

Death and the Martyrs

Revelation 6:7-11

I. The fourth Seal –

- A. The rider of the pale (ashen) horse will unleash increased death.

Revelation 6:7–8 — ⁷ When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” ⁸ I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.”

- A. The angel called death will ride the ashen horse. (Ex 12:23)

- B. The spirit called Hades will follow him.

1. It is obvious that _____

- C. They have authority over a fourth of the earth to bring about death:

1. Through sword – mostly refers to war.
2. Through famine – Starvation of the masses.
3. With Pestilence – Rampant deadly disease.
4. By wild beasts – Wild animals will turn aggressive and deadly.

- D. Lesson: There is protection for those who take refuge in the Lord: Memorize Psalm 91 _____

II. The fifth Seal.

- A. This will intensify the cry of the Martyrs in Heaven.

Revelation 6:9–11 — ⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

- B. John saw the *souls* of the saints who had been martyred.

1. **Martyrs** are those who are killed for their faith in Christ.
2. The fact that these saints are referred to as “*souls*” means that the resurrection has not yet happened at this point.

C. They were Martyred for two reasons: v9

1. **Because of the word of God** – They preached and obeyed the word of God.
2. **Because they testified of Christ** – They continued give witness of Jesus as the coming savior and judge.
3. Teachings of Jesus: **Matthew 24:9–13; Mark 13:9–13**

D. The martyrs will appeal for God to avenge them v10.

¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

1. Heaven is a place where injustices can be addressed.
See Rom 12:19
2. **Observation:** Believers are dying for their faith and vengeance has not yet begun.
3. **Conclusion:** The fifth seal is about believers in the church age and not the 7 year tribulation.

E. The souls of believers are clothed and comforted v11.

¹¹ And there was given to each of them **a white robe**; and they were told that they should **rest for a little while longer**, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.”

1. **Clothed with a white robe** – white marks them as faithful.
2. **Comforted by** in God’s promise of vengeance.
3. **Application: Be faithful till the end - Matthew 24:13** — “But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

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