

REVELATION

THE HEAVENLY

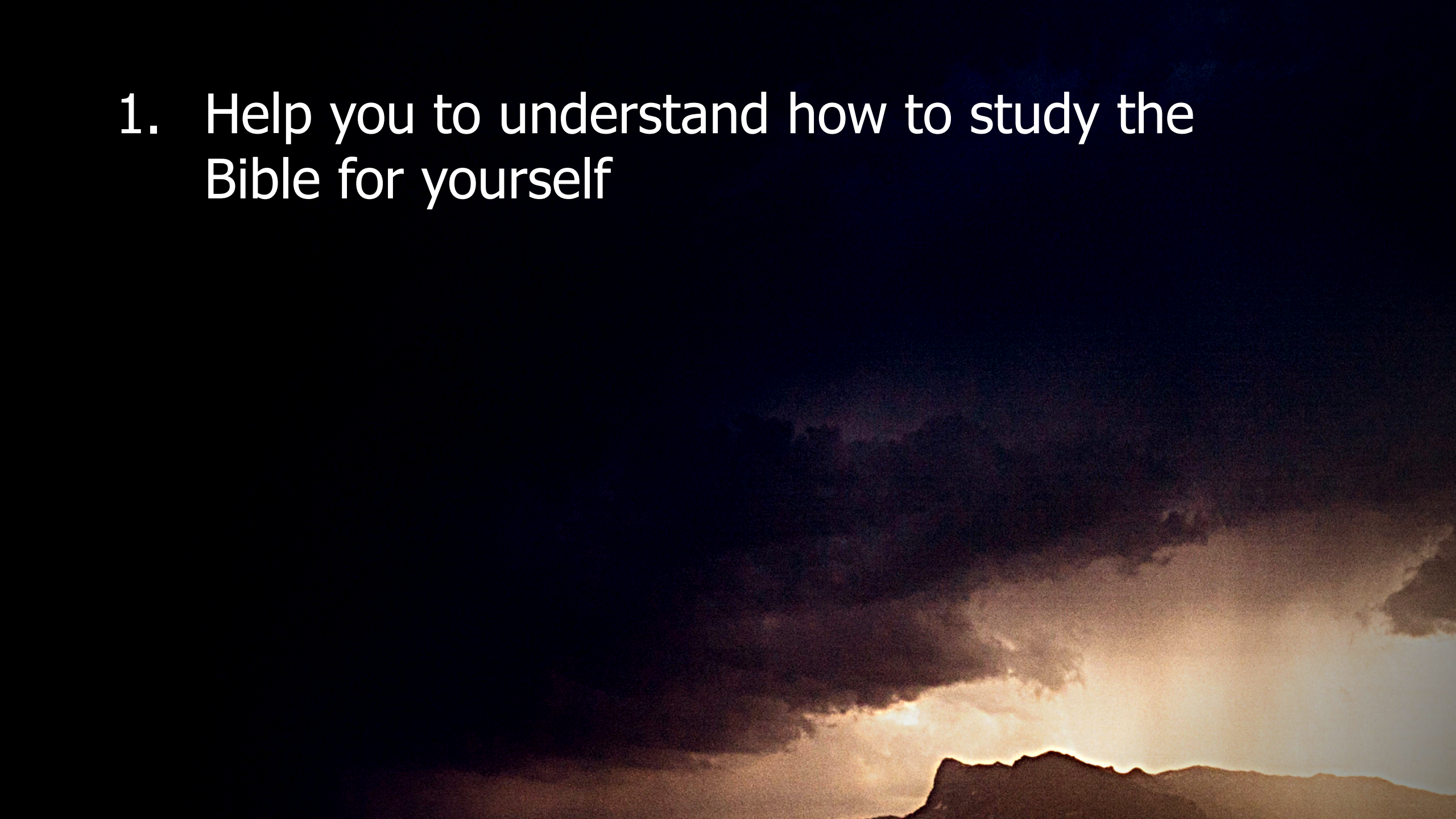
THRONE ROOM

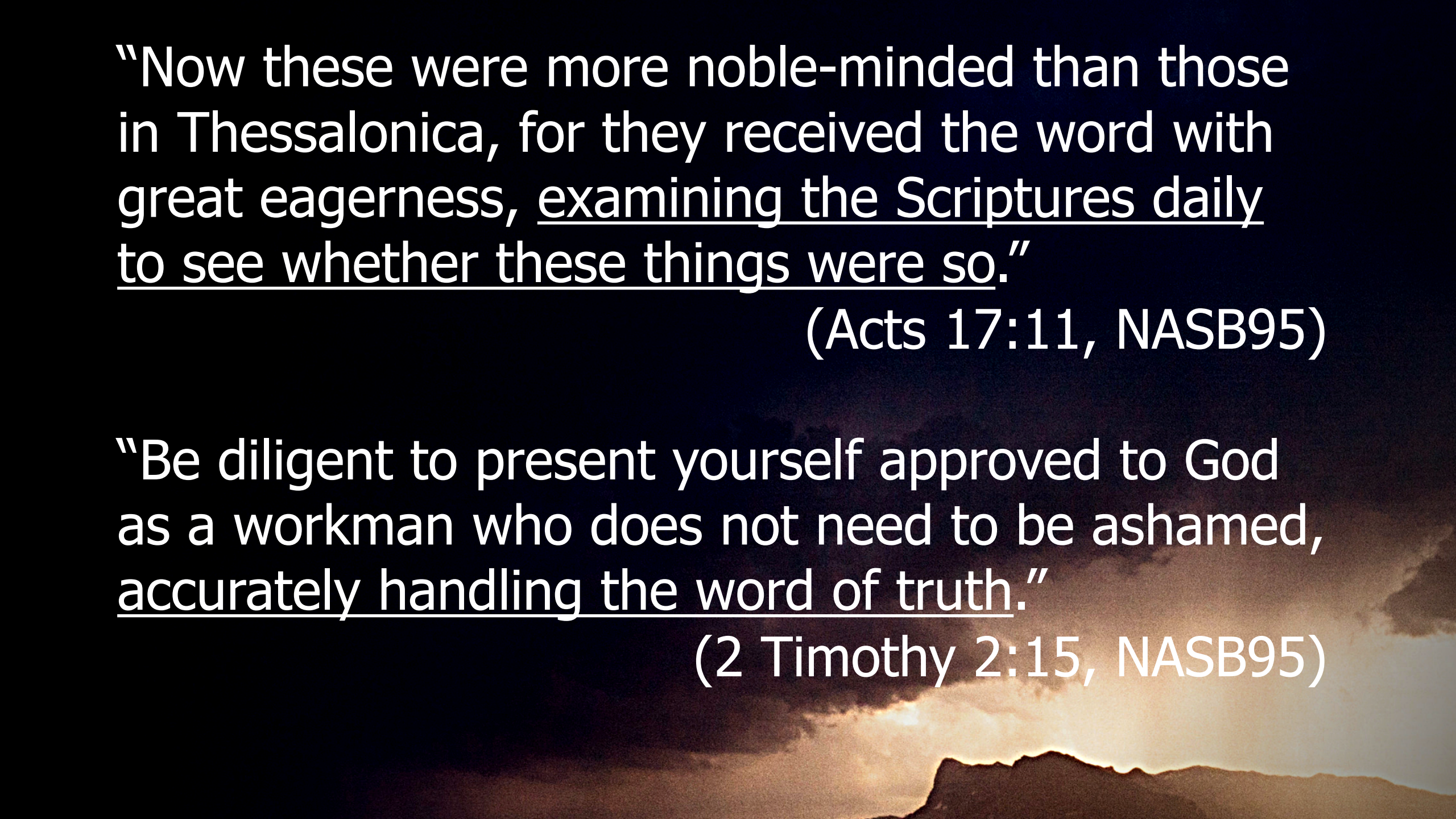
REV. 4:1-11



first evangelical
free church

1. Help you to understand how to study the Bible for yourself





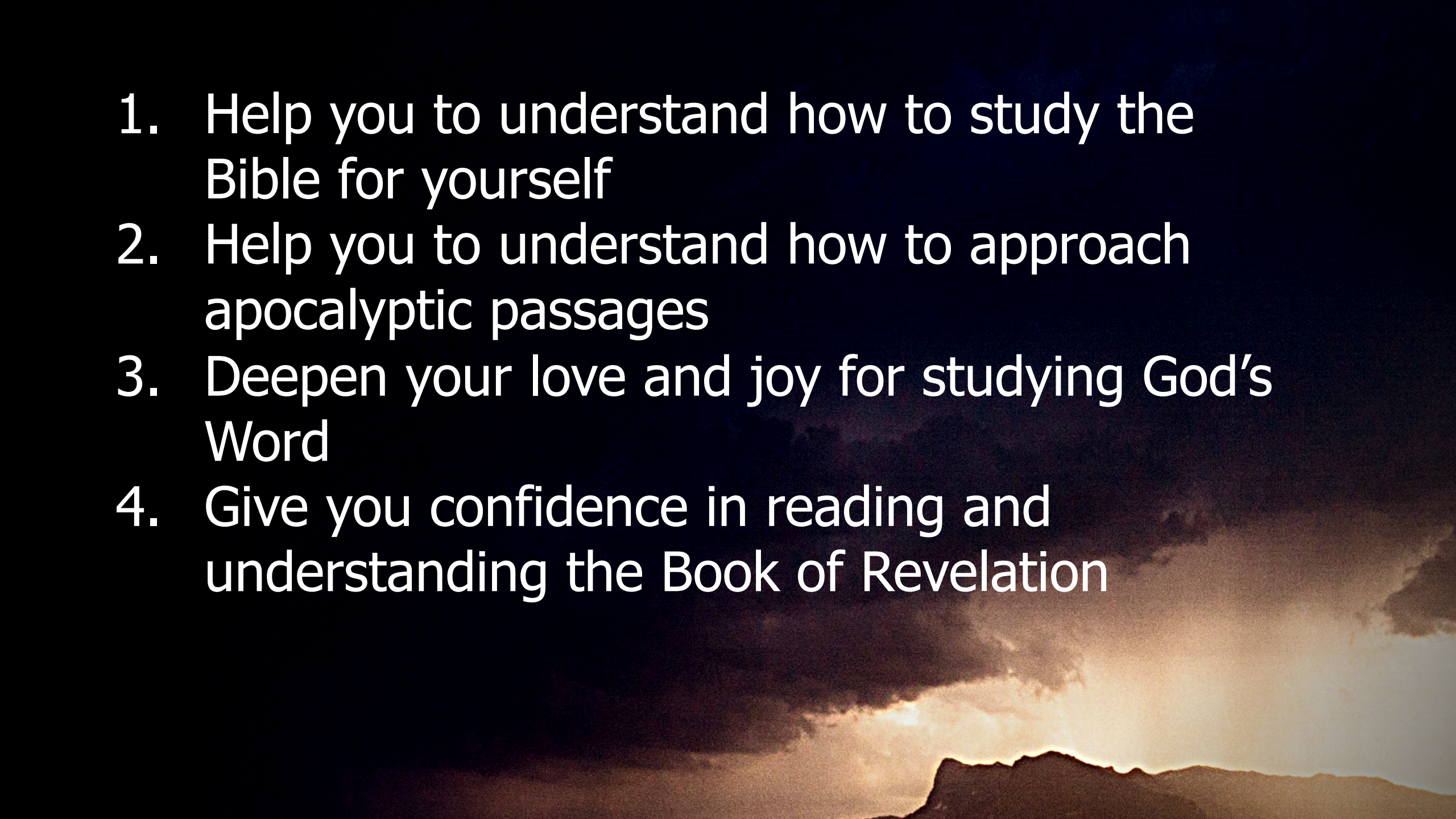
“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

