

THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH

REVELATION 6:9-17

Text: Revelation 6:17

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¹⁷For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Introduction:

In the 5th and 6th seal we move into the second 3½ years of the tribulation period and we get a glimpse of how much horrible this time will be. Notice:

1. THE FAITHFUL ONES PRAYING IN HEAVEN

In the first four seals the things going on were taking place on earth. As the fifth seal is opened the things taken place is back in Heaven.

Revelation 6:9-10

⁹And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Those that we hear praying are those “that were slain.” The word “slain” means “to butcher” or “slaughter.” These are those who will become martyrs for the Lord

Jesus during this time on the earth. The history of Christianity has been stained with the blood of its martyrs. When we began our study of Revelation we learned of those who were enduring great persecution for their faith in Christ. John, the author of Revelation, was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos for his association and dedication to Christ.

As American's who enjoy religious freedom, we are often sheltered from what it is cost many in the world to name the name of Christ. The persecution and martyrdom of Christian is not just limited to the first century. It is alive and well even in our day. Even more so!

But during the days following the return of Jesus Christ it will escalate to a level never known in history. As we will learn in chapter 7, there will be many that will be saved after Jesus comes. Many, if not the majority, will pay the ultimate price for their faith in Jesus Christ.

In the 5th seal we are get a glimpse of those who will give their lives for their faith and we hear them crying out to God in prayers. Let's notice these tribulation martyrs.

A. What Is Seen In These Martyrs

Revelation 6:9

⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the

souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

1. They had been fearless in their witness.

- After their conversion they had become fearless proclaimer's of God's Word. Even in the face of death, they had been faithful.

2. They had been faithful in their walk.

- The word "testimony" is a judicial term that speaks of evidence. They had lived lives that revealed that their faith in Christ was real. They had been faithful for God and faithful to God.

B. What Is Sought By These Martyrs

- Their prayer is not a prayer rising out of vengeful heart or some personal vendetta to get even. They appeal to God on the basis that He is "holy and true." Their prayer is a desire for God's name that was despised and hated, as revealed in their death, to be vindicated. They were martyred, not because they were despicable or terrible people. They were slain because of Who they knew and were associated with – the Lord! This is the time when God wrath is being poured out on those who have rejected, mocked, blasphemed Him on earth, and their prayer is the

expression of their heart to see His name glorified and vindicated on the earth.

C. What Is Said To These Martyrs

Revelation 6:11

¹¹ And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

This was a promise that it would not be much longer and their prayer would be answered.

2. THE FEARFUL ONES PRAYING ON EARTH

When the 6th seal is opened we come back to the earth. Once again we hear people praying. But, instead of praying to the **Redeemer**, we see them praying to the **rocks**. Instead of **turning** to God, we see them **running** from God.

What happens when the 6th seal is opened is summarized in verse 17.

Revelation 6:17

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

For a world that destined for God's judgment, that hour has now arrived. It is the "great day" of His wrath.

There is no longer mercy, but wrath and judgment. We have now moved into the second 3 ½ years.

A. The Horrible Events God's Wrath Brings

Revelation 6:12-14

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

1. Earthquakes

2. Sun darkened

B. The Horrifying Effects God's Wrath Brings

Revelation 6:15

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;