



## Has God abandoned Us?

**Revelation: a letter of hope to God's people in peril**

*Part III: In Peril? Look to the One seated upon the throne and to the Lamb*

### Guiding Principles

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.*  
Psalm 24:1

*The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.*  
Psalm 145:9

- These are statements of incredible faith. Because it sometimes seems like this is not God's world, or, if it is, then maybe God doesn't care about it.

*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.* Mark 10:45

- Jesus understood his ministry to be self-sacrificial and directed toward the wellbeing and liberty of humanity.

### The Vision of God

- There is a throne in heaven – a source of power and authority greater than the thrones of earth.
- God is seated on the throne – not any despotic ruler.
- There is only one throne – there is not an eternal battle between good and evil.

### The Vision of the Lamb

- John subverts the world's understanding of power.
- Power and freedom come not in domination or being able to shed other people's blood, but in the self-sacrificial shedding of the Lamb's own blood.

**Gathering.** Open with this prayer ([or sing along to it here](#)),

- He's got the whole world in his hands.

**Listening.** Watch or listen to the teaching.

**Wondering.** Spend some time in silence and consider the following.

- I wonder what you liked about the presentation.
- I wonder what challenged you about the presentation.
- I wonder what it means to hold power.
- I wonder where you have seen the presence of God in your past, your present, and where you hope to see it in the future.
- I wonder if you prefer Jesus to be a lion or a slaughtered lamb.
- I wonder how self-sacrifice can be a source of power.

**Sharing.** Choose a question to share with the group or journal.

**Praying.** Practice the Examination of the Day together.

- For what today are you most grateful?
- For what today do you need healing?
- Where did you see Christ today?
- Where do you pray for Christ's presence today?

**Commissioning.** Take what you experienced today into your week.

- This week I want to pray for the leaders of the world – especially those who I am upset with.
- This week, I want to pray for those impacted negatively by world leaders.
- This week, I want to sacrifice my time and energy to helping someone in need.

**Preparing.** Read Revelation, chapters 6 to 8:5 and note the different ways evil has destroyed the world and the ways God preserves his children.

