



## Part Two: The Seal of the Martyrs

In this series the Seal of the Martyrs we will study 9 details of the Martyrs of chapter 6. In preparing us to gain a greater appreciation of these details **I want to connect the dots for us as to what the martyrs experienced during the first four seals** of the Seal Judgments under the work of the antichrist.

- Deception - v. 1-2 (Matthew 24:4-5)
- Destruction - v. 3-4 (Matthew 24:6-7a)
- Depravation - v. 5-6 (Matthew 24:7b)
- Death & Hell - v. 7-8 (Matthew 24:7c-8)

The Tribulation Saints Teach Us That You Can Trust Jesus No Matter What You Face

Let's look at the the Three of Nine Details of the Martyrs of the Tribulation

1. The Salvation of the Martyrs
2. The Souls of the Martyrs
3. The Slaying of the Martyrs
4. The Despair of the Martyrs
5. The Doctrine of the Martyrs
6. The Dispensation of the Martyrs
7. The Robes of the Martyrs
8. The Rest of the Martyrs
9. The Reunion of the Martyrs

## 1. The Despair of the Martyrs - “and they cried out, ‘how long...’”

A. Cried Out - Why were they crying out?

Cried - that of violent cry

picture of the **cry of a raven** -ILL- recently while watching the interaction between the bird in a nest and their mother I saw that when the mother left they babies were crying for the return of the mother who would feed them and clean them and cover them with her wings.

B. This is the age old question we all have asked, “how long?”

OT Saints - Psalm 74:9-10; Ps 79:5; Psalm 89:46; Habakuk 1:2

NT Saints - Acts 1:6-7

Tribulation Saints - Now here they are asking how long?

Look at the **reasons** they would be crying to the Lord:

- Deception - v. 1-2 (Matthew 24:4-5)
- Destruction - v. 3-4 (Matthew 24:6-7a)
- Depravation - v. 5-6 (Matthew 24:7b)
- Death & Hell - v. 7-8 (Matthew 24:7c-8)

Job 38:41 - Who provideth for the **raven** his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

Psa 147:9 - He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young **ravens** which cry.

Luk 12:24

*Consider the **ravens**: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?*

## 2. The Doctrine of the Martyrs - "O Lord, holy and true,"

O- Their doctrine and believe led to and O faith. That we would have an O faith

Lord - Posture of humility

Holy - w/o unrighteousness of any type- completely separate from sin and devoted to the good of God's own honor and glory. Is. 6:3 records the angels "Isa 6:3 *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Psa 99:9 — Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Psa 99:3 — Let them praise thy great and terrible name; *for it is holy.*

Psa 99:5 — Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; *for he is holy.*

True - God is the True God and all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth. He is completely reliable.

Jer 10:10 *But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*

Jer 10:11 *Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.*

Jer 10:12 *He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.*

This view of Christ allows them to know that he is perfectly righteous in the judgment that is to come next.

"The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart." — John Calvin

### **3. The Dispensation of the Martyrs** - “does thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on earth?”

Dispensation - a period of time during which God deals in a particular way with man in respect to sin and man’s responsibility.

Divisions of time periods like islands of time in the sea of eternity.

Summary of Dispensations - pg. 16 of Hartill’s Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics

- Each dispensation shows that evil is headed up in a person or persons
- Each dispensation ends in a world crisis
- Each dispensation God comes down

Example of first 2 dispensations:

The Dispensation of Innocence

The Dispensation of Conscience “of knowledge”

This is the Dispensation of Tribulation -

The Christian is not permitted to judge and avenge, that is God’s responsibility that He has handed over to Christ.

Matthew 5 - Turn the other cheek

2 Cor. 2:11 - The blessing of forgiveness

Eph. 4:26 - be angry and sin not, neither give place to the devil

1 Peter 3:9 - Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

Luke 11:4 - The Model Prayer “forgive us our debts as we forgive others”

Romans 8:36 - we are to be considered as sheep to be slaughtered

2 Cor. 7:1 - vengeance is a sin for the believer

#### **Description of the judgement of this tribulation:**

2Th 1:6 - *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;*

☐ 2Th 1:7 - *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

2Th 1:8 - *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

2Th 1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

2Th 1:10 *When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed ) in that day.*

#### **1. His Appearing**

Reveled from heaven - no more veiling his judgement

#### **A. He will Come with Company of angels who carry out his Mighty Power -**

[Matthew chapter 24 because it's essential to this text. The sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky, all the tribes of the earth mourn, they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory and He'll send forth His angels and they move to gather the elect from the four corners of the earth.

**B. Appearance In flaming fire of Glory that leads to judgment** - You cannot have true picture of Christ without this characteristic.

Mal 3:2 — *But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's **fire**, and like fullers' soap:*

Mat 3:10 — *And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the **fire**.*

Mat 7:19 — *Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the **fire**.*

Mat 13:40 — *As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the **fire**; so shall it be in the end of this world.*

Mat 18:8 — *Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting **fire**.*

2Pe 3:7 — *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto **fire** against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Jde 1:7 — *Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal **fire**.*

## 2. His Purpose

**A. Recompense** - As we look at the tribulation we see an escalation of every imaginable eternal pain, retribution. The word "recompense" giving full vengeance, giving complete punishment.

What this vengeance is not:

the unruly, selfish, sinful passion that makes human beings seek to injure others. It is not sinful vengeance. When we seek vengeance for our own personal reasons out of our own personal passions because we have been offended, such vengeance is not just because we are not so holy as God, we are not perfect and cannot render perfect judgment. And so the Bible says, "Leave vengeance to God." But it is also mandated that we seek no vengeance. emotion.

**B. Rest** - "relief," *anesis*, has the idea of the absence of tension, the absence of trial. It means to let up. It's the word a Greek would use if he bent his bow and released the string, relaxed it, relief from pressure, relief from trials, relief from hardship, relief from sin. There will be no problems, no pain, no suffering, no disease; relief. The tightness of life, the pressure, the tension, the squeeze will be relaxed in eternal joy.

“And above all, you must be asking which door is the true one; not which pleases you best by its paint and panelling...the question should never be: ‘Do I like that kind of service?’ but ‘Are these doctrines true: Is holiness there? Does my conscience move me towards this? Is my reluctance to move to this door due to my pride, or my mere taste, or my personal dislike for this particular door-keeper?’” — CS Lewis

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Here is an exercise that will help you apply the teaching. Consider discussing these questions with someone else:

1. What is something that you have been worried about this week that you need to trust God with?
2. How can faith in God’s final victory help you stay focused in trials?
3. Usually a person can tell the important news by reading the headline. This week study 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 and write down possible headlines that summarize the main occurrences we have studied in the seal of the martyrs.
4. What did the martyrs believe about Christ that helped them live for Christ unto death?
5. Who is an unbeliever you are praying for that you believe would go through the tribulation if Jesus was to receive the Church from the earth today?