



BEHOLD HIS

GLO RY

BEHELD BY ANGELS

- Angels excitedly proclaimed the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:8-15).
- They ministered to Him after His temptation (Matthew 4:11).
- They must have been witnesses to the events of His life, since Jesus claimed they were “on call” at a moment’s notice (Matthew 26:53).
- They beheld Him suffering in the garden and came to comfort Him in His distress (Luke 22:43).
- They beheld His glorification in the ascension (Acts 1:9-11).
- Truly, the angels beheld Him in the flesh, but it was only a spectacle because they had never known Him in that way!

ANGELIC PERSPECTIVE

- It does not take long in the Book of Revelation for John to be overwhelmed by what he saw. From the first chapter, the Son is so wrapped in glory that the writer can barely stand it. Like so many of us, John struggled to connect the simple, humble man he knew to the magnificent glowing Being presented to him then.
- Revelation 5 – The strong angel has incredible insight, perhaps because he has now witnessed the Son at both extremes. While the slain lamb baffles many, the angels see the Son in the bigger picture. Small as a baby, walking about like a human, slain as a lamb, the rider on the white horse, the glorified LORD – it's all HIM. So how do we get to this point of seeing His glory?

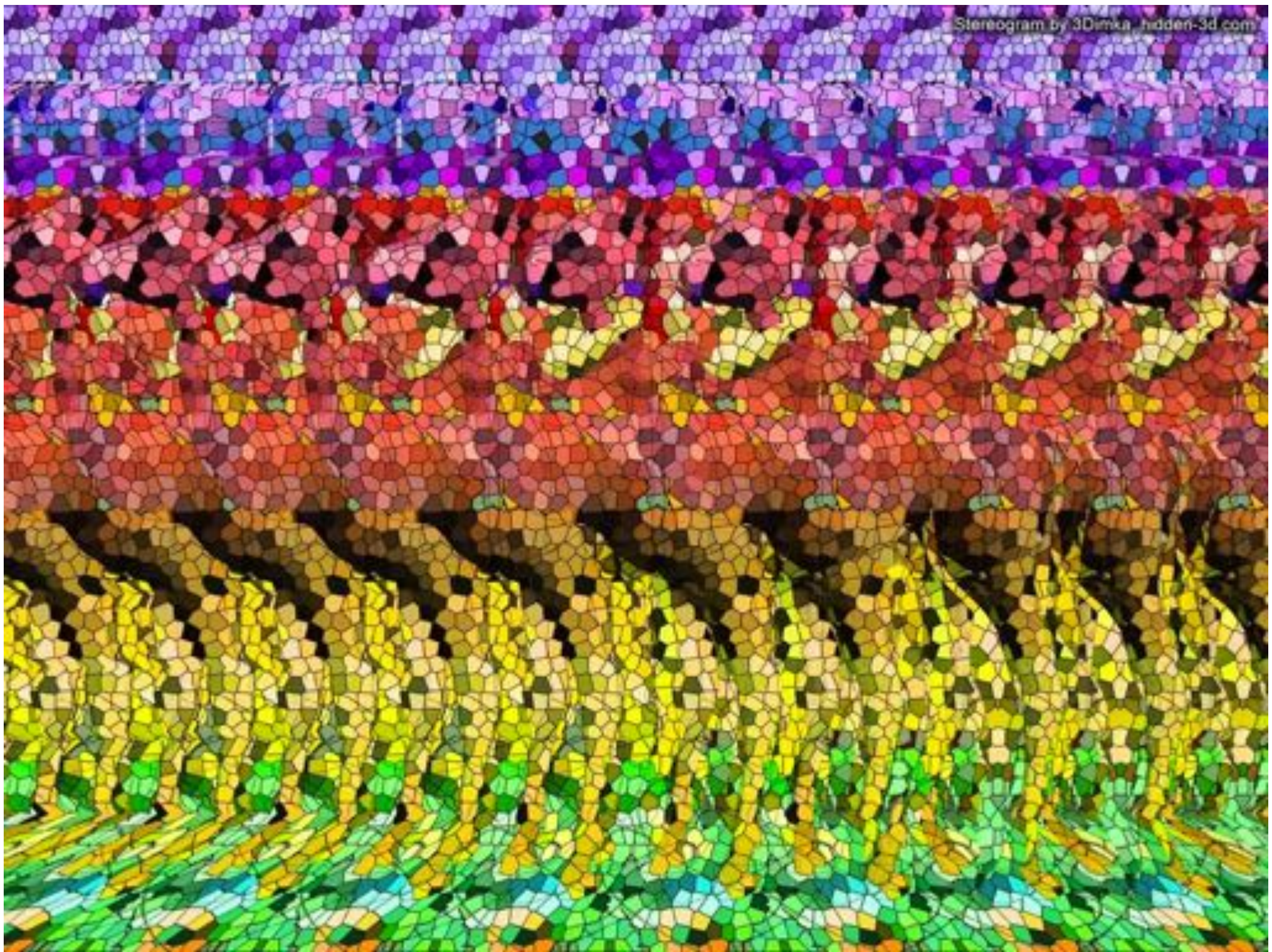


2 CORINTHIANS

3:12-4:6

VEILED FACE

- A hard heart makes it impossible to see Jesus' glory. It was why Moses kept the veil over his glowing face. The people had even begged Moses to keep God's glory at arm's length (Ex. 20:19).
- "Whenever a man turns to the Lord" – In order to have the veil of ignorance removed, we must be willing to submit. Often this requires us to let go of ideas, attitudes, and habits that feel (deceptively) comfortable.
- It's easy and convenient to dismiss Jesus, just as many of His contemporaries did. The Pharisees (John 8:13, 22, 48, 52-53); Jesus' relatives (Mark 6:1-3); those who dismissed Him as a poor nobody from Galilee (John 7:52) and uneducated (John 7:15).
- "Seeing, they do not see" (Matthew 13:13).



THE GLORY CHANGES US

- 1 Corinthians 3:18
- At some point we must make a decision to open up our hearts and minds to the light of the gospel. As we do that, we start to see divine glory for what it really is. The amazing thing, however, happens when that glory changes us! Surprisingly, as we grow and mature, we see glory more clearly, which pushes us to greater maturity...
- The shepherds were changed by glory. John was also changed by the Revelation. Repentant, maturing, devoted, God-glorifying new creatures have their eyes opened!
- Glory should affect us – the Grand Canyon, a new bride, a sunset, a moment of achievement. These are small doses of glory that impact us deeply. How much more should Christ's glory change us (John 1:9-18)!