(Acts 17:11, NASB95)

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

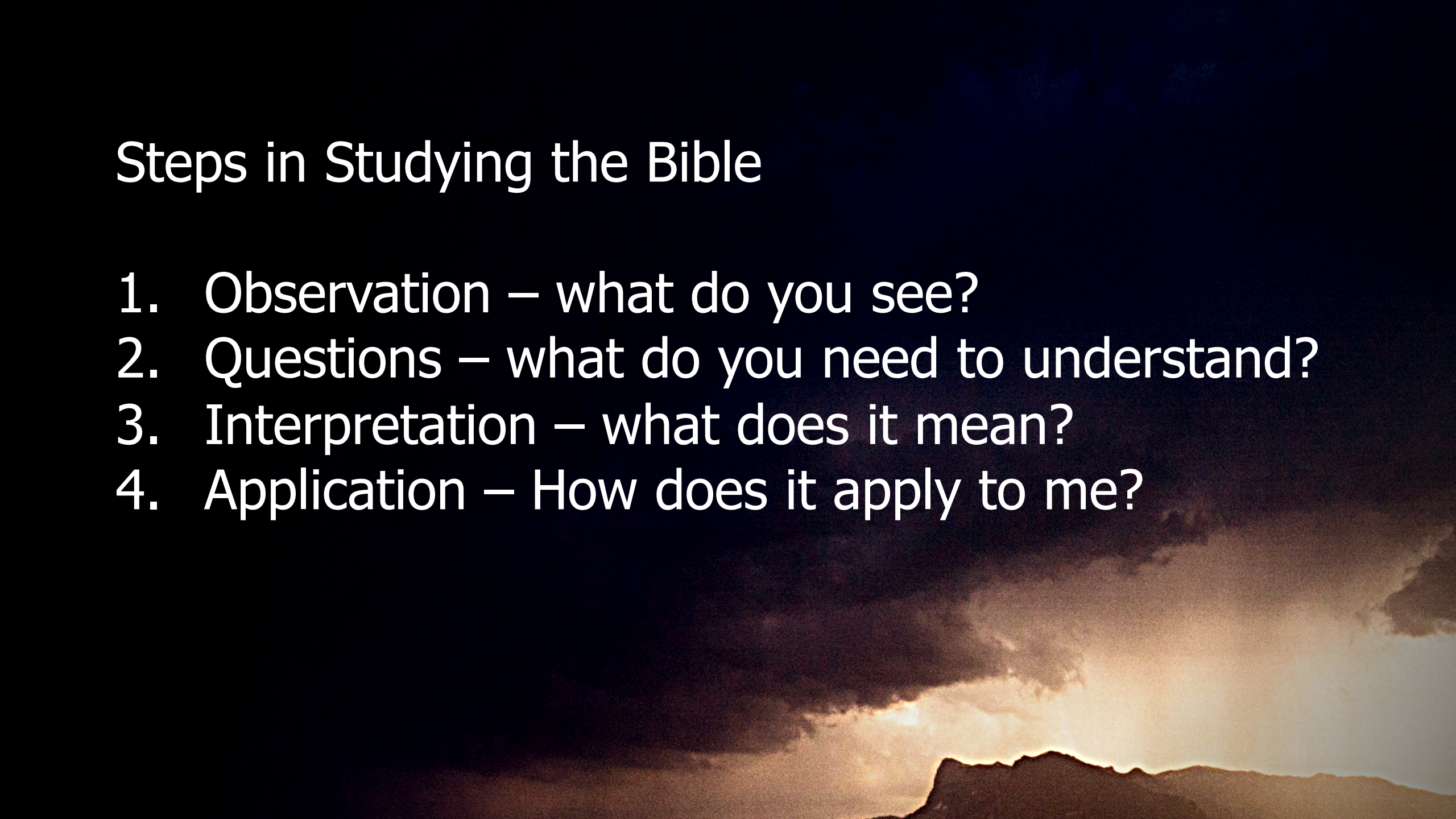
(2 Timothy 2:15, NASB95)

1. Help you to understand how to study the Bible for yourself
2. Help you to understand how to approach apocalyptic passages
3. Deepen your love and joy for studying God's Word
4. Give you confidence in reading and understanding the Book of Revelation



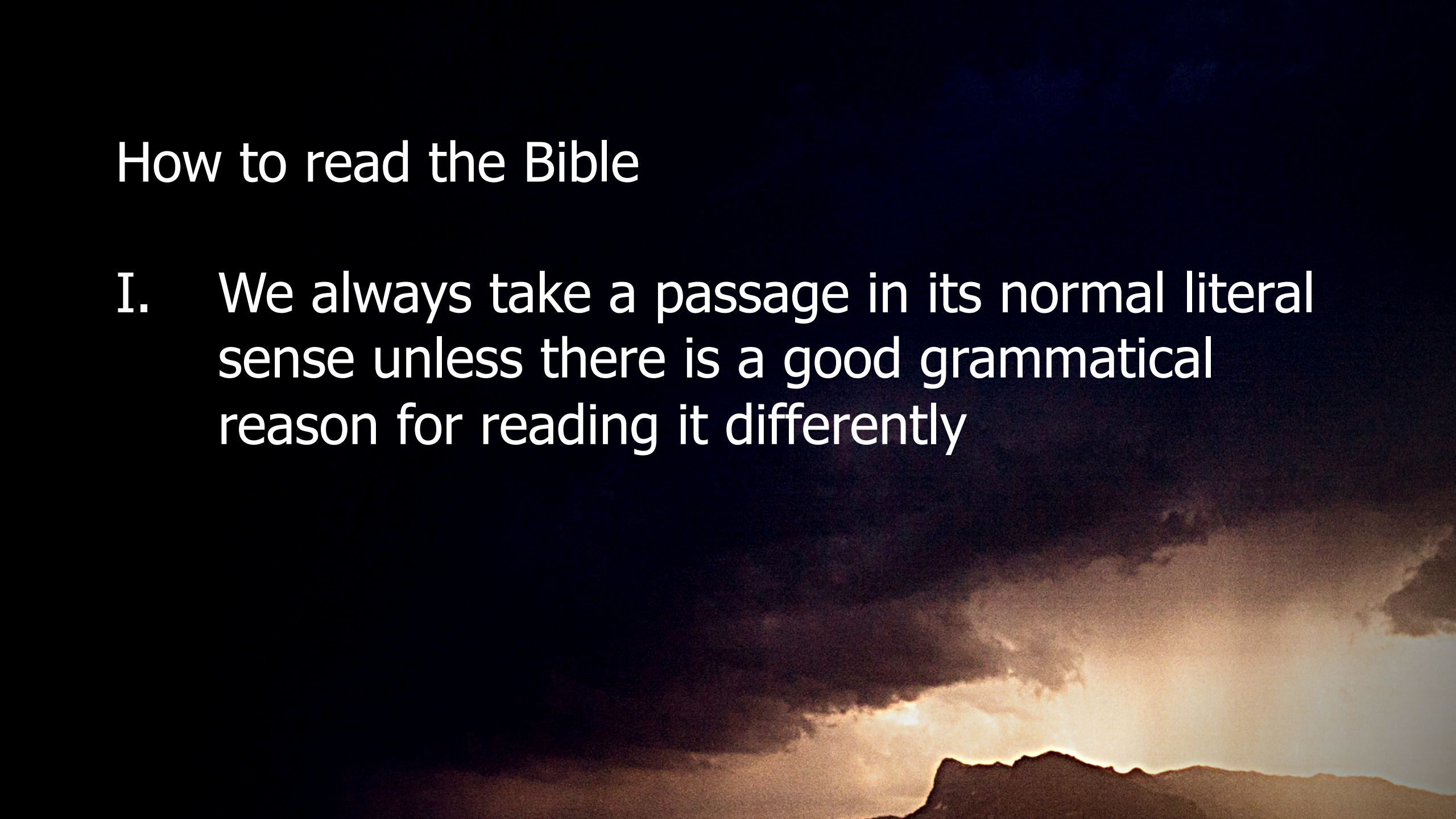
Steps in Studying the Bible

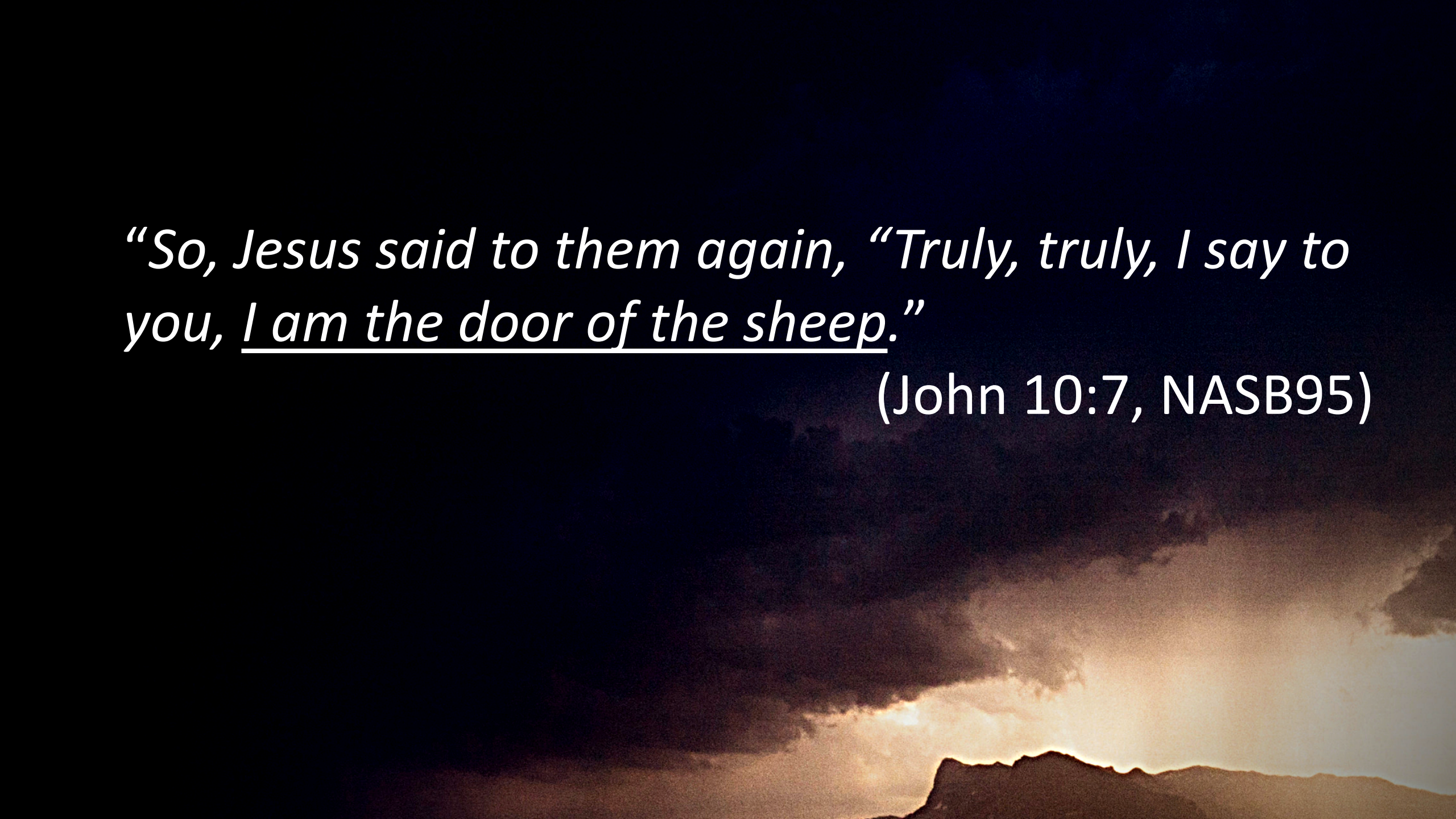
1. Observation – what do you see?
2. Questions – what do you need to understand?
3. Interpretation – what does it mean?
4. Application – How does it apply to me?



