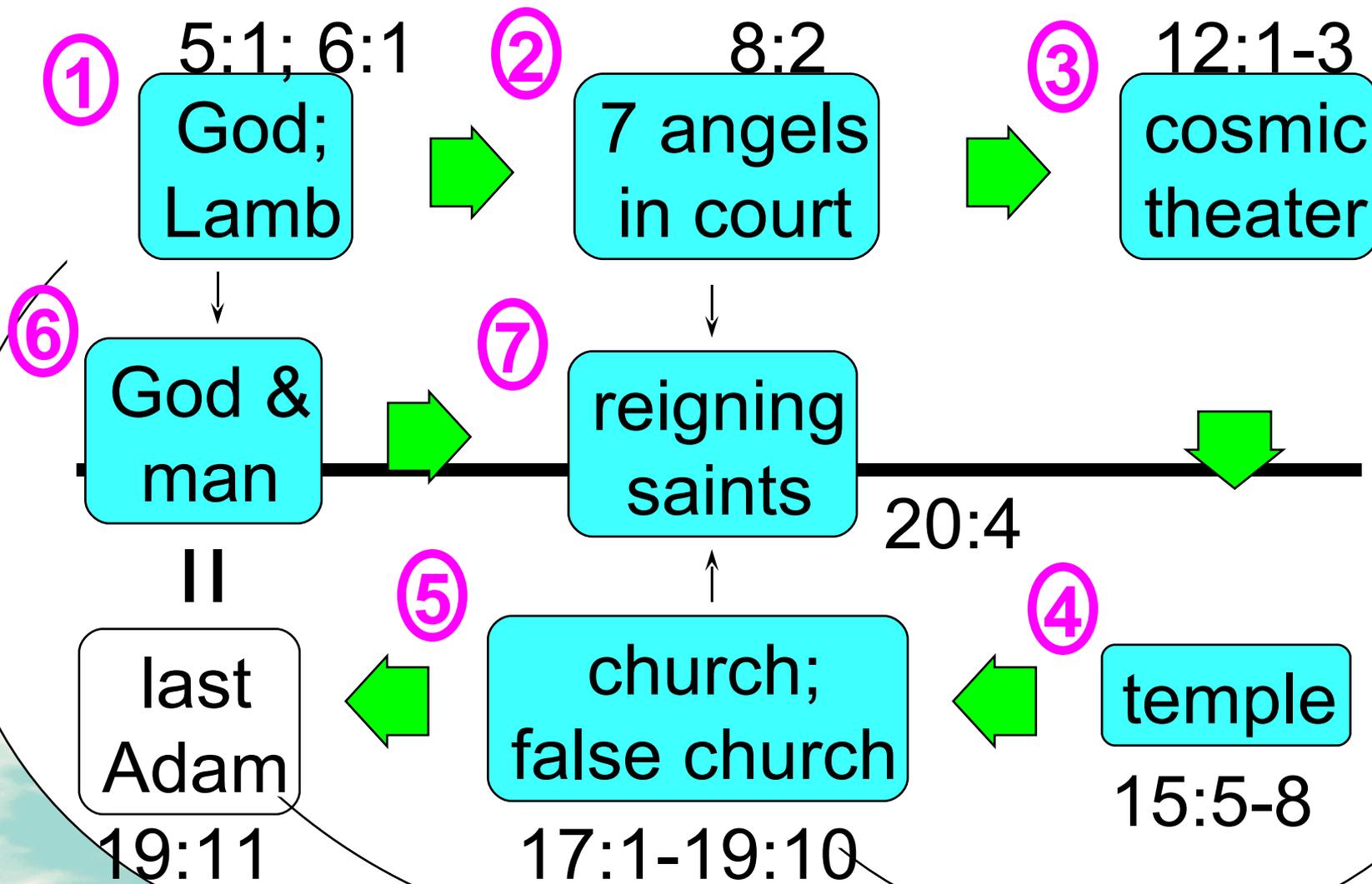
kingdom

Rev.
21:19-21

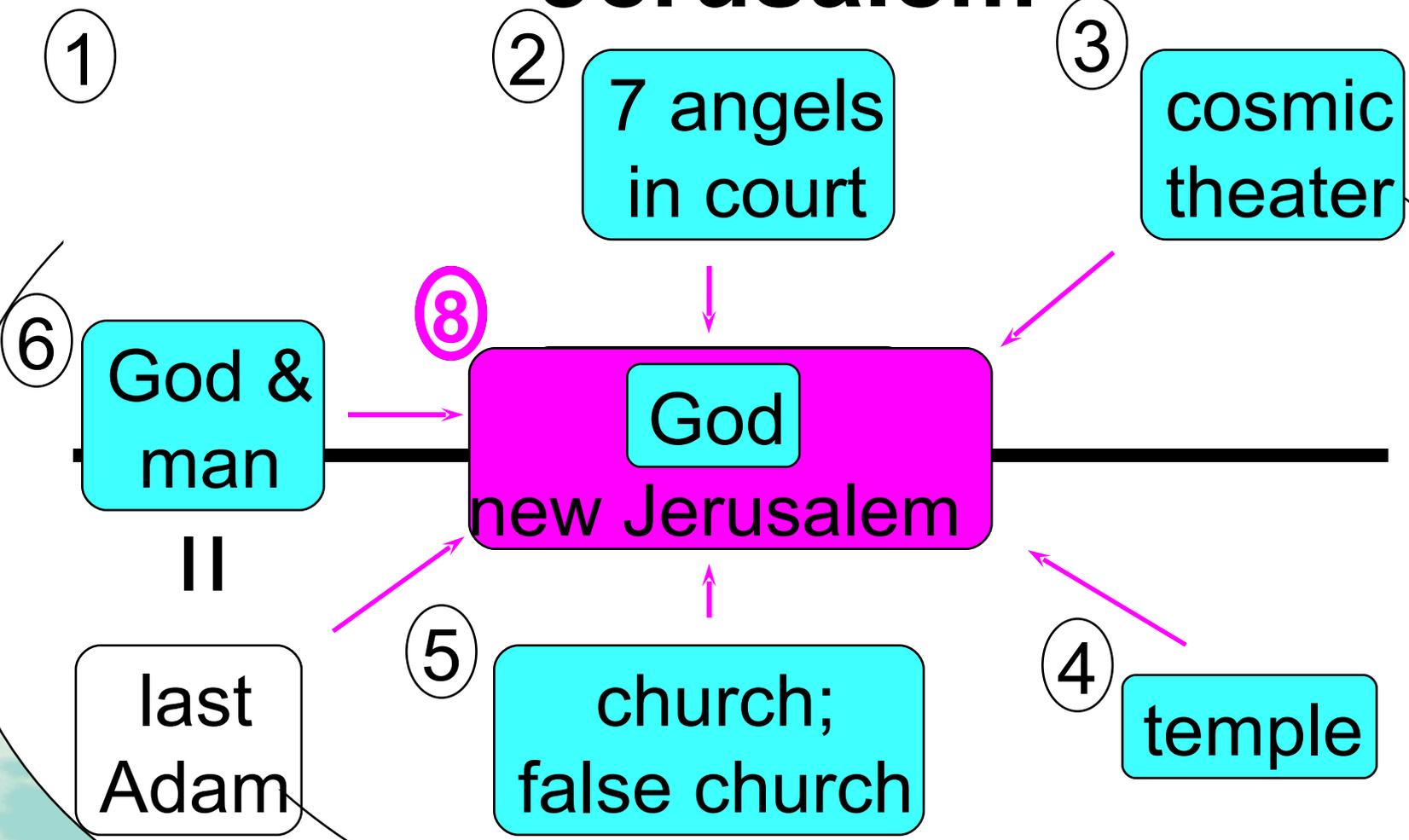


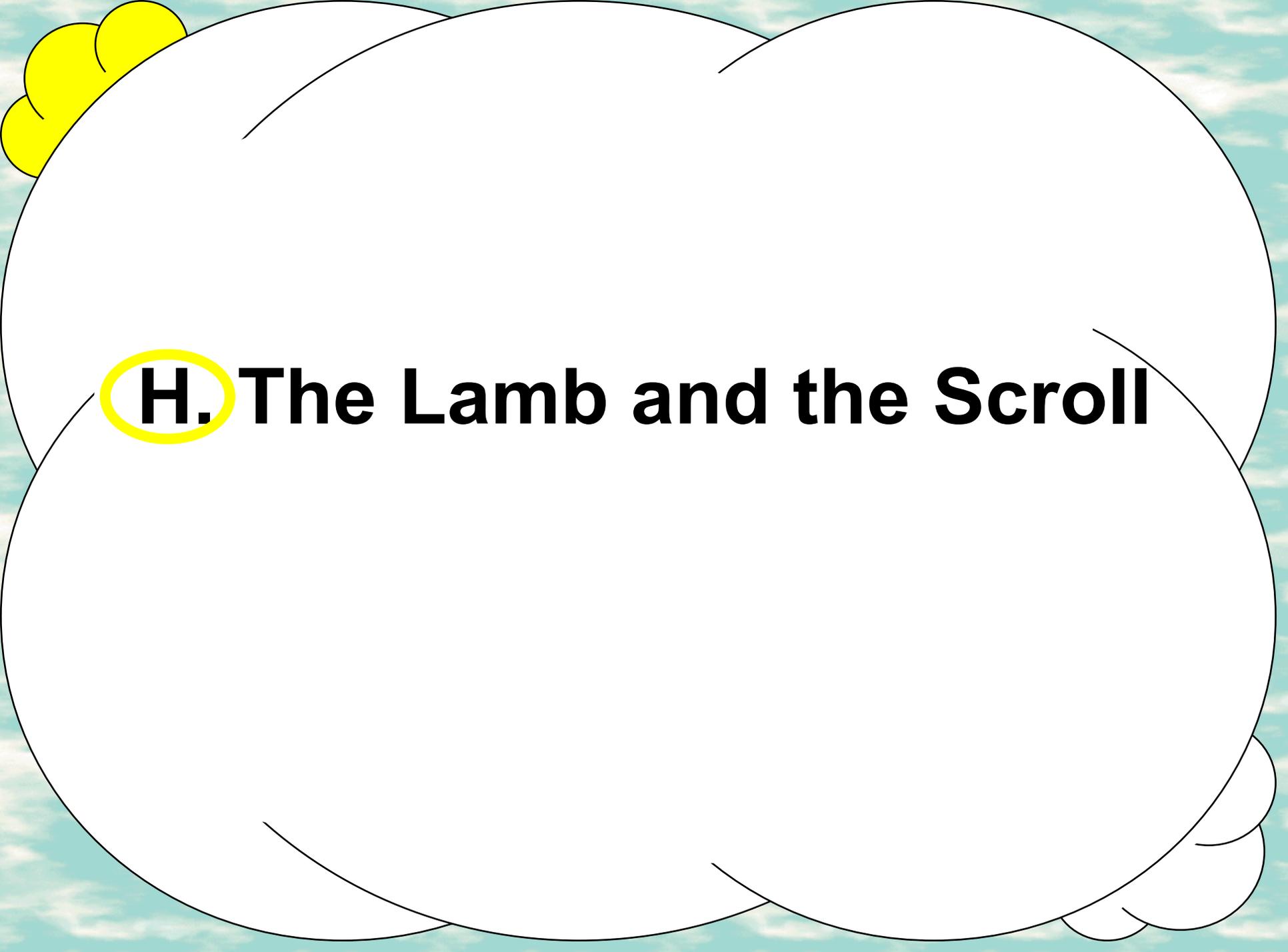
**E. Spatial Structures in
Revelation**

