



Has God abandoned Us?

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

Part IV: The God who Was, Looking at God's Faithfulness in the Midst of the Past's 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 Seals of Revelation 6:1-8:5 will be to imagine them as unveiling the troubles of the past. That is, that the God who *Was* ensured our spiritual ancestors' wellbeing.

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 Seals

- Seal 1: There has always been people trying to take over the world by the sword.
- Seal 2: People have always used violence as a means to an end.
- Seal 3: Economic Injustice has always been an evil.
- Seal 4: Death has always harangued God's Children.
- Seal 5: People have always suffered for their beliefs.
- Seal 6: There have always been scary, uncontrollable things in the world.
- Intermission: Through the evils of the past, God established a numberless community of saints.
- Seal 7: God calls us to silent mediation on his faithfulness to us in the past.

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

- When we are living, we are in the Lord,
and when we're dying, we are in the Lord,
for in our living and in our dying
we belong to God, we belong to God.

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 troubles of history haunt your memory.
- I wonder what wonderful things of history give you hope.
- I wonder how the God who *Was* has been faithful to you.
- I wonder how silence 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 give thanks for a spiritual ancestor who has influenced my spiritual journey.
- This week, I want to write a letter of hope to my future spiritual descendants.
- This week, I want to spend some time in silence.

Preparing. Read Revelation, chapters 8:6 to 11:19 and name the current spiritual challenges you and world are facing.