How to read the Bible

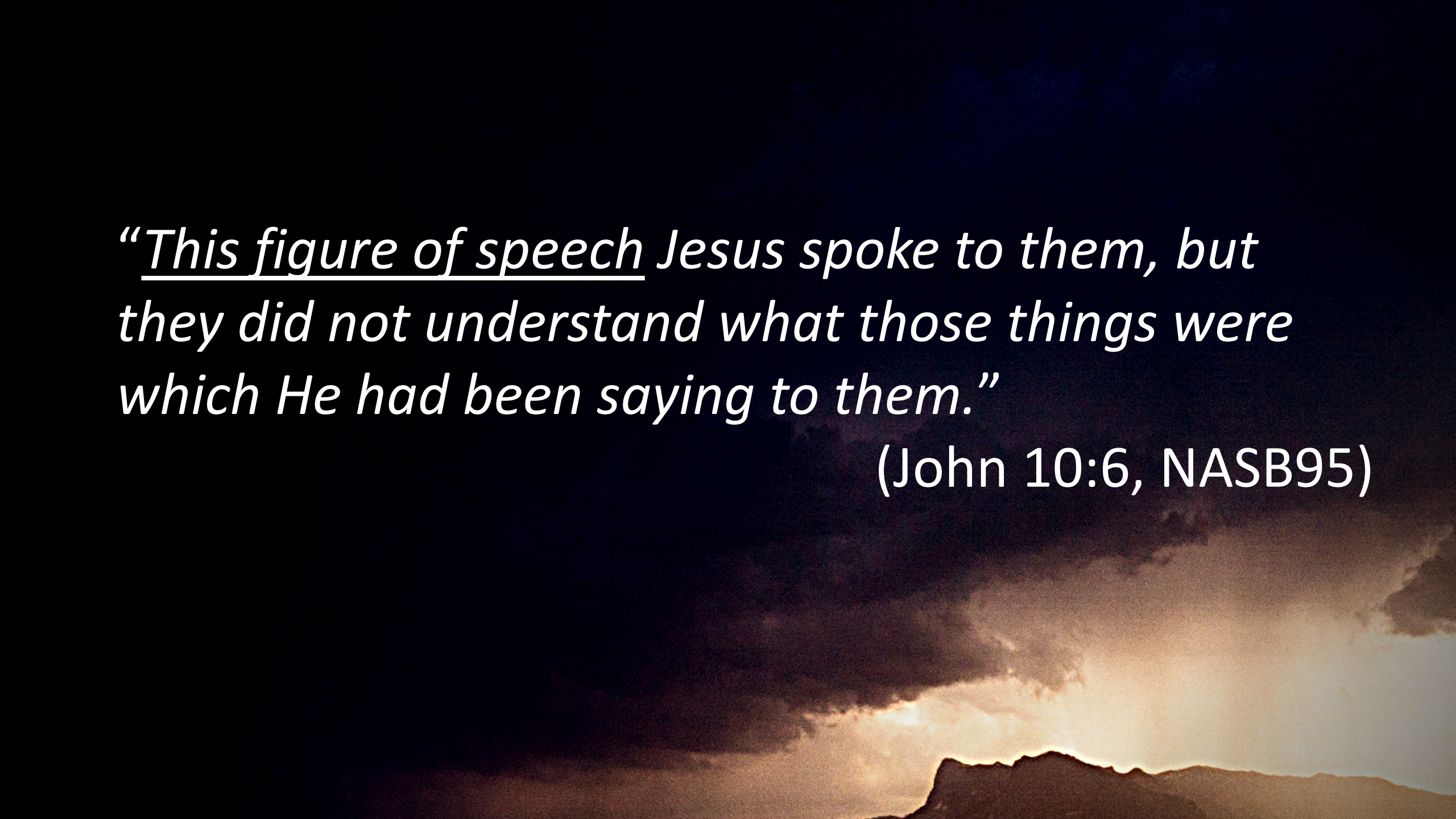
- I. We always take a passage in its normal literal sense unless there is a good grammatical reason for reading it differently





“So, Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”

(John 10:7, NASB95)



"This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them."

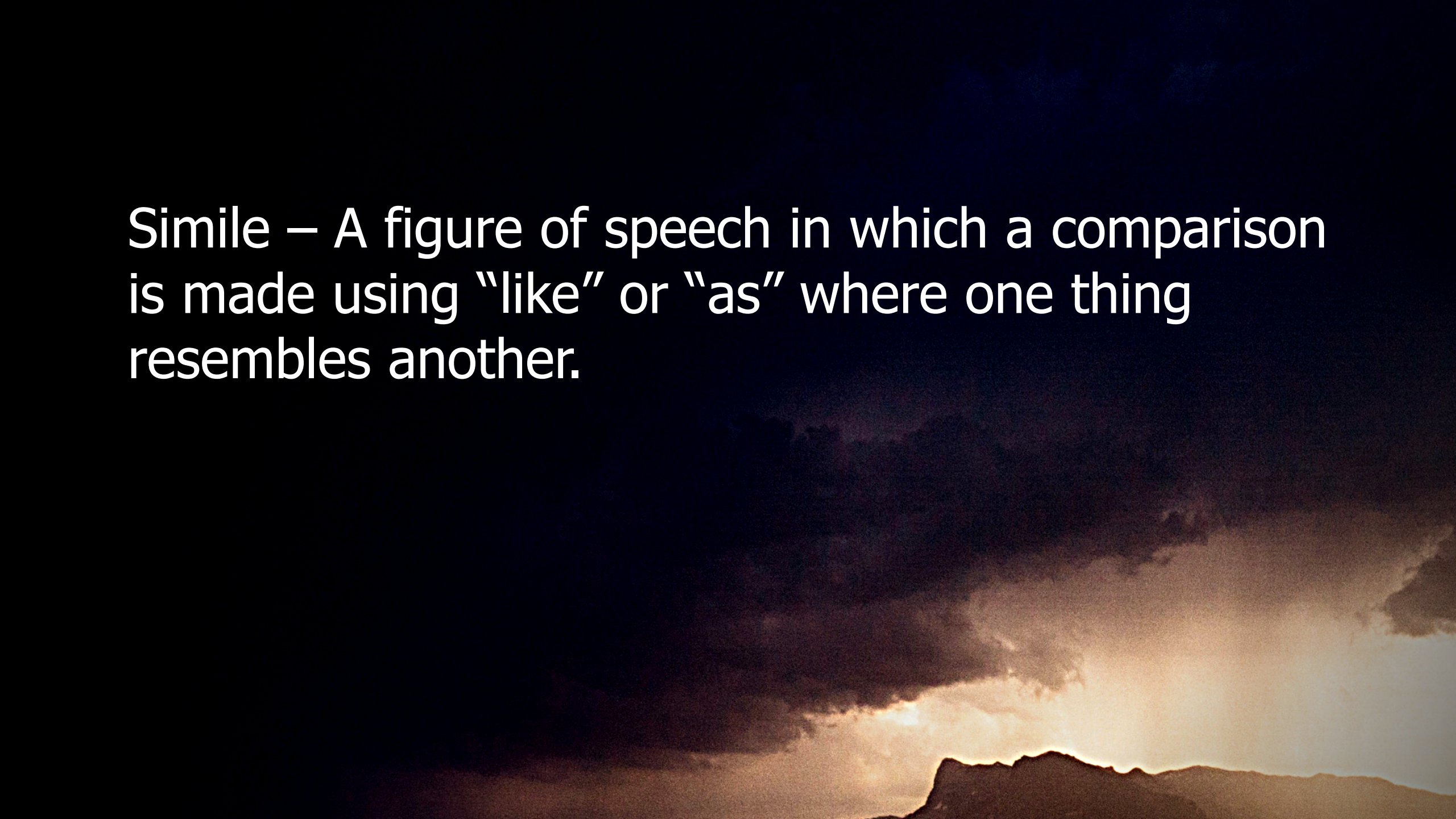
(John 10:6, NASB95)

