



## Part One: The Seal of the Martyrs

In this study, I am preaching a sub-series - The Fifth Seal: The Seal of the Martyrs opened during the Seal Judgements.

In review, we have learned that during the Tribulation Period there will be three main divisions of Judgment.

- The Seven Seal Judgments
- The Seven Trumpet Judgments
- The Seven Vial Judgments

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 Salvation of the Martyrs - "I saw under the altar"

One of the most common questions about future events is will people be saved during the tribulation?

They are in heaven - I am the Way, the Truth, The Life, except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish

They are under the altar - Revelation 12:11, KJV: "And they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

The sacrificial altar on which the Blood of Jesus was applied (Hebrews 9:12)

Adrian Rogers talked about a man telling young Billy Graham Your gifted, your convincing but if you ever expect to be accepted worldwide you're going to have to leave out that Blood stuff.

"The war that exists between you and God can be over quickly, and the peace treaty is signed in the blood of [God's] Son Jesus Christ." - Billy Graham

"This is faith: a renouncing of everything we are apt to call our own and relying wholly upon the blood, righteousness and intercession of Jesus." - John Newton

- a. **The Blood of Jesus is Sacred Blood - Acts 20:28 (The blood type is determined by the Father)**
- b. **The Blood of Jesus is Shed Blood - Hebrews 9:22**
- c. **The Blood of Jesus is Saving Blood - Leviticus 17:11, 1 Peter 1:18**

**ILL** - "Sunday School teacher asked if there is anything that God cannot do?" Little girl replied, "Yes. He cannot see my sin through the Blood of Jesus"

## 2. The Souls of the Martyrs - "the souls of them"

It is interesting that while the Christian saints have been given glorified bodies, John recognizes these tribulation martyrs as souls.

This is the SOUL-ISH Body. - Eyes to see, ears to hear, mouths to cry out, the need for rest.

There will be a coming resurrection at the end of the tribulation period.

**Rev. 20:4** And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Matthew 10:28: "and fear not them which are able to kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

## 3. The Slaying of the Martyrs - "slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held"

The history of the redemption has been written in the Blood  
Called to demonstrate their faith often times by death. (Rev. 12:11)

They laid down their life for the Word of God -

The testimony which they held - just as Harod was offended by the testimony of those announcing the King, the antichrist will also be offended by the message, "The King is Coming". You should have enough evidence in your life to prove you guilty of living for Jesus

The antichrist will slay them for their testimony.

ILL - examples of persecution that we think of will have no comparison to what these martyrs will endure.

**The Acts of the Apostles**- we can't be dogmatic about the fate of these men but we do know that they teach us like the martyrs of the tribulation, we can trust God no matter what.

**Peter** - at the end of his life Peter shouted a message of encouragement to his wife as she was led away to execution, then he himself died in Rome by being crucified upside down.

**James** - The son of Zebedee and the brother of John, James became the first apostle to die a martyr's death.

**Andrew** - Some traditions say he was crucified in A.D. 69 on an X-shaped cross (now called a Saint Andrew's Cross), and that he languished three days before dying.

**Phillip** - We don't know how Philip died, but according to some traditions he was stripped, pierced through the thighs (or ankles), hung upside down (perhaps on a cross), and stoned to death.

**Bartholemew** - a belief that he died by being flayed alive.

**Thomas** - He was reportedly speared to death and buried near the city of Madras.

**James** - We do have a hint about his martyrdom, however. According to Josephus, he died by being stoned and clubbed.

**The persecution of the Waldenses** by the Catholic Church

Bodies flayed alive, or burnt

Hanged, Drowned, Ripped Open, Tied to Trees, Pierced with Prongs, Thrown from Steep Cliffs, Burnt, Stabbed, Racked to Death, Crucified with Head downwards, Worried by dogs, etc.

The Waldenses believed:

Justification from Christ does not require the church

"Everything you need to live the Christian life is in Jesus"
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### **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 that you need to trust God with?
2. What is the significance of the martyrs being under the altar?
3. Usually a person can tell the important news by reading the headline. This week study the first five seals in Revelation 6:1-11 and write down possible headlines that summarize the main occurrences we have studied in the first five seals.
4. What title does Matthew 24:8 give concerning the Tribulation?
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?