

Understanding Revelation



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Understanding Revelation: Outline

- ◆ **A. Directions in Rev. 1:1-3**
- ◆ **B. Central theme of God's rule in Rev. 4**
- ◆ **C. Clarity of Revelation**
- ◆ **Sing Revelation**

A. Directions in Rev. 1:1-3

Revelation is a Letter

Modern style

“Dear Mary,
I am writing
...”

=

First century
Greek style

“John,
to the seven
churches ...” (1:4)

Revelation Includes an Introduction

Prologue
1:1-3

Letter
1:4-
.
.
.
22:21

Clues and Encouragements from the Prologue

- ◆ The books reveals (1:1)
- ◆ Jesus Christ is the key to understanding (1:1)
- ◆ God promises blessing for reading (1:3)

Revealing (1:1)

God's
plan



unveiling, disclosure

Christ knows
our need

show, not
keep in the dark

to his servants (you!)

made known

The revelation of
Jesus Christ,
which God gave
him to show to his
servants the things
that must soon
take place. He
made it known ...

God as Source (1:1)

God

exalted,
holy

merciful,
near

God's Message

◆ Exalted, deep
message

◆ Understandable
message

Jesus Christ as Key (1:1)

God

exalted,
holy

merciful,
near

through
Jesus Christ


God's Message

◆ Exalted, deep
message

◆ Understandable
message

Blessing for Reading (1:3)


“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it.”



- ◆ Explicit blessing for reading. Extra encouragement.
- ◆ “Keep” means it’s practical.
 - Strengthening the heart, not tickling the fancy.

Blessing for Reading (1:3)

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it.”



- ◆ The only book of the Bible with an explicit blessing for reading. Extra encouragement.
- ◆ “Keep” means it’s practical. Strengthening the heart, not tickling the fancy.

B. Central Theme of God's Rule in Rev. 4:1-11

Certain Future from God

“must” (1:1)



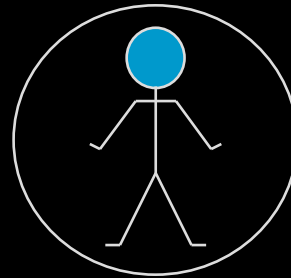
God controls the future



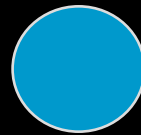
God is glorious King (4:1-11)

