

# GOD IS HERE & HE IS NOT SILENT

Part 2 of ENCOUNTERING JESUS. Revelation 1:1-8.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 15, 2023.

## WHAT DOES GOD SAY TO STRUGGLING CHRISTIANS?

**The believers in the seven churches of Revelation were under pressure.**

**Revelation is God's response to struggling believers.**

- Never quit. Stand firm. I've got you in my grip.

### REVELATION 1:1-8

**What It Is:** 1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

**The Recipients:** 4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

**The Blessing:** Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

**The Doxology:** To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

**The Assurance:** 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

# THREE REASONS TO NEVER QUIT ON CHRIST

## 1. When we're struggling, God speaks to us - verses 1-3.

- These verses contain several synonyms for speaking: Revelation, witness, word of God, testimony of Jesus, prophecy.
- Our God speaks about “the things that must soon take place” (verse 1).
- This phrase is from Daniel 2 where God reveals his plans to Daniel.
- “I know what you're going through. Let me give you some perspective.”
- When you're holding on to faith by a thread, listen to God.

## 2. When we're struggling, God is still God for us - verses 4-8.

- The pattern of biblical history: God appears to his people.
- God appears in his descriptions in verses 4-8. Summarized as:.

I am the eternal God, but I am present with you.

I am the supreme King, but I am the crucified Christ.

I am the Almighty, but I know and care for you.

- God never changes, but our feelings change. Use reminders ...

Psalms 145:3-9 (ESV) “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”

### **3. When we're struggling, God is not finished with us - verses 6.**

- Christians may be dismissed as ignorant or irrelevant.
- But God speaks our true identity: "kingdom and priests" (verse 6).
- Kingdom: .

Ephesians 2:6 (ESV) (God) ... raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Daniel 7:18 (ESV) "The saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever."

- Priests:
  1. We have 24/7 access to God to ask for his help.
  2. We represent God in the world.
  3. We teach God's truth, the Bible.
  4. We are set apart from the world for God.
  5. We continue the priestly ministry of Jesus.

We are ordinary people who represent an extraordinary God.

**In light of these three reasons, we should never quit on Christ. We should always stand firm in the Christian faith without compromise.**

# CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

**Start Talking.** Get the conversation going.

- The thing I worry about most in life is ...

**Start Thinking.** Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 1:1-8.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Which of God's attributes revealed in the verses 4-8 help you stand firm?

**Start Sharing.** Apply Sunday's teaching.

- What people, ideas or events feel powerful enough to get you to quit on Christ?
- What are practical steps you take to build your endurance by remembering who God is?
- When you feel dismissed or rejected by the people of the world, how does knowing you are a kingdom priest help you to stand firm in the Christian faith?

**Start Praying.** Be bold.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, this world is not a friend to faith. Its values and behaviors are bound to Satan and his minions. There are times when we feel like quitting on Christ or compromising the faith. We confess that we are not always faithful kingdom priests and we have not represented you well. Forgive us, and give us the grace that renews our faith and strengthens our resolve. Help us to stand firm and to conquer. In Jesus' Name. Amen!

**Keep Reading/Watching** for more Insights and to prepare for next Sunday.

Blessed: Chapters one and two.

Intro to Revelation, part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w>