

**"The Seal Judgments"**

**Part 7**

**Revelation 6:1-17**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Revelation we started to look at the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal which when it was opened John was able to see the souls of saints under the altar in heaven crying for vengeance upon those who dwell upon the earth. In our study last week we looked at 3 points.

1. **The Persecuted**
2. **The Persecution**
3. **The Persecutors**

Those who were martyred were future believers of the Tribulation. The persecution will be extremely severe. Those who choose to follow Jesus Christ in the Tribulation will be to make a choice of DEATH over LIFE. When they accept Jesus Christ they will be signing their own death sentence.

**Revelation 13:7-8, 11-15**

<sup>7</sup> *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

<sup>8</sup> *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

<sup>11</sup> *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

<sup>12</sup> *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

<sup>13</sup> *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

<sup>14</sup> *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

<sup>15</sup> *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

**Mark 13:8-13**

<sup>8</sup> *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.*

<sup>9</sup> *But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.*

<sup>10</sup> *And the gospel must first be published among all nations.*

<sup>11</sup> *But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.*

<sup>12</sup> *Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.*

<sup>13</sup> *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

Now I want to use this to show you something else about the Tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation period Jesus Christ will return to set up His Kingdom here on this earth as promised in the Old Testament. Now Satan will do all he can to stop the establishment of Christ's Kingdom. He will seek to destroy the Nation of Israel because the promise of the EARTHLY Kingdom and the EARTHLY return of Christ are both made to Israel.

This morning I want to revisit the PERSECUTED again.

I. **The Persecuted**

To begin with today I want to raise a question and then we will answer the question.

**Why is there such a violent attack upon God's people?**

**Notice Revelation 6:9**

Here we see that these believers will be slain for 2 reasons:

1. **The Word of God.**
2. **The testimony which they held.**

These people are not martyred because they will not bow to the Anti-Christ because when these are killed the Anti-Christ is not yet the center of worship. They are killed for their message and their stand. Now let me show you the message which will be preached in the Tribulation.

**Matthew 24:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

<sup>9</sup> *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

<sup>10</sup> *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

<sup>11</sup> *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

<sup>12</sup> *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

<sup>13</sup> *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

<sup>14</sup> *And this **gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

I need to explain the Gospel of the Kingdom. The word "GOSPEL" means "GOOD NEWS". This is NOT a GOSPEL which replaces the GOSPEL we know found in 1 Corinthians 15.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

<sup>4</sup> *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

**This Gospel will still be preached but there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> part to it which is the Gospel of the Kingdom. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the GOOD NEWS THAT THE KING IS COMING TO SET UP HIS KINGDOM.**

This will be the message of these slain saints and there will be a severe hatred for the Word of God (which contains the Gospel of the Kingdom) and there will be a hatred for the Testimony of these believers because they will stand firm on this TRUTH.

**So this attack upon the believers will be an attack launched by sinful man against the RULE of God.**

The martyred saints of this 5<sup>th</sup> Seal are casualties of this battle. The message will be that Jesus is coming back to set up His kingdom and He will rule and reign on the earth and this attack against the saints is man's way of saying, "WE DO NOT WANT GOD'S RULE OVER OUR LIVES AND ON THE EARTH!" This hatred of God's rule was foretold in the Old Testament.

**Psalm 2:1-3**

*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?*

<sup>2</sup> *The **kings of the earth** set themselves, and **the rulers take counsel together**, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*

<sup>3</sup> *Let us break their bands [of restraint] asunder, and cast away their cords [of control] from us.*

As our world presses on toward the Tribulation we will see more and more hatred for God's Word and His coming Kingdom.

**2 Timothy 3:1-7**

*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

<sup>2</sup> *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

<sup>3</sup> *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

<sup>4</sup> *Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;***

<sup>5</sup> *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

The point I want you to see is that as our society moves forward toward the Tribulation things will digress.

Now this will all end in a major clash during the Tribulation. This world will not get better as time moves forward but instead it will wax worse until the RADICAL INTERVENTION BY GOD.

**Psalm 2:4-9**

<sup>4</sup> *He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.*

<sup>5</sup> *Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

<sup>6</sup> *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

<sup>7</sup> *I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

<sup>9</sup> *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

### **Daniel 2:31-35**

<sup>31</sup> *Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.*

<sup>32</sup> *This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,*

<sup>33</sup> *His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

<sup>34</sup> *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and **brake them to pieces.***

<sup>35</sup> *Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

There will not be a gradual transition of this world as it converts to Christianity but there is coming an Intervention from God as He will destroy those who rebel against His Rule over the Earth.

Now let us get back to the slain saints again.

## II. Their Cry

### **Notice Revelation 6:10**

They cry out for vengeance upon those who dwell upon the earth.

**The word "LORD" here is very important in its meaning.**

It is the word "despotes" and it speaks of OWNERSHIP. These martyred saints had a grip on the sovereignty of God. They saw themselves as SLAVES of God who had been bought by the blood of the Lamb.

They did not live for the pleasures of this world they lived to serve and sacrifice for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Notice Revelation 6:9 again.

They are under the ALTAR which is most likely the BRAZEN ALTAR which speaks of sacrifice. These people gave their lives and they trusted God to stand by as they died to promote the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Their death was permitted by God in order to promote the coming Kingdom.

Mark 13:9-11

<sup>9</sup> But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

<sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

<sup>11</sup> But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Let me now get us back to their CRY. They cry out for vengeance upon the earth dwellers.

God will bring this vengeance and it was spoken of by Isaiah.

Isaiah 63:1-6

*Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.*

*<sup>2</sup> Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?*

*<sup>3</sup> I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.*

*<sup>4</sup> For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.*

*<sup>5</sup> And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.*

*<sup>6</sup> And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.*

**Conclusion:**

Notice Revelation 6:11

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They were told to rest for a season until the others which God has appointed for martyrdom die by the hands of those who dwell on the earth.

Life on the earth will be far more difficult than we can imagine during the Tribulation.

In the Old Testament there were 6 cities known as the Cities of Refuge. These were cities where people could escape the avenger of blood. Those cities are pictures of Jesus Christ. When the Tribulation comes God will be the Avenger of blood and He will avenge for the blood of the slain saints. To be saved and IN CHRIST is the ONLY place of safety.