



### **Part Three: The Seal of the Martyrs**

In this study we have examined the details that John records about the tribulation martyrs.

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

I believe the final message of the tribulation martyrs shows us three areas that we can trust Christ with:

1. Robes of Righteousness
2. Rest for Weary
3. Reunion of Saints

## 1. The Robes of the Martyrs - "And white robes were given unto every one of them..."

Cross Reference -

These verses affirm to us who we are dealing with that is being clothed with robes...

Rev. 7:9 - After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, **G4749** and palms in their hands;

Rev. 7:13-14 - And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? **G4749** and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, **G4749** and made them **G4749** white in the blood of the Lamb.

The Grace of these Robes - to bestow a gift

We are reminded that regardless of which dispensation a person lives under, salvation is always the gift of God and not of works.

Possible conclusions we can arrive to for what these robes represent:

### A. COMFORT

Typically, Israelites slept on the floor with their mantle used as a covering to keep them warm. In times of anguish people often tore their mantles to show their distress.

### B. COVERING

stole - unto every one of them - they received individual robes that were tailored for them. Vines Expository it is used, with stress on the individuality, Robes were typical used to cover up something. Coverings have only been necessary since the fall of man.

2 Chronicles 6:41 Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be **clothed** with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.

Isaiah 61:10 - I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments **of** salvation, he hath covered me with the **robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Job 29:14 - I put on **righteousness**, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a **robe** and a diadem.

Clothed in Righteousness

**Fallen race in Eden fair  
Exposed and full of shame  
Fled we naked from Thy sight  
Far from Thy holy Name**

***Refrain***

***Clothe us in Your righteousness  
Hide filthy rags of sin  
Dress us in Your perfect garb  
Both outside and within***

Sent from the garden in the east  
Outside of Eden's gate  
Banished there from Thy pure light  
Were Adam and his mate

Scarlet souls are now like snow  
By Thy atoning grace  
Crimson hearts become like wool  
For Adam's fallen race

***Refrain***

No work of ours is good enough  
For evil to atone  
Your merit, Lord, is all we have  
It saves, and it alone

### C. ACCEPTANCE

Luke 15:22 - But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, [G4749](#) and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

What did the robe here indicate?

“My identity and my security are not in my spiritual progress. My identity and my security are in God’s acceptance of me given as a gift in Christ.”  
- JD Greer

## 2. The Rest for the Martyrs - “and it was said unto them, that they should rest for a season”

**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.

A. Rest is a gift from the Lord

Psalm 23 provides a great picture of rest and refreshment

Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

'It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. '

B. Why are they needing to rest?

Look at the **reasons**:

- 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)

C. Enemies of Rest -

The martyrs were unable to experience rest while on the earth during the tribulation  
He MAKES me...They were ready to get even with the unrighteous on earth

Misplaced Identity: Placing my worth on my work - Ecc. 10:15 (Christ Values You!)

'The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city. '

Materialism: Always wanting more things - Prov. 23:4-5

'Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. '

Envy: Wanting to be like others - Ecc. 4:4a

'Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit. '

Valuing Achievement over relationships - Ecc. 4:7-9

'Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail. '

Insecurity: When I'm afraid I won't have enough Ecc 6:7; Psalm 127:2

'All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

The greatest obstacle is not trusting Christ for salvation - Revelation 14:11

'And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.'

Revelation 14:11

**3. The Reunion of the Martyrs** - "until their fellowserwnts also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled"

This gives us a glimpse of the blessing that God is in control of a seemingly out of control world. This tells us a little something about the omniscience of God.

Omniscience- God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.

He is in present control to sustain them now

He is in eternal control to sustain them after death

'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. '  
Psalms 116:15

When all the securities of the world are falling away, then you realize, like never before,  
what it means to have your security in Jesus  
Corrie Ten Boom

Corrie Ten Boom-

During her final letter home this is the verse that she recorded as her verse of the day...  
My confinement in Ravensbruck, where mail was nonexistent, I felt a great emptiness. This was compounded when Betsie became one of 97,000 women to die there. When Betsie died in Camp in the winter of 1944, she left this world with a smile on her face, the small of one who knows the Saviour. She was gone, but I knew she experienced the happiness of eternity.

The horrors of Ravensbruck, especially Betsie's death, caused me to wake up to reality. When I did, I was able to see that when all the securities of the world are falling away, then you realize, like never before, what it means to have your security in Jesus.

It was not until December 28, 1944, when, through a miracle, I was set free, just one week before all women my age and older were put to death. I was free and knew then as I know now that it was my chance to take the world gods message of the victory of Jesus Christ in the midst of the deepest evil of man.

'There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? Lord , lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord , only makest me dwell in safety.'

Psalms 4:6-8

Closing:

Today, would you obey Christ by trusting in Him as Saviour?

As a believer, would you take your most difficult challenge right now and cast it on Jesus?

### **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. What have you seen others trust in for eternal salvation?
3. What are your reasons for overworking at home, school, or work?
4. In what ways could you change your schedule or expectations at home and work so that you get enough rest?
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?