How to read the Bible

II. Revelation is apocalyptic/prophetic literature that uses figurative language

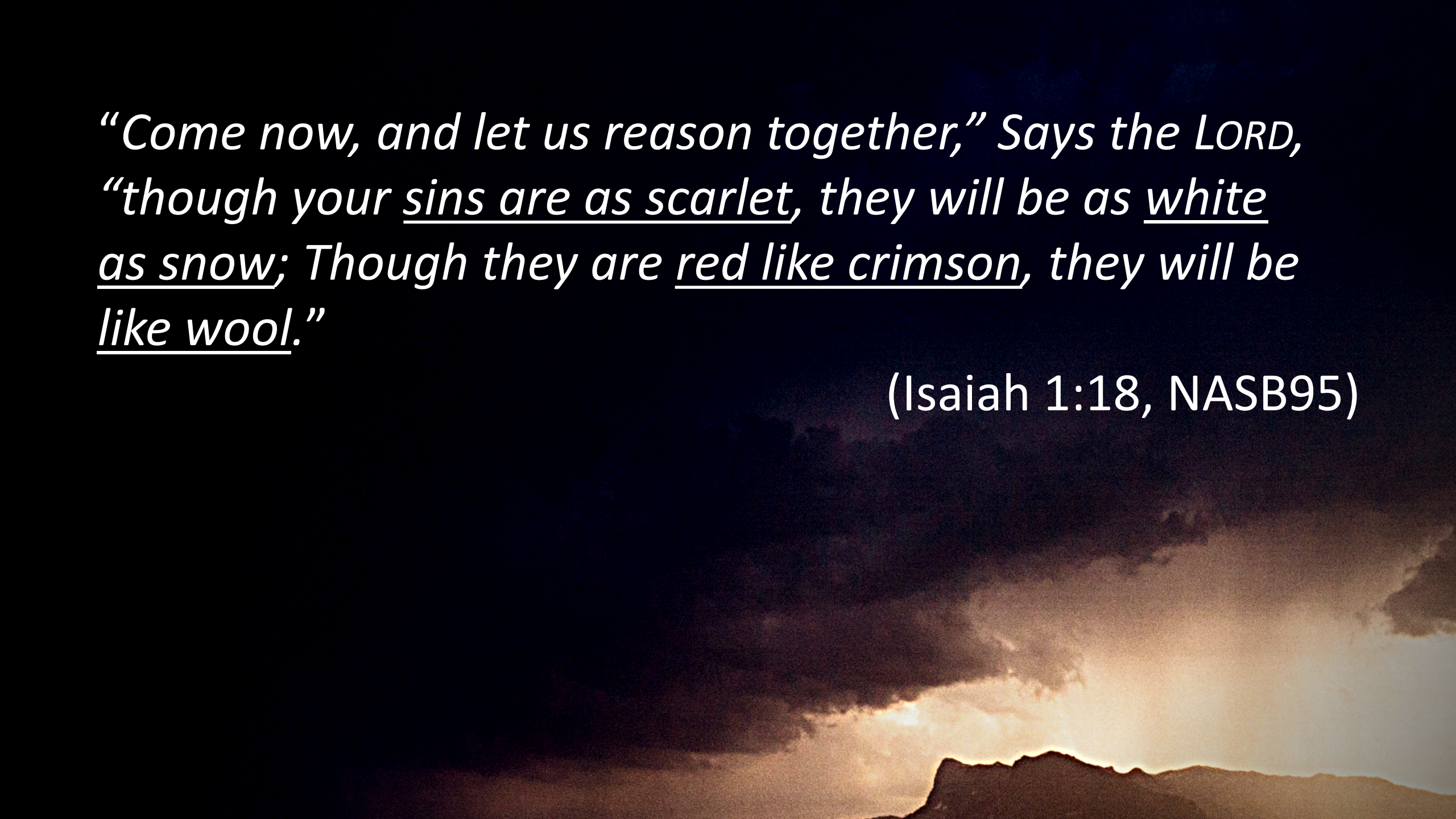


Simile – A figure of speech in which a comparison is made using “like” or “as” where one thing resembles another.



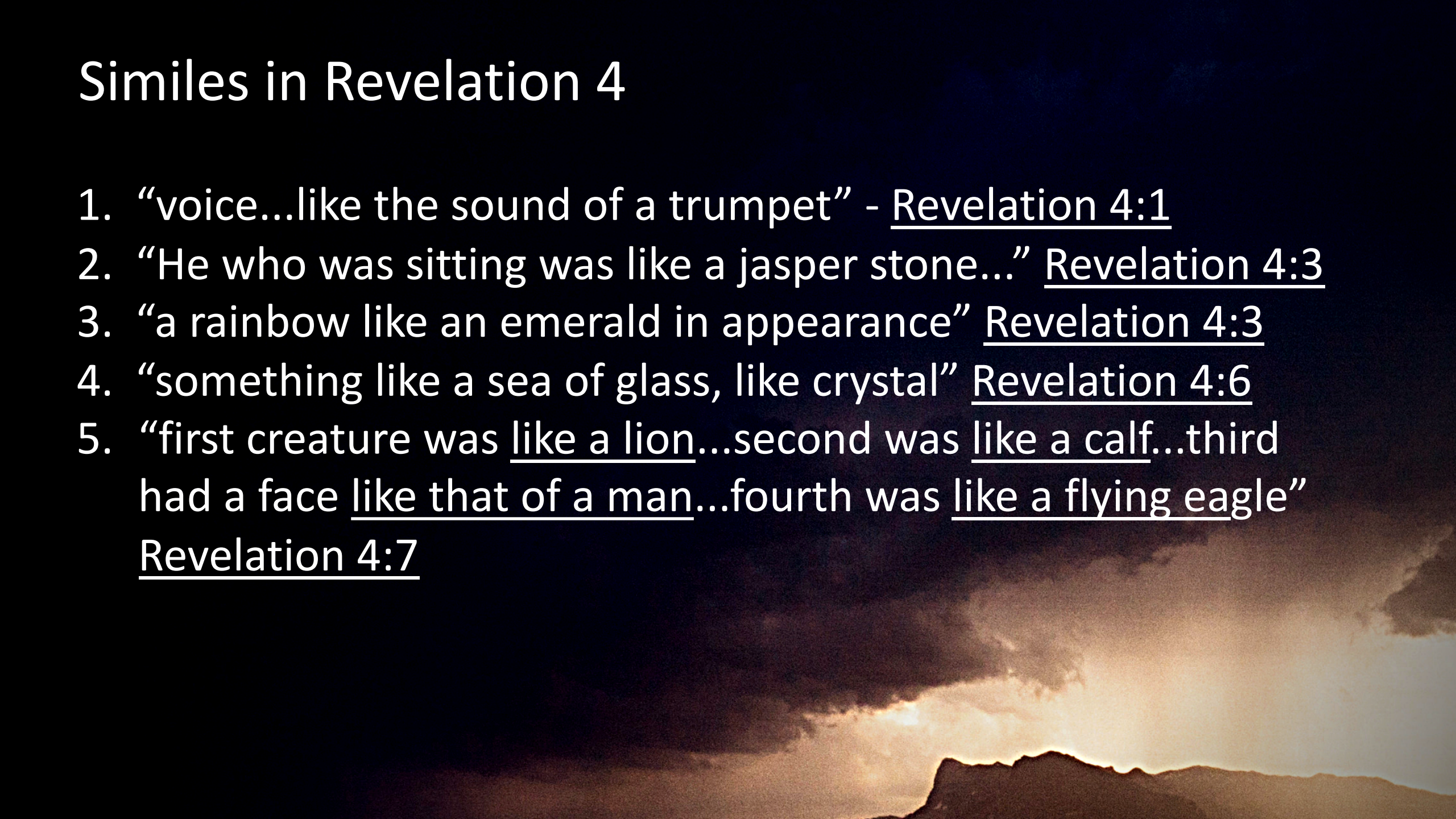
*“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD,
“though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white
as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they will be
like wool.”*

(Isaiah 1:18, NASB95)



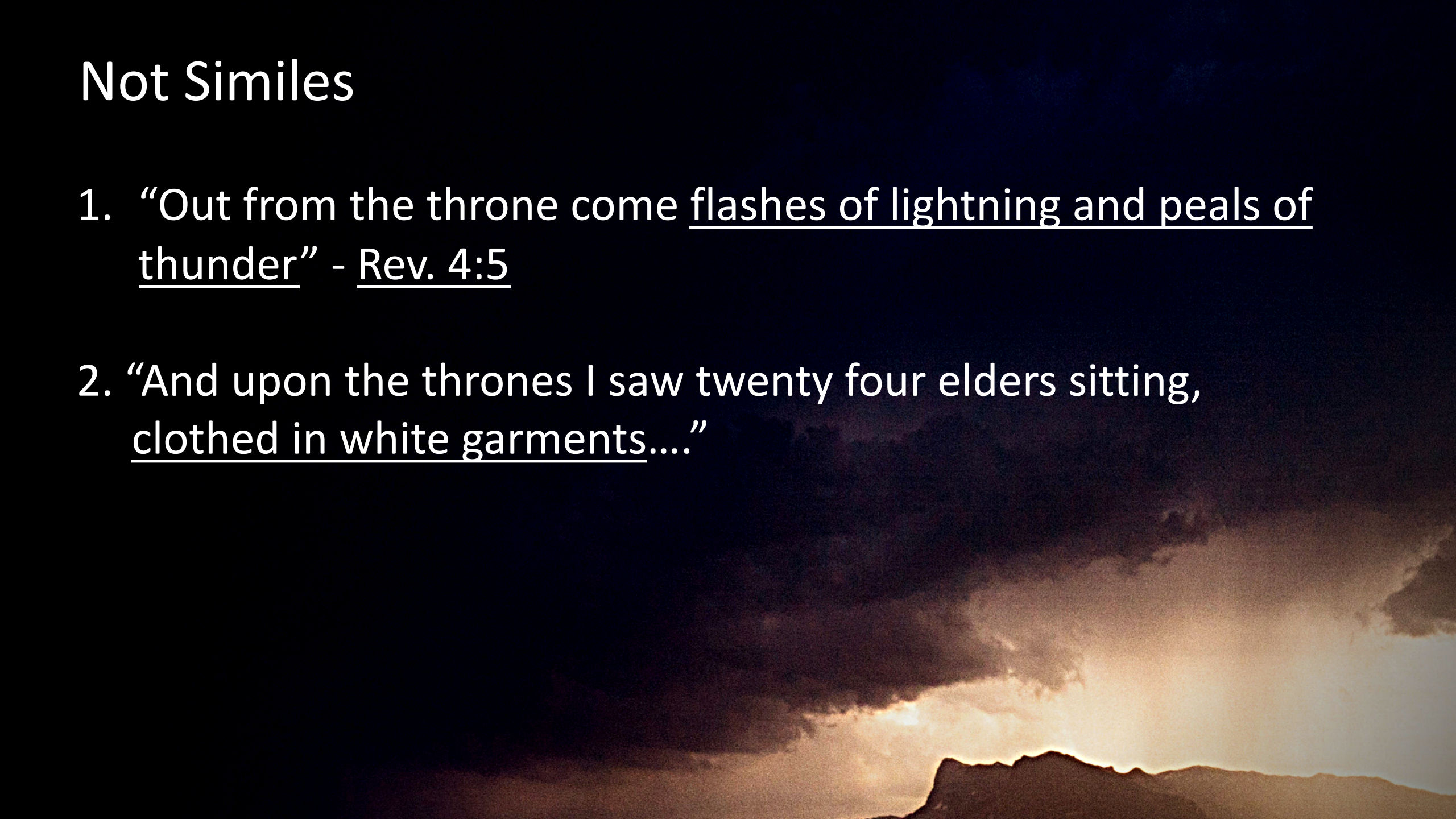
Similes in Revelation 4

1. “voice...like the sound of a trumpet” - Revelation 4:1
2. “He who was sitting was like a jasper stone...” Revelation 4:3
3. “a rainbow like an emerald in appearance” Revelation 4:3
4. “something like a sea of glass, like crystal” Revelation 4:6
5. “first creature was like a lion...second was like a calf...third had a face like that of a man...fourth was like a flying eagle”
Revelation 4:7

