



A Bridge Too Far (1977)



The Lord of the Rings:
The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)



“Avengers: Endgame” (2019)



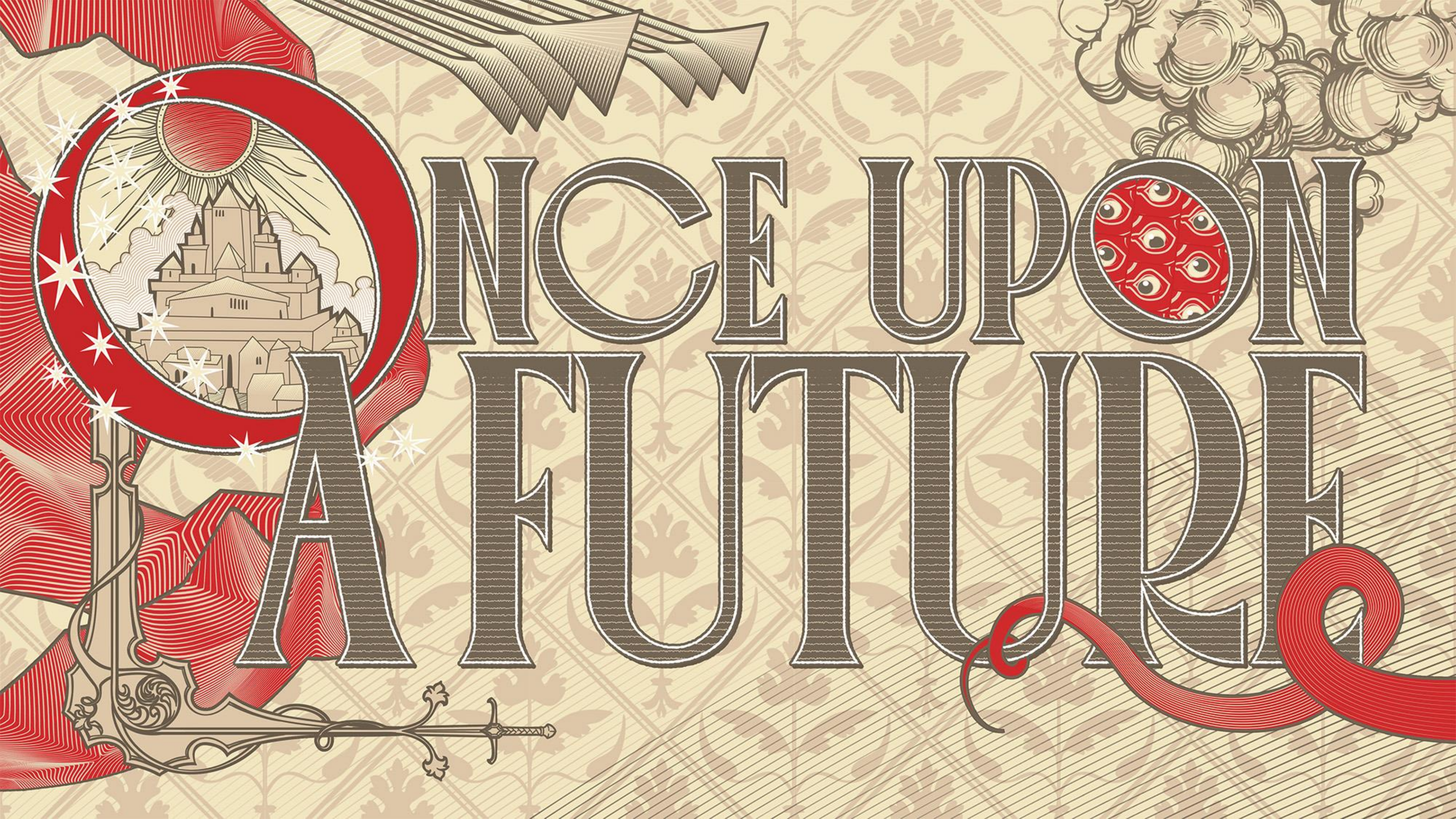
"A Bridge Too Far" (1977)



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Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision





Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapters 2-3

Short Messages to 7 Churches

Chapters 4-22

A Long Fantasy (Weird) Story

¹ After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

Revelation 4:1-3 (NIV)

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Revelation 4:1-3 (NIV)



⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

Revelation 4:5-6a (NIV)

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Revelation 4:5-6a (NIV)

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings.

Revelation 4:6b-8a (NIV)

Day and night they never stop saying:

“ ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’
who was, and is, and is to come.”

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor
and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who
lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall
down before him who sits on the throne and
worship him who lives for ever and ever.

Revelation 4:8b-10a (NIV)

They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

Revelation 4:10b-11 (NIV)



Where are we?
The throne room in heaven



Where are we?
The throne room in heaven

Who's in the room?
The king and his courtiers

Where are we?
The throne room in heaven

Who's in the room?
The king and his courtiers

What's happening?
Worship

Why do they worship the king?

#1. The King is holy

“ ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God **Almighty**
[παντοκράτωρ pantokratōr],’ who was, and is,
and is to come.” (Revelation 4:8b)

Why do they worship the king?

#1. The King is holy

#2. The King created everything

“You are worthy... for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” (Rev 4:11)

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Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



At the end of the first century: 7,000 – 10,000
Christians.

- Rodney Stark (*The Rise of Christianity*)

Domitian, having shown great cruelty toward many, ... finally became a successor of Nero in his hatred and enmity toward God. He was in fact the second that stirred up a persecution against us.... It is said that in this persecution the apostle and evangelist John, who was still alive, was condemned to dwell on the island of Patmos in consequence of his testimony to the divine word.

Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.17.1

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

Revelation 5:1-4 (NIV)

⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Revelation 5:5 (NIV)

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6 (NIV)

⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

Revelation 5:7-8 (NIV)

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6 (NIV)



⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV)

What makes the lamb worthy?

Answer:

Because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God...

What is the lamb trying to accomplish?
(Why did Jesus die on the cross?)

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Answer:

“... purchased for God persons from every tribe
and language and people and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom
and priests to serve our God,
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God's Plan to Restore this Broken World

1. Redeem individuals from every tribe, language, people group, and nation

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4. Authorize this people of God to reign on earth forever and ever

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What Do We learn?

1. God is OP

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1. God is OP
2. The Lamb, not the Lion



What Do We learn?

1. God is OP
2. The Lamb, not the Lion
3. God envisions a multicultural kingdom

Multicultural Community

We embrace God's vision of a multicultural kingdom – celebrating our distinct ethnic cultures, while worshipping together in loving community. As a multicultural community we benefit from one another, and we image God to the world.

...because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for
God persons from every tribe and language and
people and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and
priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:9b-10 (NIV)

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Revelation 5:11-12 (NIV)

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Revelation 5:13 (NIV)

¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” ¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Revelation 5:12-13 (NIV)