- ◆ **When God appears, you know that you live in a God-centered world.**

Greek Worldview

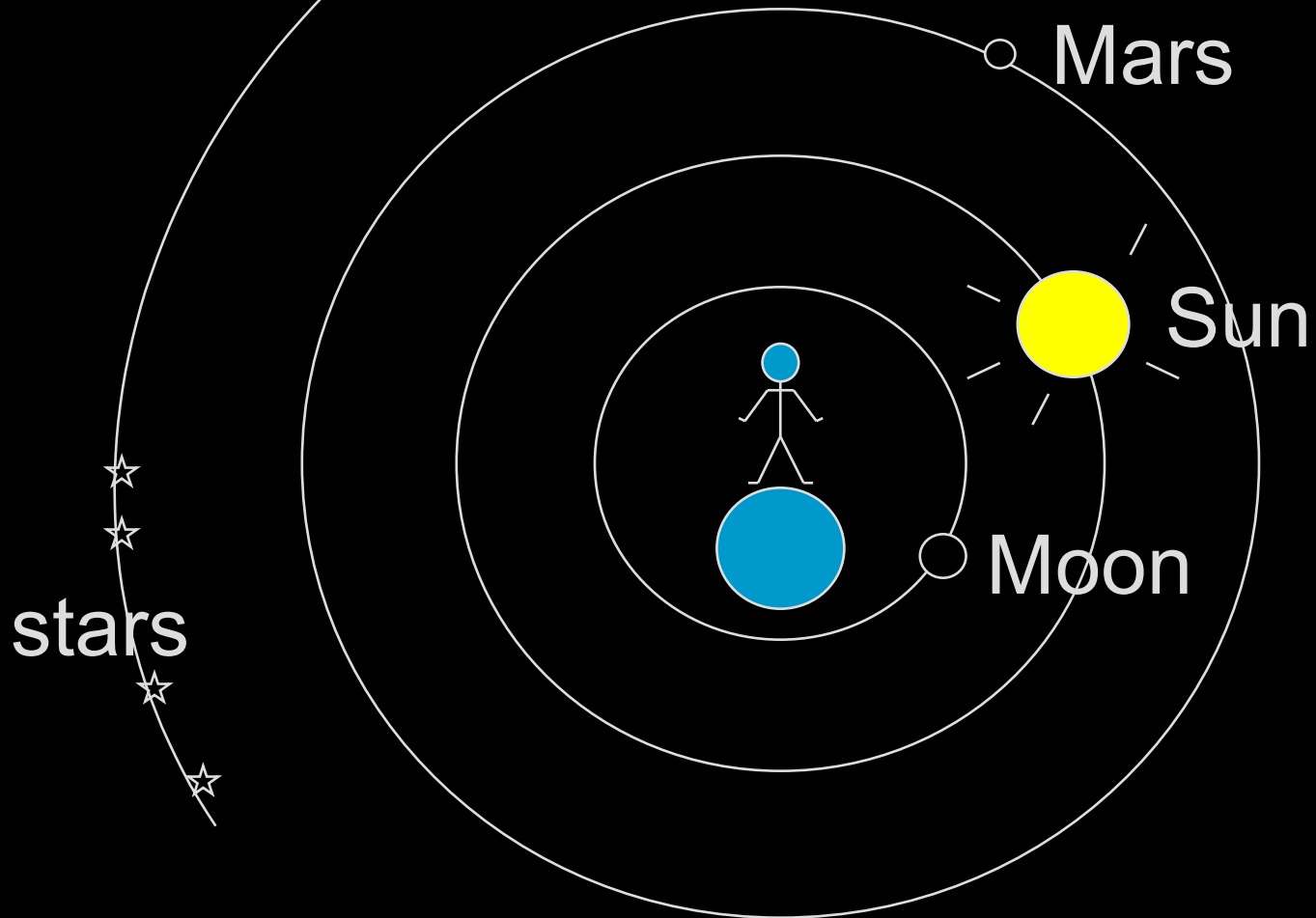


man

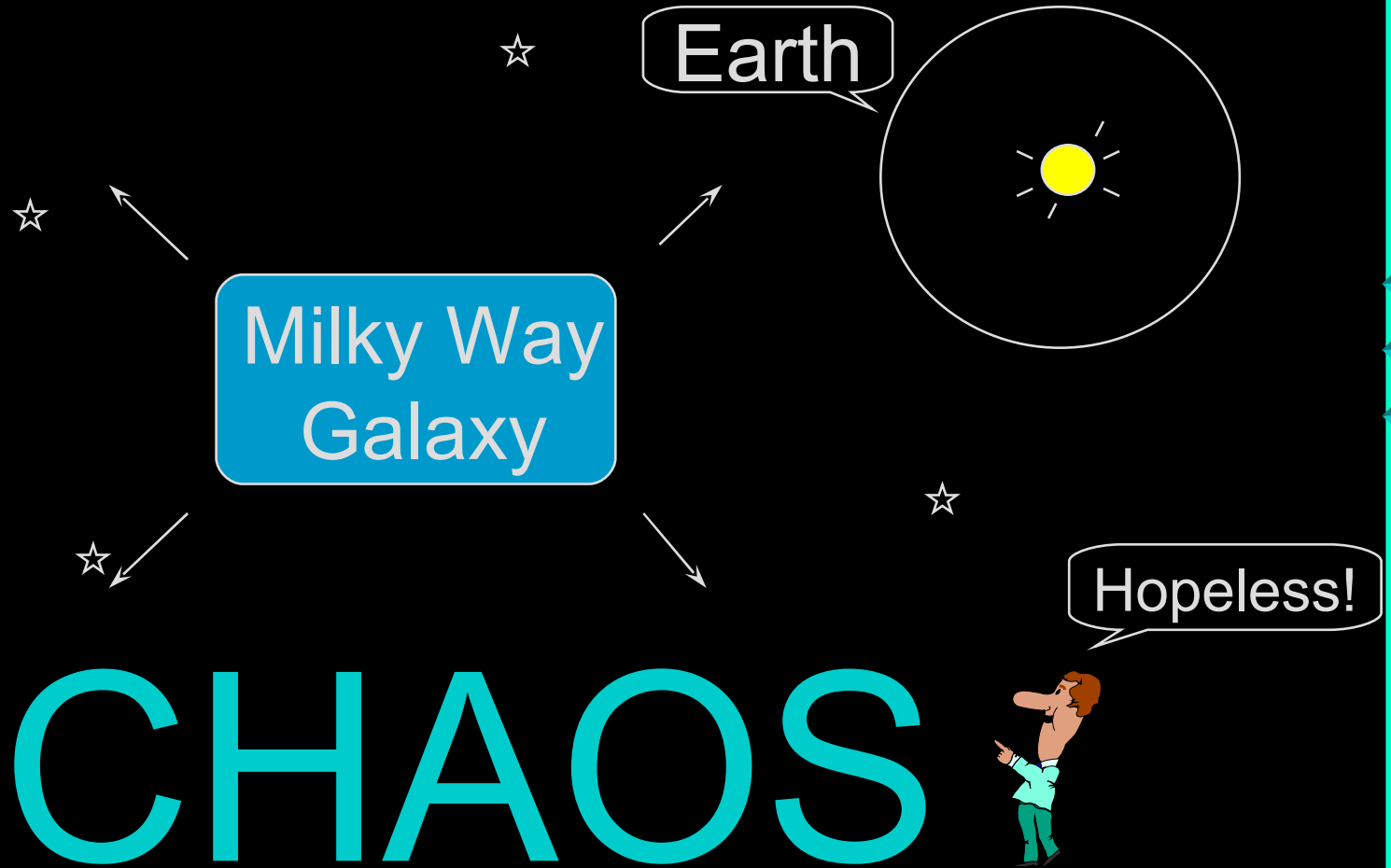


on earth

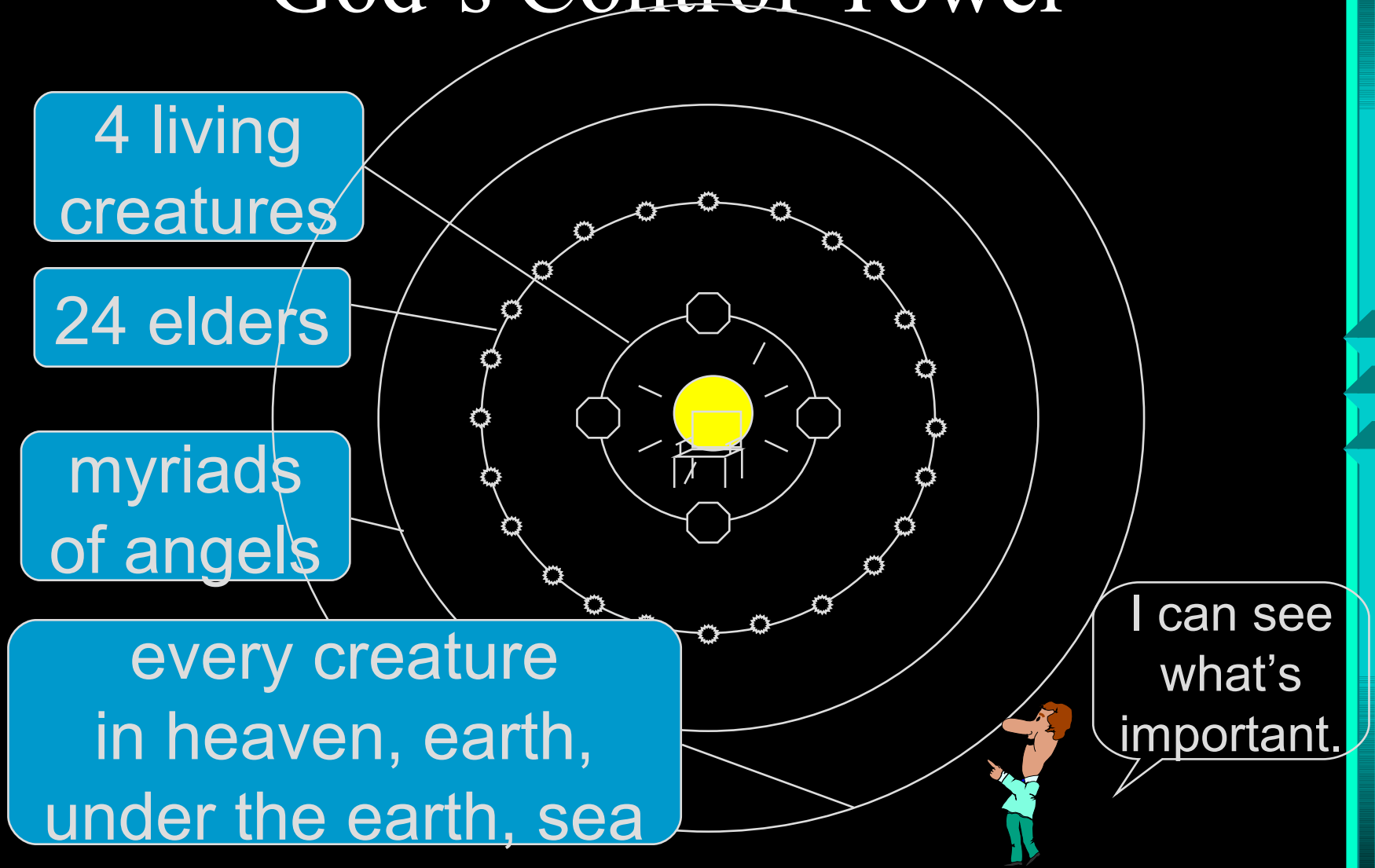
