

THE FIFTH SEAL OPENED  
REV. 6:9-11

Introduction:

- A. This scene is future.
  - 1. It is "things which must be hereafter."
  - 2. You would not see this today.
  
- B. This is the time of judgment for God's people and the earth.
  - 1. I Cor. 3:13-15.
  - 2. Rom. 14:7-13.
  - 3. Matt. 7:24-27.
  - 4. Luke 12:31-48.
  
- C. These are true martyrs, of the church age.
  - 1. Not simply die but die for a cause.
  - 2. They have their glorified bodies.

I. THE OPENING OF THE FIFTH SEAL. V9

- A. "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them slain for the word of God, and for the testimony they held."
  - 1. under = hupokato - down under, underneath.
  - 2. altar = thusiasterion - an altar, place for sacrifice.
  - 3. souls = psuche - one of the manifestations of life.
  - 4. slain = sphazo - to slaughter, to slay, as in animals for a sacrifice.
  
- B. Why were these people slain?
  - 1. "for the word of God."
  - 2. "for the testimony they held."
  - 3. testimony = marturia = certifies, a statement.

II. THE CRY OF THE WITNESSES. V10

A. "And 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."

1. cried = drazo (a word that imitates the hoarse cry of the raven or crow) onomatopoeic., hence to cry or cry out, inarticulate cries from fear or pain.
2. loud = megas - great, large.
3. saying = lego - to lay together, to relate.

B. Their cry to God.

1. "how long?" ews = until + pote = when? At what time, until what time.
2. Lord = despotes - despot - one who has absolute dominion, supreme authority, and unlimited power.
  - a. Acts 4:24.
  - b. II Peter 2:1, "deny the Lord that bought them."
  - c. holy = hagios - sacred, reverence, awe.
  - d. true = alethinos - true, genuine.
3. judge = krino = to divide, to separate, to come to a decision, to pronounce final judgment.
4. avenge = ekdikais = to execute vengeance.
  - a. Luke 17:34-37, 18:1-8.
  - b. Acts 7:24, "And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he [Moses] defended him and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian."
  - c. Rom. 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."
  - d. Rev. 18:20, 19:2.
5. dwell = katoikeo - to dwell fixedly in a place.

### III. GOD'S RESPONSE TO THE MARTYRS. V11

A. "And white robes were given unto every one of them."

1. robes = stole = a long flowing robe, reaching to the feet, or train like.

2. given = didomi - to give freely, unforced.
- B. This by no means applies to every saved person!
1. These were slain.
  2. They loved the truth more than their lives!
- C. "and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season."
1. rest = anapauo - to rest oneself, to take rest, to enjoy rest.
  2. little = mikros - small, little.
  3. season = chronos = time, duration.
- D. "until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled"
1. fellowservants = sundoulos = fellow slaves.
  2. killed = apokteino = to kill, to slay.
  3. fulfilled = pleroo - to fill, to fulfill.
  4. Rev. 13:15.

