

A stage with red curtains and spotlights. The stage is set with a wooden floor and a white archway. The red curtains are drawn back, revealing the stage. There are four spotlights on the floor, casting a warm glow. The text "Watching Revelation" and "Apocalyptic Literature" is centered on the stage.

Watching Revelation

Apocalyptic Literature

Do I Really Need to Bother with Revelation?

- God thought we needed it
- Rev 1:3 – The book is a blessing
- A message of hope and encouragement
- God promises the overthrow of evil and final victory for the righteous



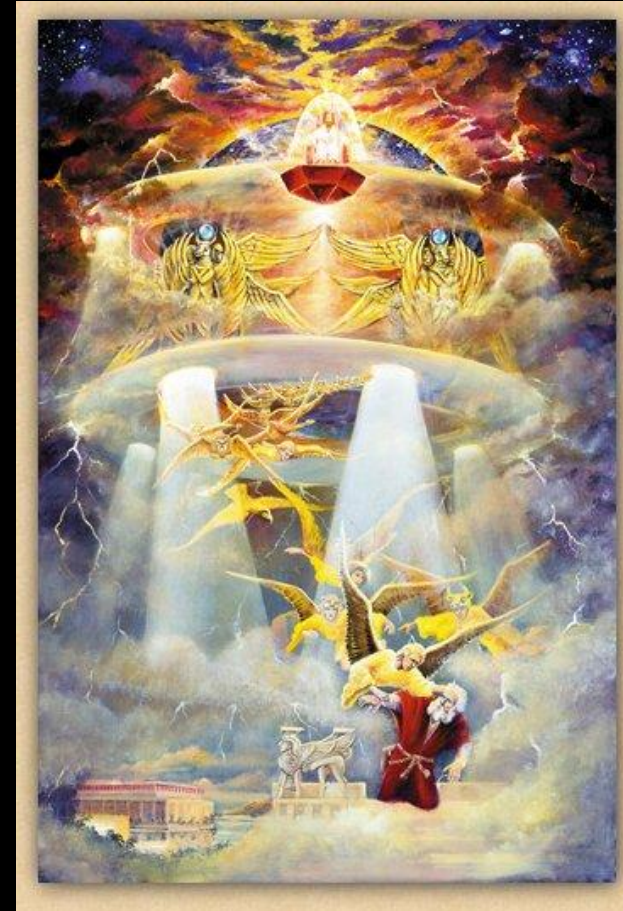
Why Is Revelation So Hard?

- Apocalyptic Style
- *Apokalupsis* = an unveiling (Rev. 1:1)
- “The title implies the purpose of the writer was to make his message increasingly vivid by the “unveiling” through signs and symbols” (Robert Harkrider)
- Distinct from parables, but requires a similar effort to understand

Apocalyptic Books in the Bible

- Daniel
- Ezekiel
- Zechariah
- Revelation

Note: Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah were all fulfilled as they were prophesied - reinforcement



Apocalyptic Literature

- Symbolism used to introduce a concept
- Example – Throne scenes (Ezek. 1, Isa. 6, Rev. 4)
- Communicated in a vision
- Often an angel is present to **interpret** the vision or dream – the angel is a “tour guide”
- Angel explains the extraordinary things the writer is seeing



Why Did God Use Apocalyptic Literature?

- To conceal a message that could be considered treason (?)
- To explain the spiritual realm to mortals (e.g., throne scenes)
- To acknowledge that the enemies of God's people can be scary
- To describe the intervention of God in a way we can picture
- To assure us that God will prevail

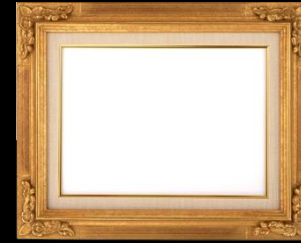
Answers Big Questions

- Is my faith worth the suffering I have to endure?
- Is there any hope for the future?
- Will God intervene?



Three Suggestions for Apocalyptic Literature

1. Picture – read, visualize You can't skip the picture and get the message.



2. Principle – what is the point of the vision?



3. Practice –application for the immediate audience (e.g., the seven churches of Asia), then the abiding application