Ptolemaic Worldview



Modern Materialist Worldview



God's Control-Tower



“Blessed Are the Eyes That See”

- ◆ Vision of God's victory
- ◆ 1 John 5:4-5; Rev. 17:14; Rev. 12:10

1 John 5:4-5

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Revelation 17:14

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

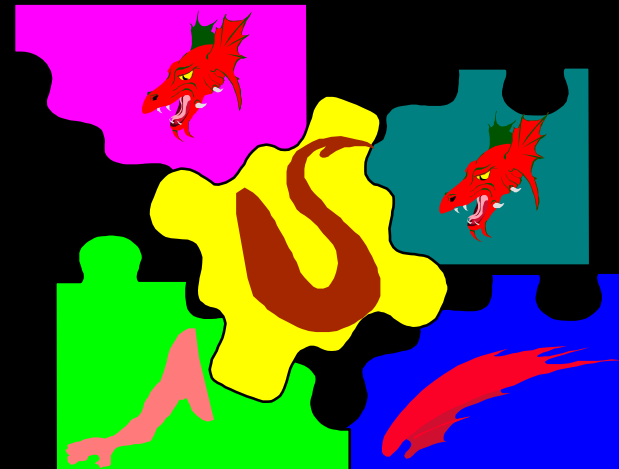
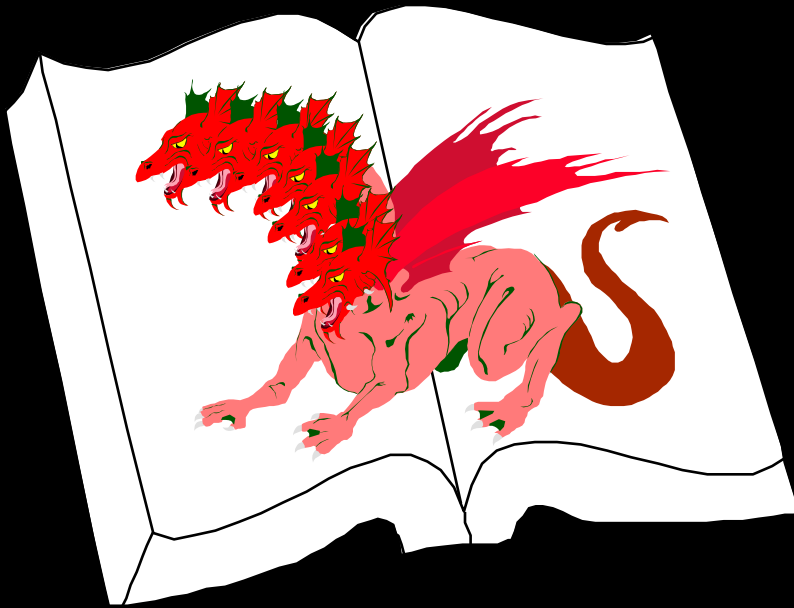
“Blessed Are the Eyes That See”

