



Has God abandoned Us?

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

Part VI: The Story of Hope Retold

Guiding Principles

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
Romans 8:18

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12

- John wants his friends to endure, to keep on going. So he puts their suffering into the greater context of God's plan for healing the world.

The Woman and the Dragon

- This retelling of the well-known myth of Apollo and the Python is Christianized so that it reflects the absurdity of the Caesar's claims to divinity and underscores God's victory over the serpent of Eden.

The Beast from the Water

- A picture of the corrupted and limited powers of the Roman Empire using violence to control the world.

The Beast from the Land

- Perhaps a picture of the corrupted and limited local or religious powers that are trying to influence the decision of local Christians to stand firm.

The Reaping

- God's future has a blessing for those whose deeds of faithfulness commend them

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

- I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back no turning back.

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 how you would describe or picture God's plan for the world.
- I wonder if you ever feel like the evils of the world are stronger than God's plan.
- I wonder how you have been able to endure a moment of suffering.

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 look for a news story that reminds me that Goodness is stronger than Evil.
- This week, I want to consider what good works I can do to support someone who is suffering.
- This week, I want to create a musical playlist as a resource for when I am going through trouble.

Preparing. Read Revelation, chapters 15-16 and imagine what this world will look like in 20 years.

