



Has God abandoned Us?

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

Part VII: The Future Consequences of Evil

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 Bowls of Revelation 15-16 will be to imagine them as pouring out the future consequences of allying with evil, with the hope that God who is to Come is with us.

In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—let them be caught in the schemes they have devised...Psalm 10

- Judgement is a promise of hope to those under the foot of an oppressor.

The Future begins with a Vision of Hope

- God wants us to go into a perilous future knowing that the victory over evil is completed.

The Seven Bowls of Consequences

- Bowl 1: Consequences in our bodies.
- Bowl 2: Consequences in the natural world.
- Bowl 3: Consequences of spiritual dryness.
- Bowl 4: Consequences of avoiding the light of God.
- Bowl 5: Consequences of spiritual darkness.
- Bowl 6: Consequences of war and violence.
- Bowl 7: Consequences of God shutting the whole thing down.

Gathering. Open with this prayer,

- The future, O Lord, is in your hands. Keep us from harm as we walk into it and protect us from the consequences of evil and sin.

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 you fear about God's judgement
- I wonder what you hope for in God's judgement.
- I wonder how we can avoid the consequences of evil.
- I wonder how our actions inflame the consequences of evil.

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 read the *New Creed* of the United Church of Canada and wonder how Jesus is our Judge and our Hope.
- This week, I want to think about a problem that is coming my way and how I can remember God's presence in my life as I face it.
- This week, when I consider the evils of the world, I want to journal about what I most long for to be over.

Preparing. Read Revelation, chapters 17:1-19:10 and write down all the descriptors of Babylon that are named.

