

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation

The Fifth Seal: Souls Under the Altar

Rev. 6:9-11

Introduction ~ May 11, 1685 – The Two Margarets

I. The opening of the fifth seal: What John saw (6:9)

- A. I saw underneath the altar
- B. The souls of those who had been slain
- C. Because of the Word of God and the testimony which they maintained

John pictures the church as a suffering church, a church of martyrs.

II. What John heard: The cries of the martyrs (6:10)

- A. They cried out with a loud voice
- B. How long, O Lord, Holy and True
 - 1. “How long” is the cry of the OT saints
Psa 13:1-2; 35:17; 62:3 74:10; Hab. 1:2; Zech 1:12; Luke 18:7
 - 2. They address God
O Despot (O Sovereign Master)
Holy – does not abide evil
True – faithful to His own
- C. Will You Refrain from judging and avenging our blood
- D. On those who dwell on the earth?

III. What John heard: Comfort (6:11)

- A. There was given to each of them a white robe
Belong to God (7:9, 13-14); Lived righteously (3:4-5, 18)



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The metaphor of white robes connotes the idea of a purity which has resulted from persevering faith tested by the refining fire of tribulation¹

- B. They were told that they should rest for a little while longer
Rev. 14:13
- C. Until the fellow-servants and brothers, who are about to be killed, are fulfilled, even as they

God has a sovereignly determined number of martyrs, others will be joining.

Conclusion

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. Tertullian

In 2020

Resources

How many more?

¹ G. K. Beale and David H. Campbell, [*Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015), 135.