7 Cycles Follow Reflection

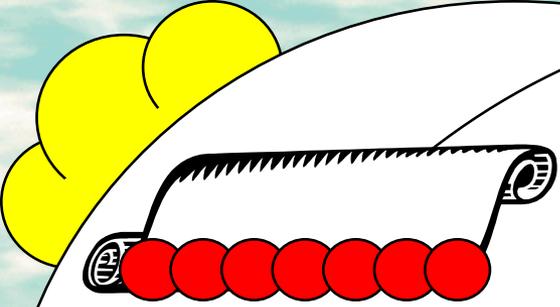


Final Reflection: New Jerusalem



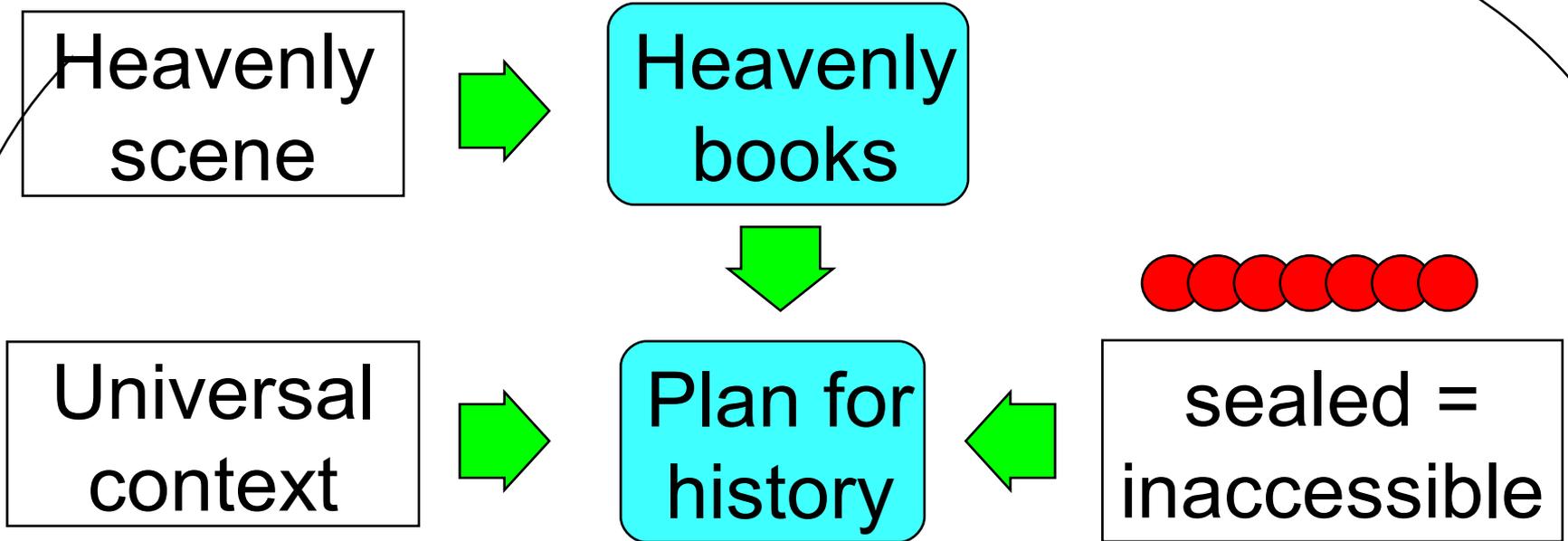


H. The Lamb and the Scroll



God's Scroll

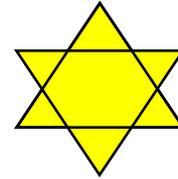
1 Heavenly books contain God's **plans**,
Dan. 10:21; 12:4, 9; (8:26)



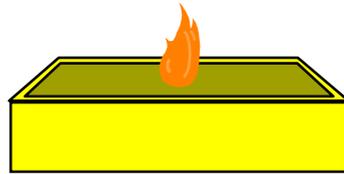
Who can bring God's plan to realization?

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

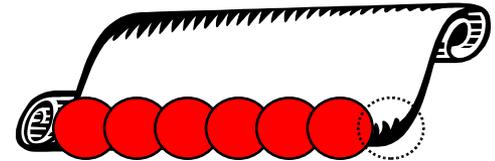
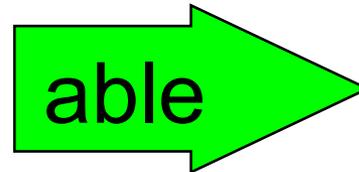
1 **Lion, Root of David**



1 **Lamb**



1 **Slain**



1 **With Spirit**

