

LISTENING GUIDE
REVELATION The Future Unveiled
A Study on the Book of Revelation

PERSECUTION and the Prayers of the Martyred

Revelation 6:9-11

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets modifying the biblical text underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1195.

This prayer for judgment and vindication acknowledges several important theological truths. God is a God of justice, holiness, and truth, who will keep His promises of salvation for His people and retribution against His enemies...In fact, the fulfillment of this promises of vengeance against the enemies of God's people is portrayed in the sixth seal.

- Dr. Charles Swindoll, *Insights on Revelation*



REVIEW OF THE SEALS

- 1 The First Seal was a seal of deception—False Christ/false peace
- 2 The Second Seal was the seal of destruction—War
- 3 The Third Seal was the seal of destitution—Famine
- 4 The Second Seal was the seal of devastation—Death



THE FIFTH OF SEVEN SEALS—PERSECUTION

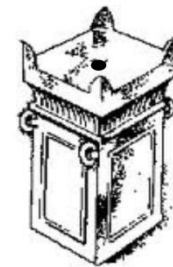
5. The Fifth Seal allows us to hear the prayers of those martyred during the Tribulation.

Revelation 6:9–11, The Message -⁹ *When he ripped off the fifth seal, I saw the souls of those killed because they had held firm in their witness to the Word of God. They were gathered under the Altar,¹⁰ and cried out in loud prayers, “How long, Strong God, Holy and True? How long before you step in and avenge our murders?”¹¹ Then each martyr was given a white robe and told to sit back and wait until the full number of martyrs was filled from among their servant companions and friends in the faith.*

A Message from the Martyrs

1. Faithfulness has a _____.

Revelation 6:9, NIV84 -⁹ *When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar* [See picture: The altar John saw is most likely emblematic of “The Altar of Incense” in the OT. When this altar was used, the animal would be slain and its blood would run through a hole in the table into a bowl “under” the altar to be used later in the temple ritual; the “blood” represents life (cf., Lev. 4:7, 18, 25, 30); the fact that these “souls” are “underneath the altar” (6:9) indicated that their untimely deaths will be valiant martyrdoms—live given for the sake of the Gospel and for their commitment to Christ; for the scripture says...] *the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.*



Two Reasons Our Faith Will Cost Us Something:

- A. Our commitment to God.
- B. Our commitment to God's Word.

2. Faithfulness has an _____.

Revelation 6:10, NIV84 -¹⁰ *They called out in a loud voice, “How long”* [VERY IMPORTANT: Gk: ἕως, *héōs*, lit., “To what extent of time will pass until something one is confident of happens...” – ATR; These “tribulation saints” are not questioning or challenging God. They are asking when Satan will be defeated. Their question is not, “Will you...” but “When will you...?” “How long” until our blood is avenged...we understand Your that Your wrath is coming, we just don't know when Your wrath is coming!], *Sovereign Lord, holy and true*, [“how long will it be] until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

3. Faithfulness has a _____.

Revelation 6:11, NIV84 -¹¹ *Then each of them was given a white robe* [στολή, *stolē*, always referred to a “declared righteousness, holiness, and/or purity”; it references a something awarded; these white robes are awarded NOT because of their “good works” but because of God's “finished work” in them] *and they were told to wait a little longer*, [Gk: ἀναπαύω, *anapaūō* lit., “stop and rest”] *until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.*



Answers to "Persecution and the Prayers of the Martyrs" Sermon
Based on Revelation 6:9-11

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- 1. Price**
- 2. Understanding**
- 3. Reward**