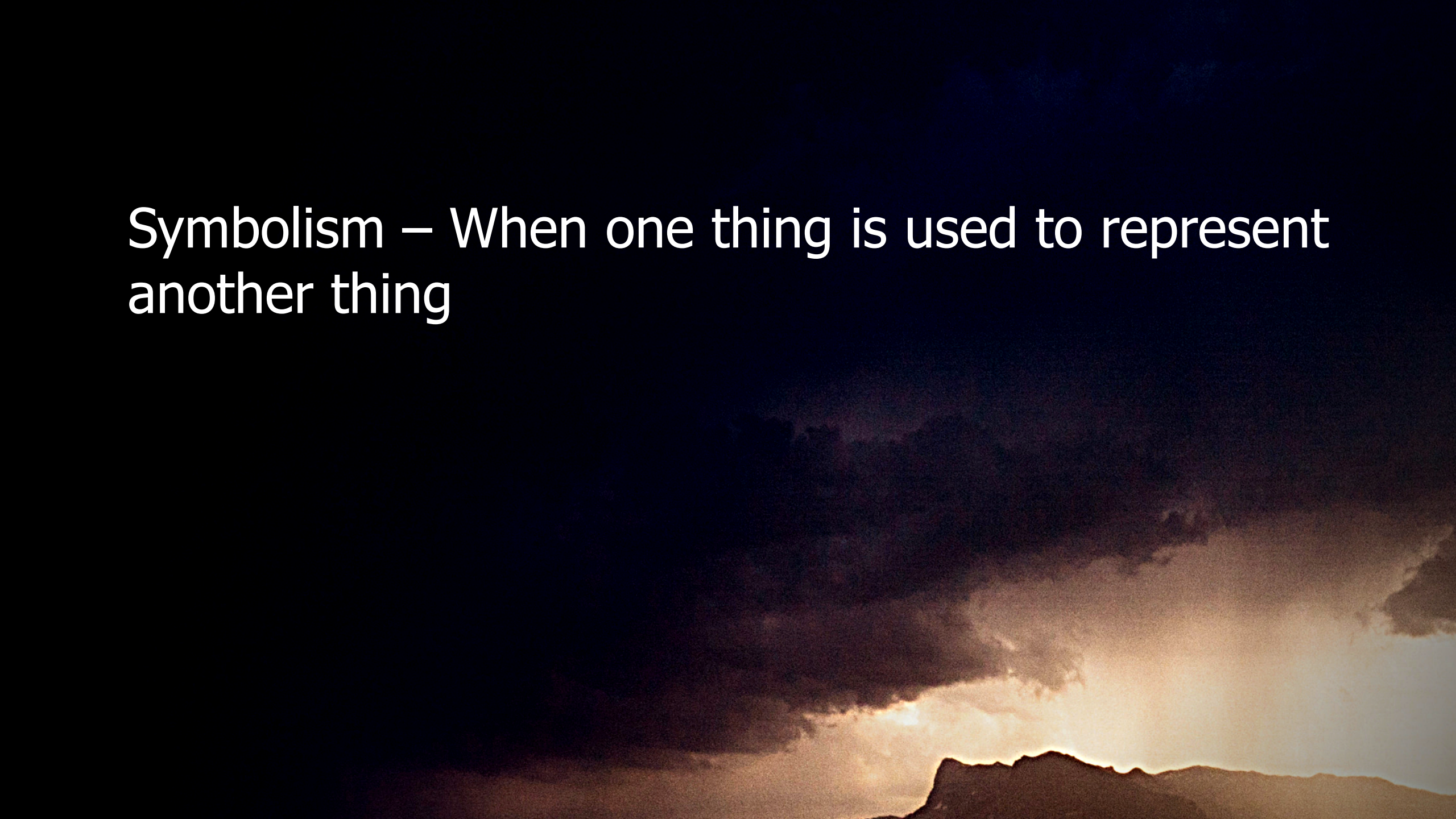


Not Similes

1. “Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and peals of thunder” - Rev. 4:5
2. “And upon the thrones I saw twenty four elders sitting, clothed in white garments....”



Symbolism – When one thing is used to represent another thing



*“Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the
Word of God.”*

Ephesians 6:17



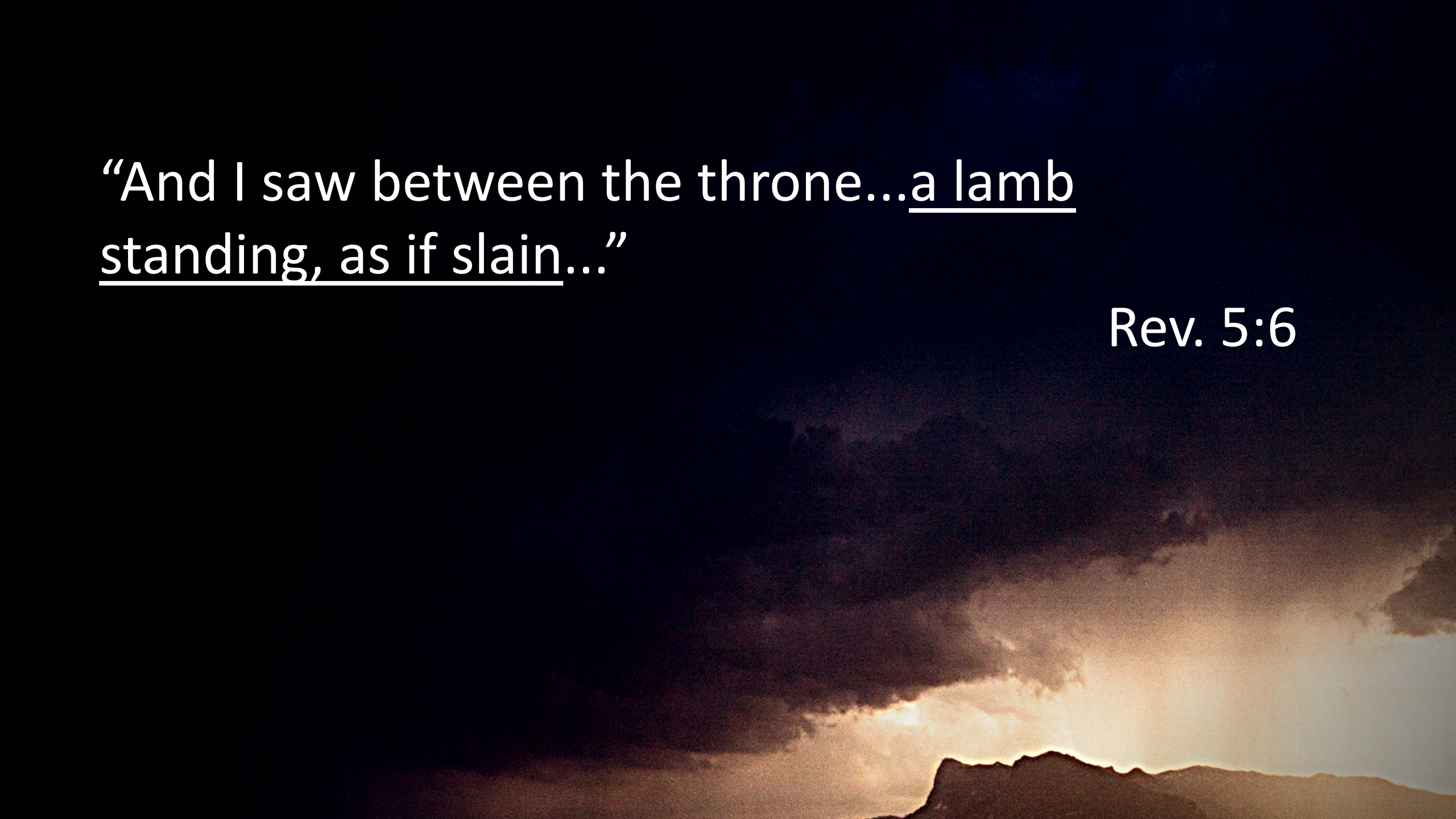
*“And there were 7 lamps of fire burning before
the throne, which are the 7 spirits of God.”*

Rev. 4:5

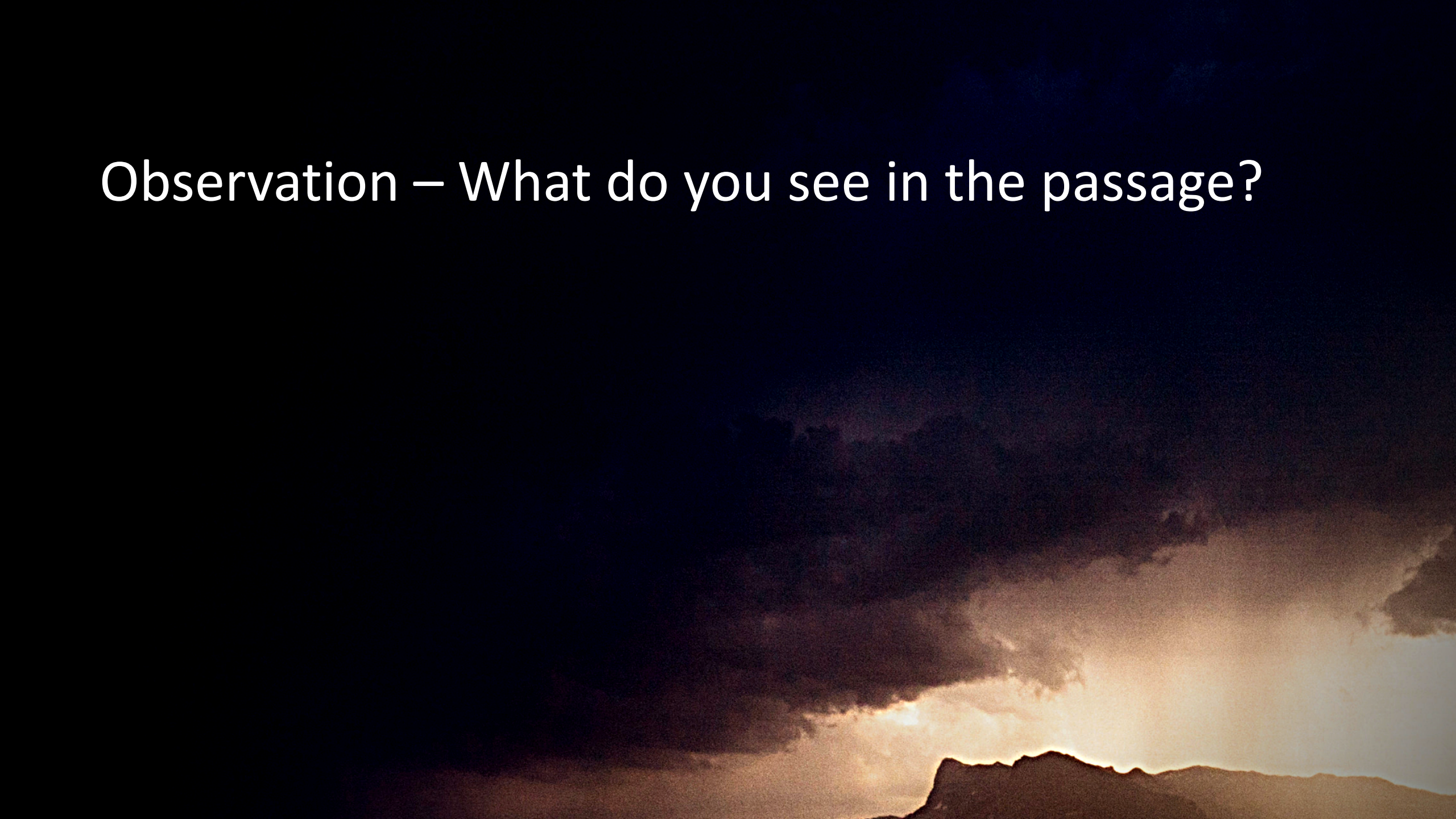


“And I saw between the throne...a lamb
standing, as if slain...”

