



Has God abandoned Us?

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

Part V: The God who Is, Looking at God's Faithfulness in the Midst of our Current Perils

Guiding Principles

Day and night without ceasing they sing, "Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come." Revelation 4:8

- Our lens for looking at the Trumpets of Revelation 9:6-11:19 will be to imagine them as announcing the troubles of the present, that is that the God who is ensures our spiritual wellbeing as he did our ancestors'.

The Lamb that was slaughtered from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 alternative translation

- For John, Jesus' healing goes back in time and into the future. For him it is theologically correct to use Christian imagery to describe God's ministry of our spiritual ancestors before Christ

The 7 Trumpets

- Trumpets 1-4: We live in a time where forces are working to undo creation.
- Trumpets 5 & 6: The chaos of evil threatens our spiritual communities.
- Intermission: God still raises up witnesses in the midst of the peril of the world to give voice to God's words.
- Trumpet 7: The present suffering of God's witnesses is seen by God and God will vindicate them by raising them up to heaven where the songs of salvation are sung.
- The spiritual practice of gratitude is a way to make it through the peril of today.

Gathering. Open with this prayer (or sing along to it here),

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!.

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 current troubles the world is facing.
- I wonder what current troubles our spiritual community is facing.
- I wonder how the God who *Is* is faithful to you.
- I wonder how gratitude is a gift in the midst of peril.

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 write a hopeful note someone who feels overwhelmed by their current circumstances.
- This week, I want to reflect on the spiritual voices I have been listening to and discern which ones I will continue to hear.
- This week, I want to start a gratitude journal.

Preparing. Read Revelation, chapters 12-14 and practice telling, in your own words, what God is doing in this world to heal and restore it..

