

The Martyrs **Revelation 6.9-11**

1. There are martyrs for God's Word (v.9).

"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne."

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt 16:25 ESV)

*"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."
(Acts 5:27-29 ESV)*

2. The martyrs call for justice (v.10).

"They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

"How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever?" (Ps 74:10 ESV)

"How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire? Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name!" (Ps 79:5-6 ESV)

*"O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult? They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast."
(Ps 94:3-4 ESV)*

3. The martyrs are rewarded (v.11).

"Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been."

*"So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,"
(Heb 4:9 ESV)*

*"There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest."
(Job 3:17 ESV)*

*"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
(Rev 21:4 ESV)*

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God," (2 Tim 1:8 ESV)