Rev. 5:6

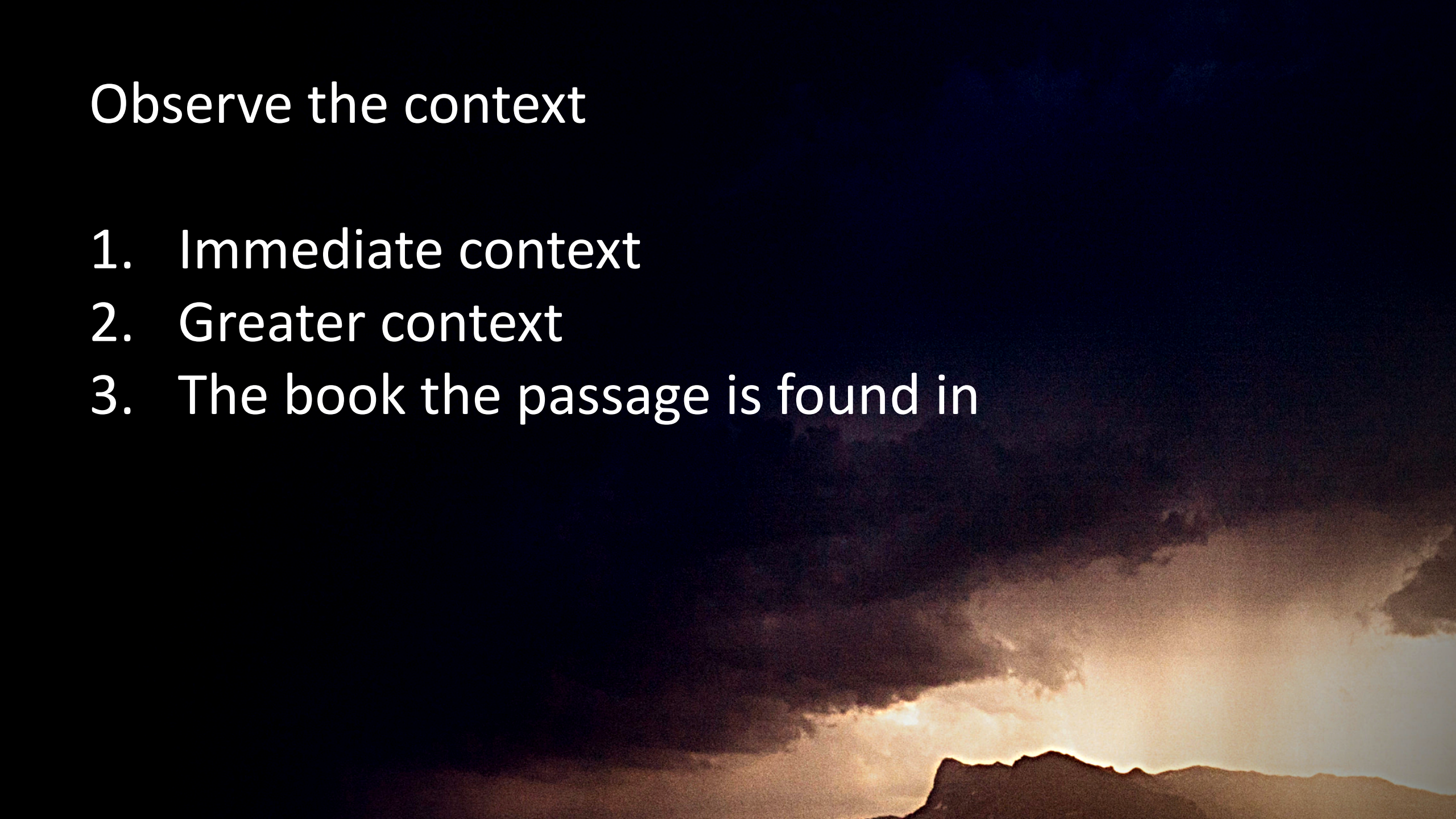


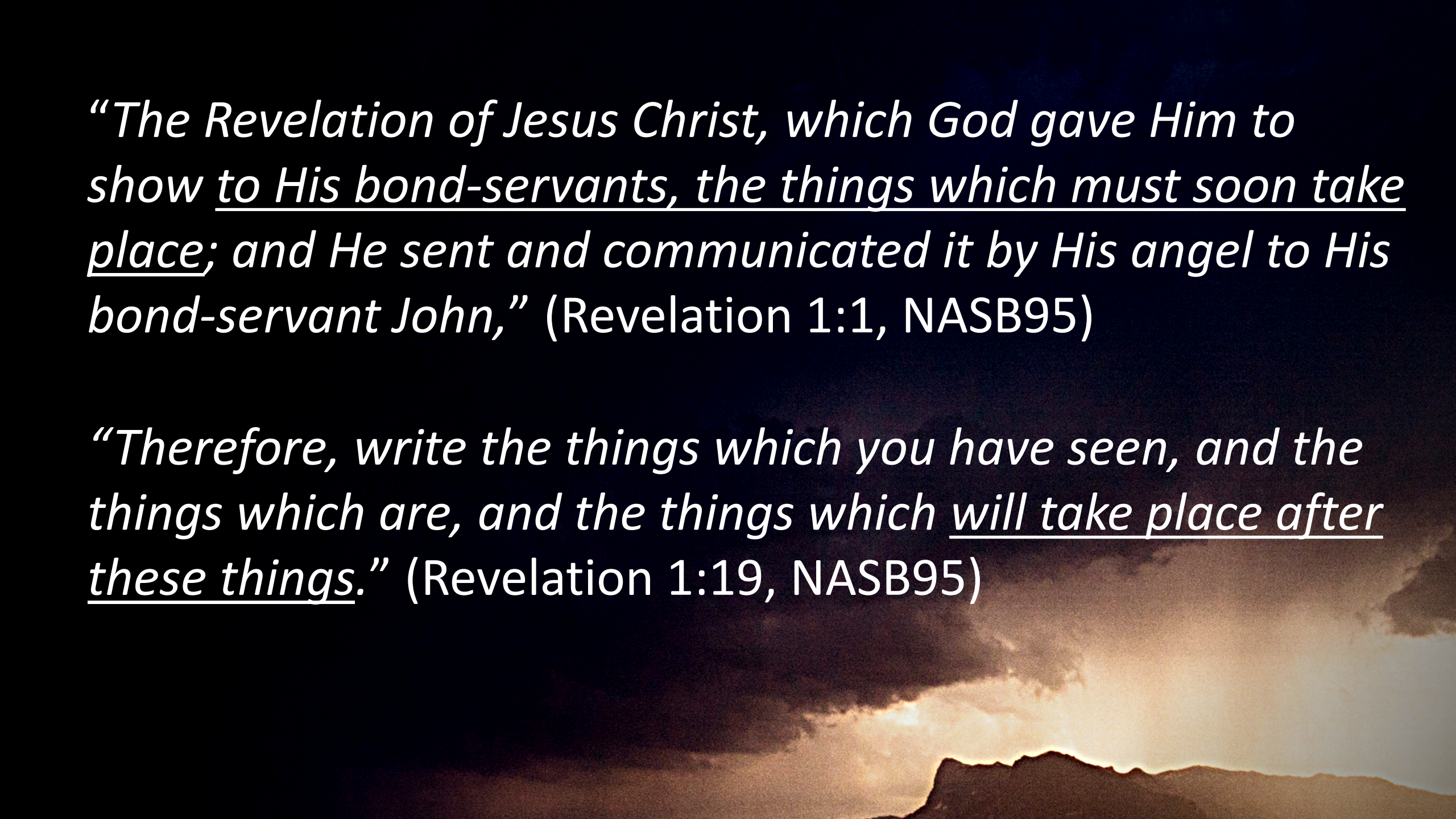
Observation – What do you see in the passage?



Observe the context

1. Immediate context
2. Greater context
3. The book the passage is found in



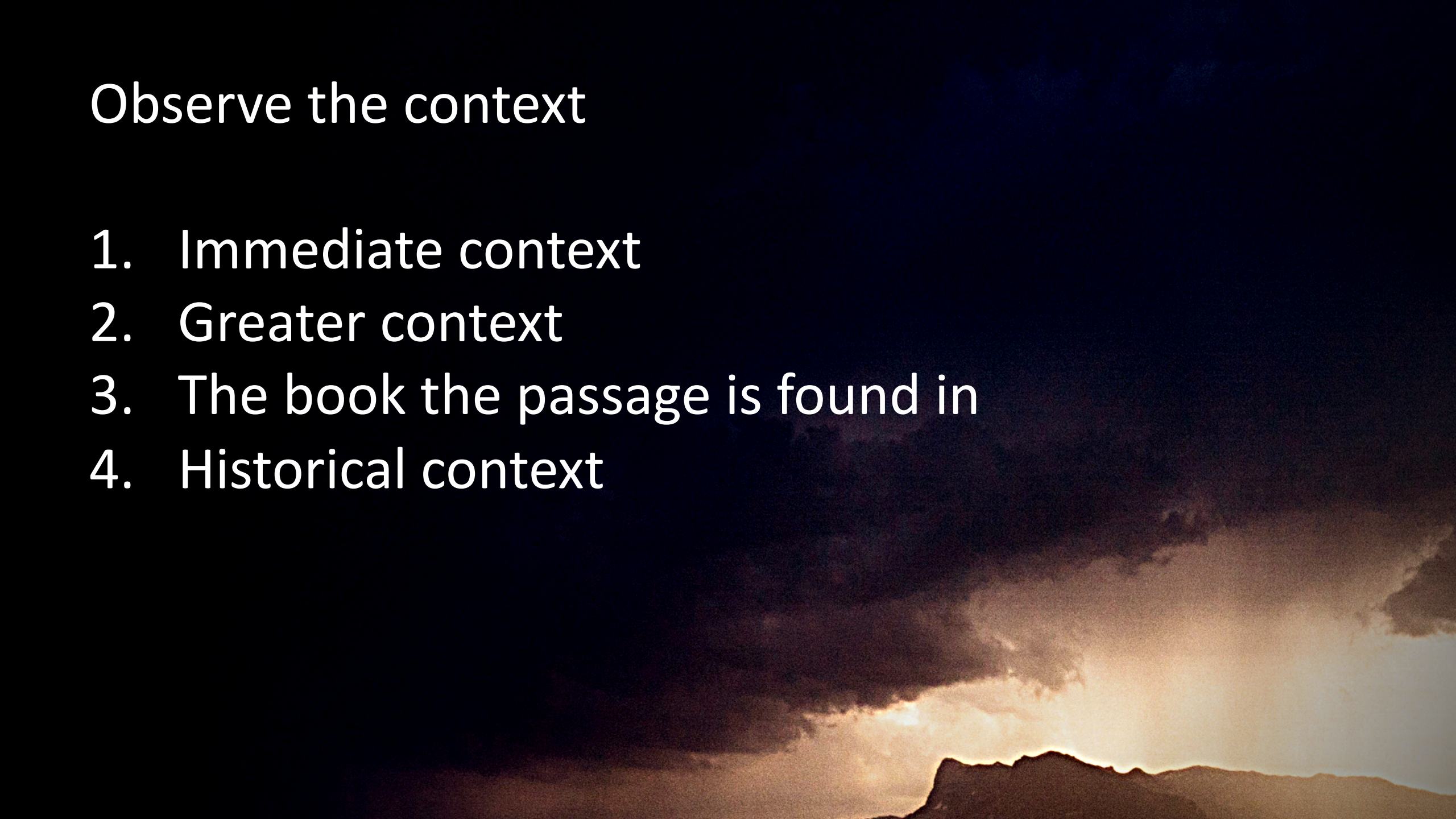


“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,” (Revelation 1:1, NASB95)

“Therefore, write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.” (Revelation 1:19, NASB95)

Observe the context

1. Immediate context
2. Greater context
3. The book the passage is found in
4. Historical context



“after these things” - Revelation 4:1

“Therefore, write the (1) things which you have seen, and the (2) things which are, and the (3) things which will take place after these things.”