- ◆ Vision of God’s victory
- ◆ 1 John 5:4-5; Rev. 17:14; Rev. 12:10
- ◆ God rules history, and will bring it to its consummation in Christ.
- ◆ You can understand.

C. Clarity of Revelation

It's Simple

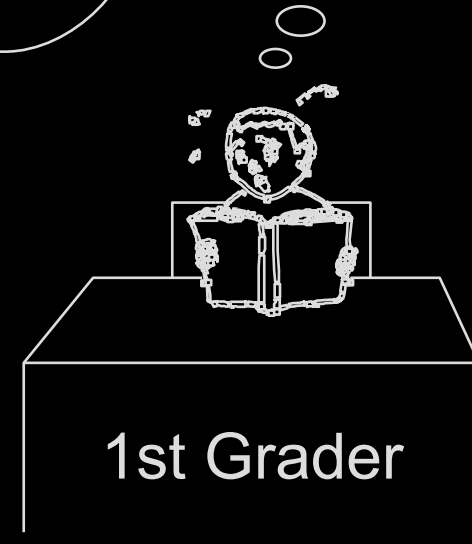
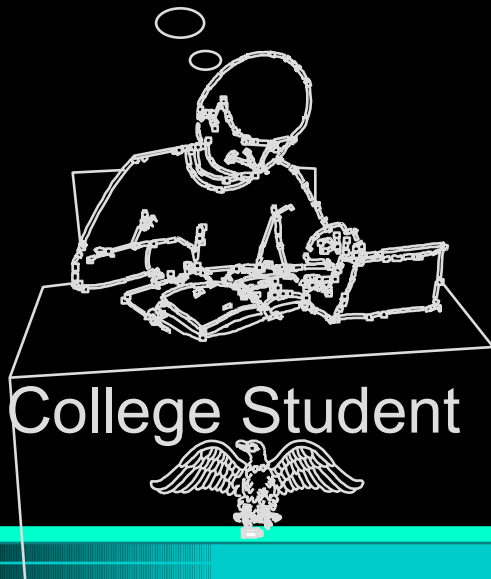
- ◆ A picture book, not a puzzle book.
- ◆ For children also.



See the Whole

Hmm.... Let's see now. What does the "locust" of Rev. 9 mean? The "horse" part must refer to one of the months of the Chinese calendar. "Crowns of gold" must refer to Babylonian kings. "Women's hair" surely suggests that it is women who will bring about the final downfall of mankind. "Scorpion tails" ... hmm... Now let me see.

Awesome!
It's a **monster!**



The Majesty of Christ

- ◆ Christ is our friend (John 15:14-15).
- ◆ He is also our majestic, awesome king!

Not a tame lion!



Christ Appearing

- ◆ He is awesome judge.
- ◆ Background in Dan. 7:9-10; 7:13-14; 10:5-6; Ezek. 1.
- ◆ He is redeemer, Rev. 1:17-18.

D. Sing Revelation

Song from Rev. 19:6-7

**Hallelujah! For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns. (2X)**

**Let us rejoice and be glad and give
the glory unto him.**

**Hallelujah! For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.**

Song from Rev. 4:11

**Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Thou art worthy, O Lord.**

**Thou art worthy to receive glory,
glory, and honor, and power.**

**For Thou hast created--
hast all things created,
For Thou hast created all things.**

**And for Thy pleasure they are created;
Thou art worthy, O Lord.**

Song from Rev. 5:9-14

**Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Thou art worthy, O Lamb.**

**Thou art worthy To receive glory
And power at the Father's right hand.**

**For Thou hast redeemed us,
Hast ransomed and cleansed us,
By thy blood setting us free;**

**In white robes arrayed us, Kings and priests
made us, And we are reigning in Thee.**