(Revelation 1:19, NASB95)

Him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7, NASB95)

He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.” (Revelation 2:11, NASB95)



“To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.” (Revelation 2:17, NASB95)

*“He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.”
(Revelation 2:26–28, NASB95)*

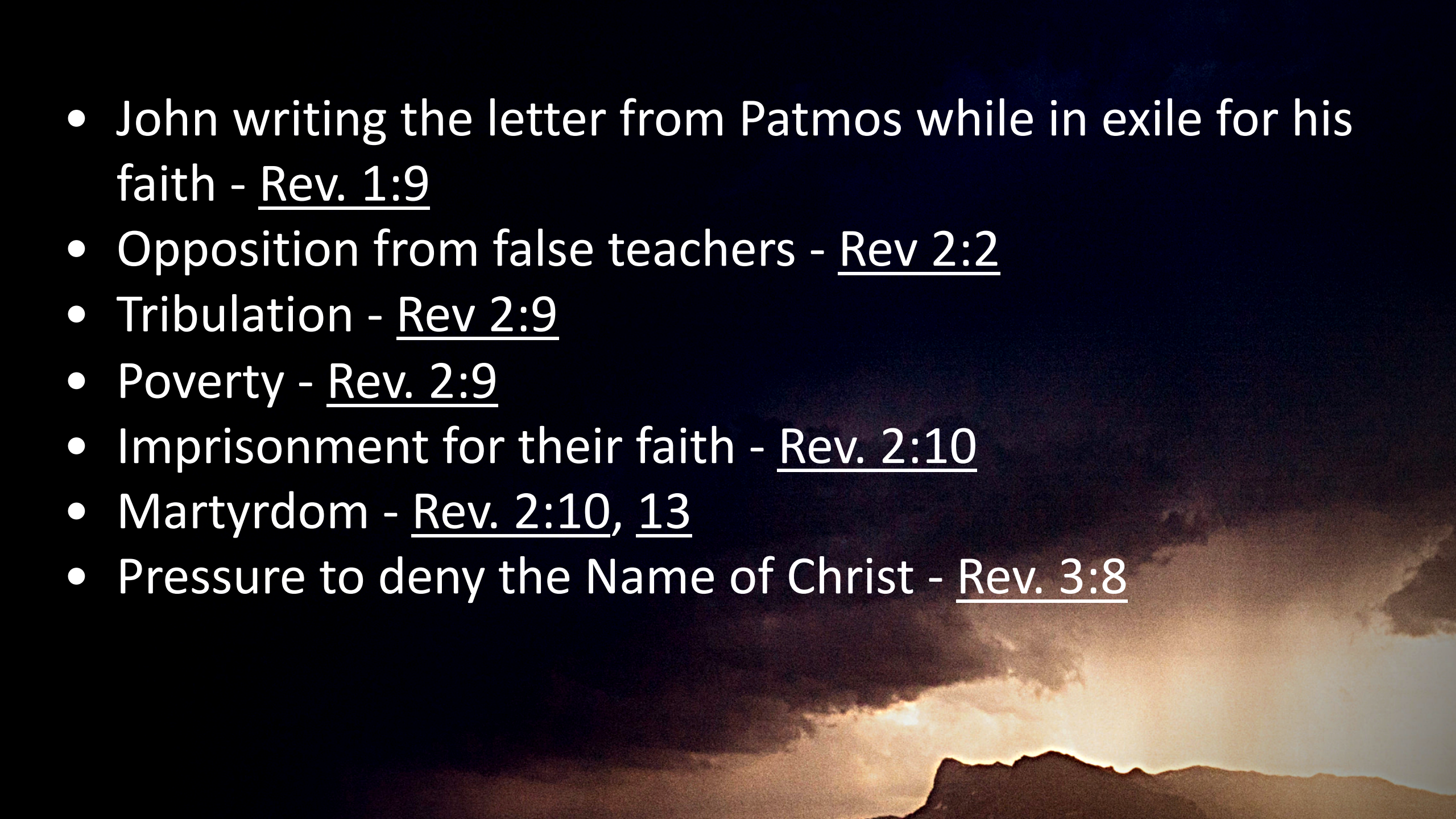
“He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”
(Revelation 3:5, NASB95)

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.” (Revelation 3:12, NASB95)

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” (Revelation 3:21, NASB95)

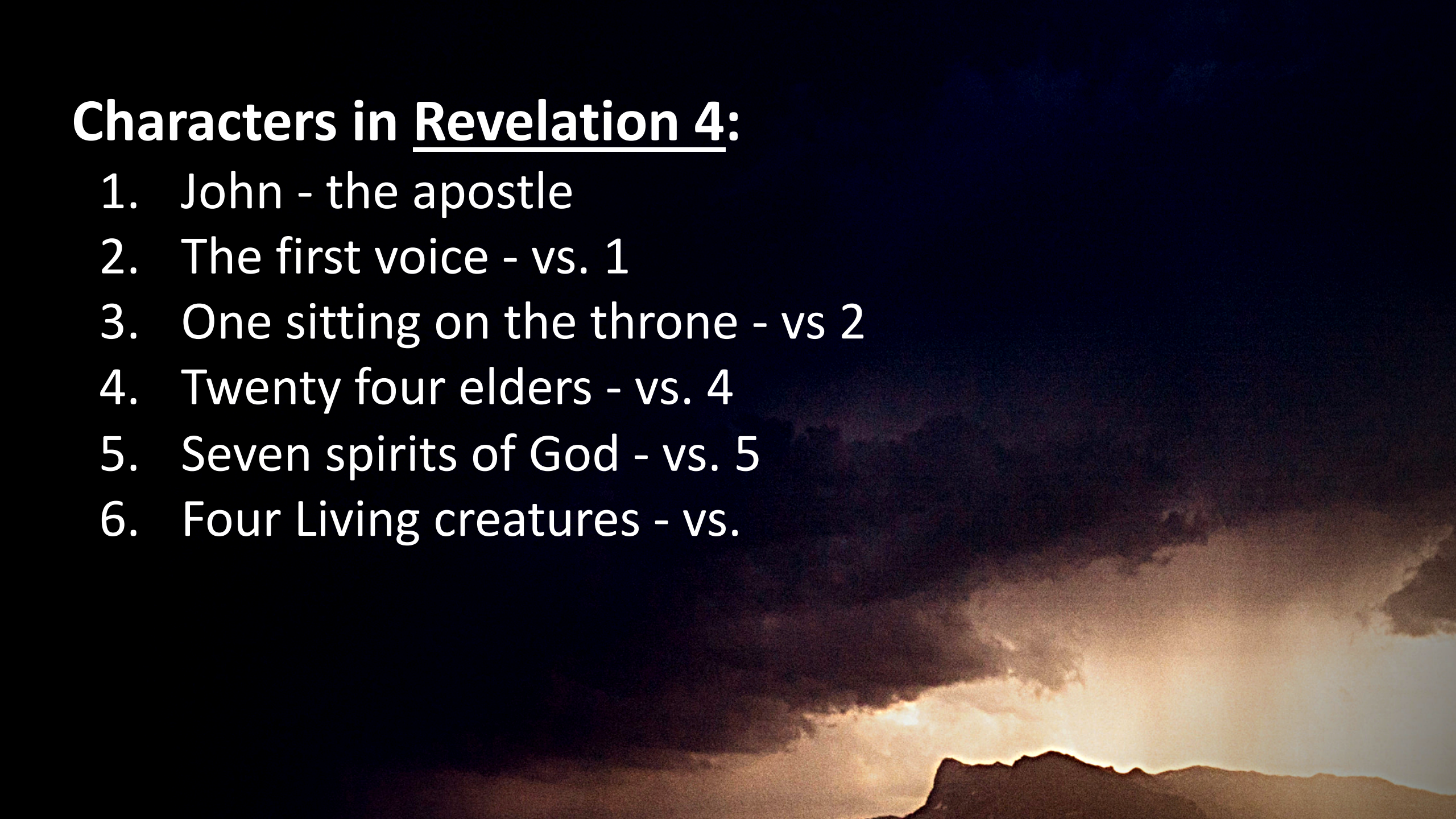


- John writing the letter from Patmos while in exile for his faith - Rev. 1:9
- Opposition from false teachers - Rev 2:2
- Tribulation - Rev 2:9
- Poverty - Rev. 2:9
- Imprisonment for their faith - Rev. 2:10
- Martyrdom - Rev. 2:10, 13
- Pressure to deny the Name of Christ - Rev. 3:8



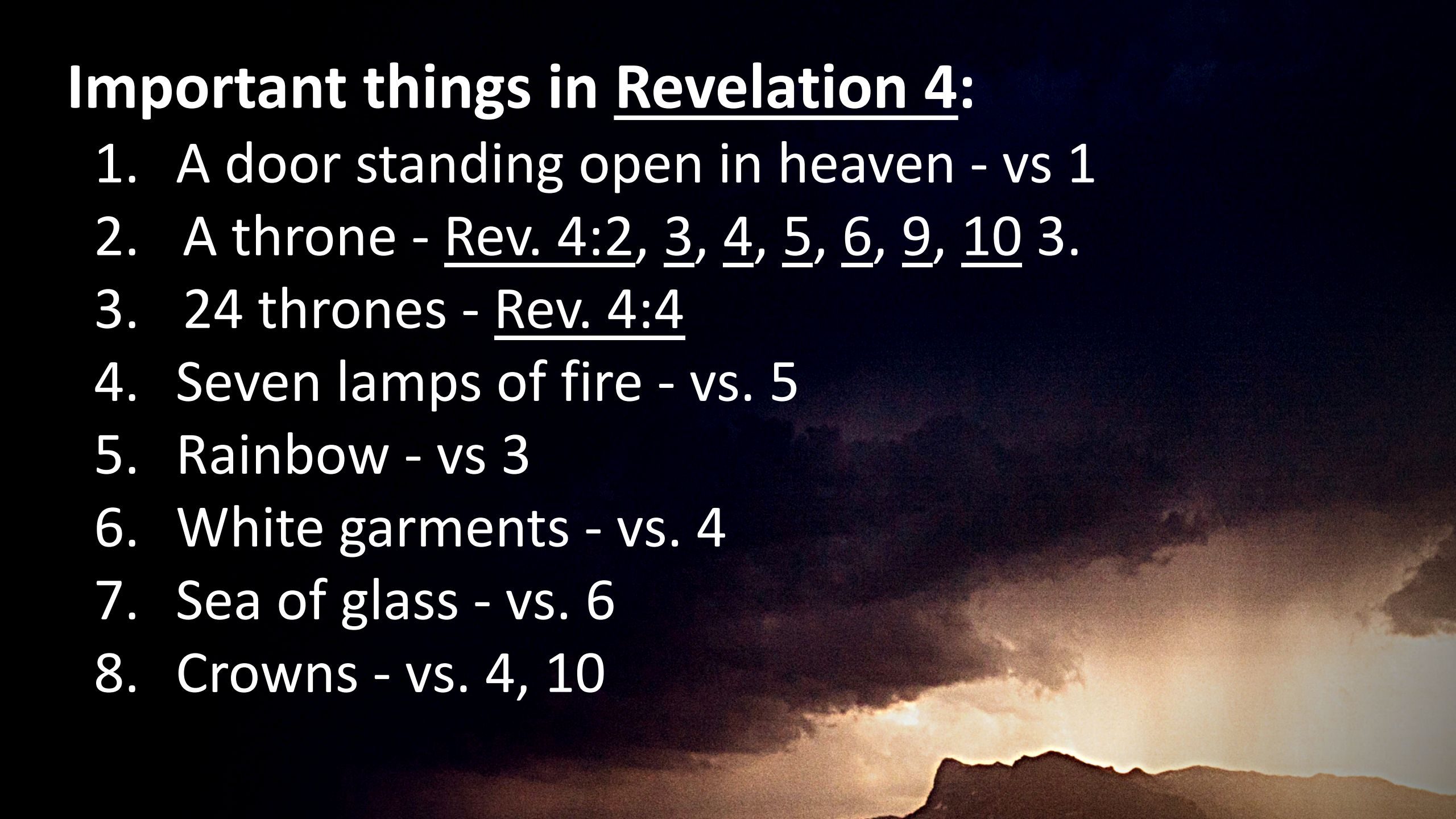
Characters in Revelation 4:

1. John - the apostle
2. The first voice - vs. 1
3. One sitting on the throne - vs 2
4. Twenty four elders - vs. 4
5. Seven spirits of God - vs. 5
6. Four Living creatures - vs.



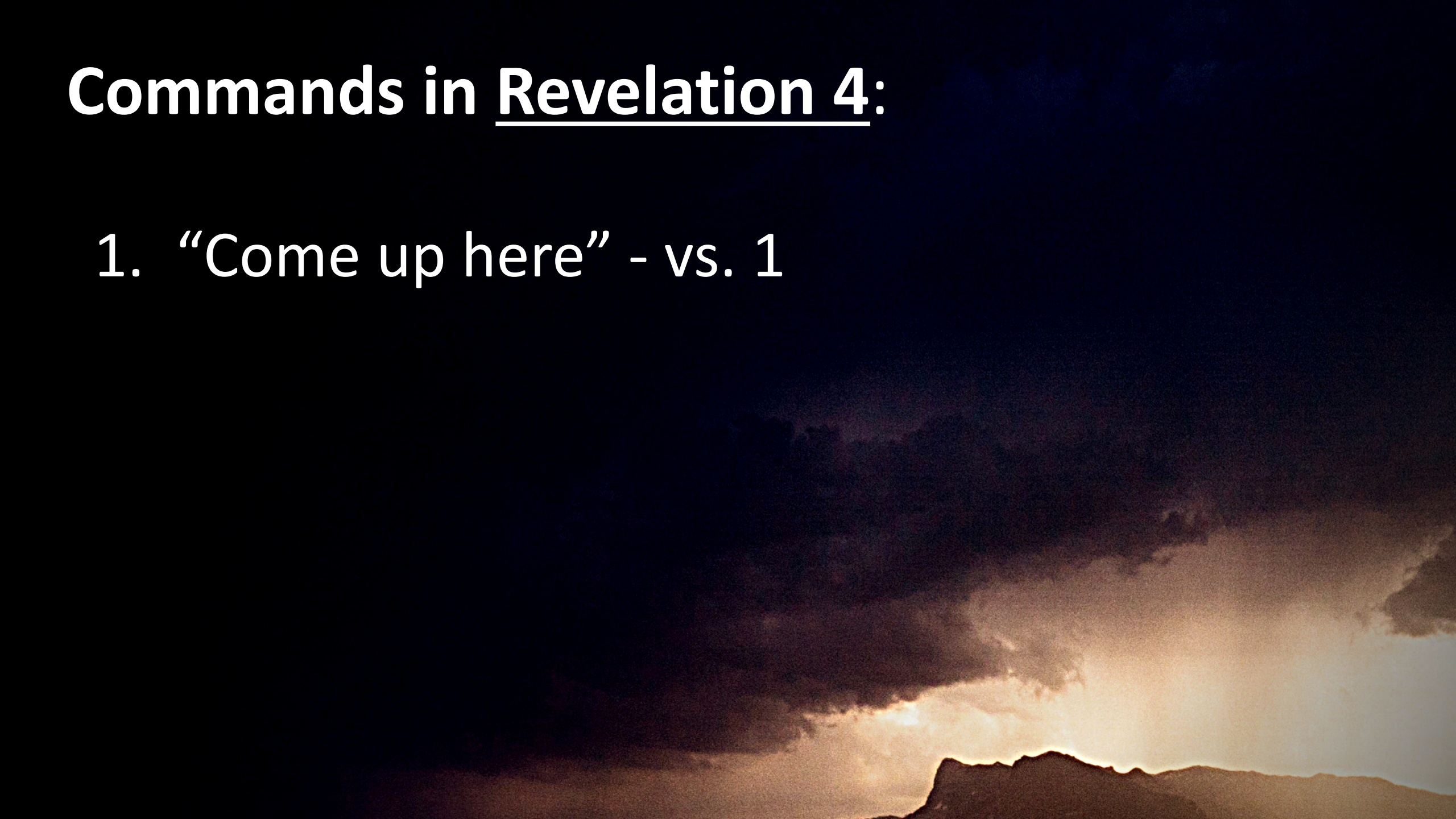
Important things in Revelation 4:

1. A door standing open in heaven - vs 1
2. A throne - Rev. 4:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 3.
3. 24 thrones - Rev. 4:4
4. Seven lamps of fire - vs. 5
5. Rainbow - vs 3
6. White garments - vs. 4
7. Sea of glass - vs. 6
8. Crowns - vs. 4, 10



Commands in Revelation 4:

1. “Come up here” - vs. 1



Activities in Revelation 4:

1. Speaking

- a. The first voice - vs. 1
- b. Four living creatures - vs. 8
- c. Twenty four elders - vs. 11

2. Worship

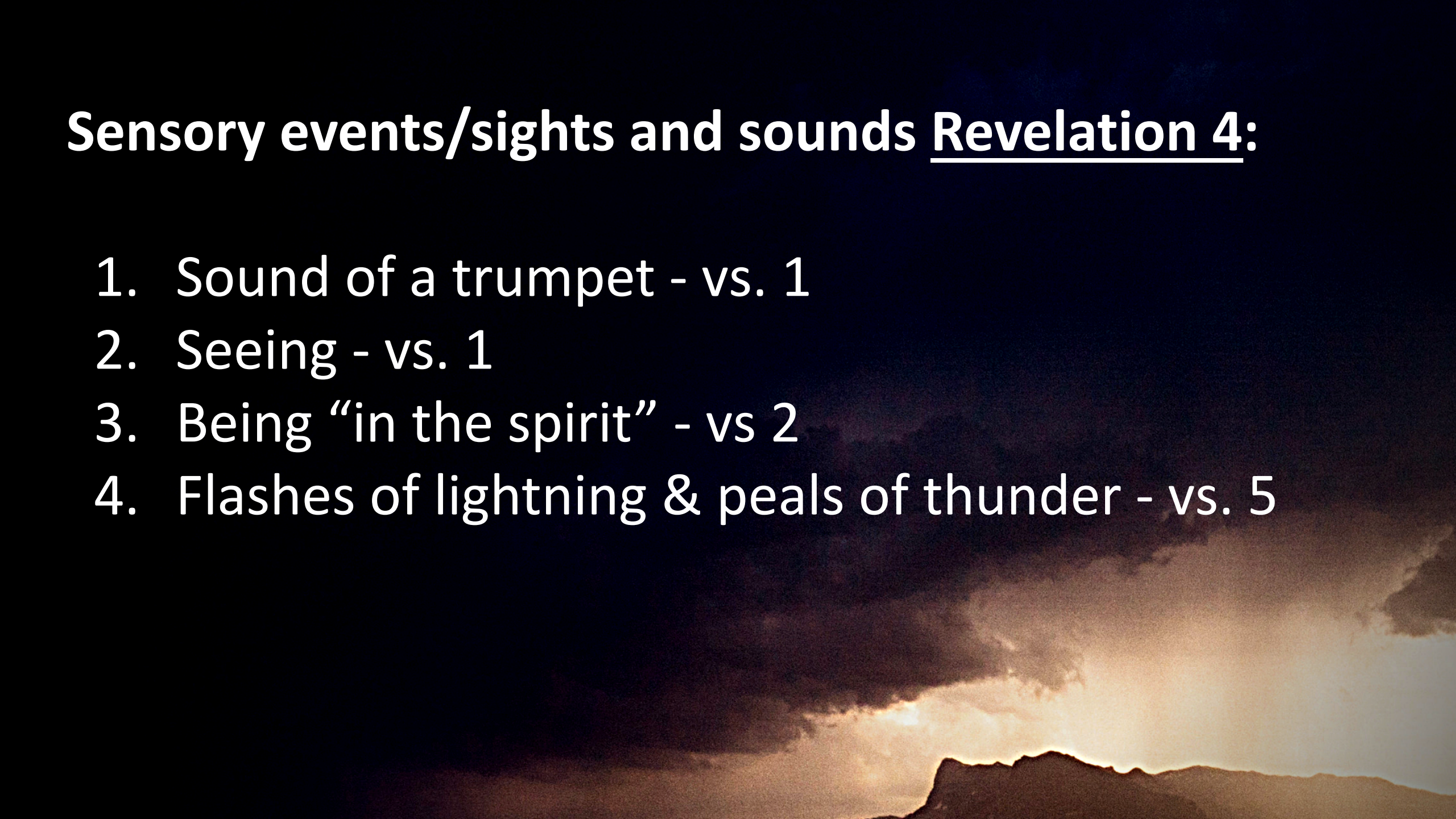
- a. Four living creatures - vs. 8
- b. Twenty four elders - vs 11

3. Casting crowns - vs. 10

4. Sitting on a throne - vs. 2 & 4, (God, & 24 elders)

Sensory events/sights and sounds Revelation 4:

1. Sound of a trumpet - vs. 1
2. Seeing - vs. 1
3. Being “in the spirit” - vs 2
4. Flashes of lightning & peals of thunder - vs. 5



Important themes in Revelation 4:

1. God's sovereignty and rule - thrones
2. Worship
3. God's glory and power -4.
3. God's holiness - vs. 8
5. God's eternality - vs. 8, 9, 10
6. God as creator of all things - vs. 11



What general lessons can we learn from these observations:

1. Heaven is a real place
2. God is in heaven
3. Angelic beings are in heaven
4. Heaven is a place full of amazing sights and sounds
5. God is worshipped in heaven
6. God is glorious, beautiful, majestic, and visually stunning
7. Heaven is the center of operations for God's sovereign rule over creation
8. Some of heaven's occupants are very strange in appearance - "four living creatures full of eyes" - Rev. 4:6