

Your faith is not wasted—your prayers are not ignored—your reward is certain

Imagine standing in a heavenly courtroom. But this trial isn't about petty crimes, it's about truth, faith, and the cost of following Christ

The witnesses? They're not on earth. They're in heaven. And they're not silent, they're crying out, "**How long, O Lord**"

Revelation 6:9–11 invites us into a moment of holy tension: a glimpse of those who **gave everything** for **their testimony**, and a God who promises that justice will not be forgotten

This morning, we do not **see gold or glory**, but **souls**. Souls of men and women who stood firm for the **truth of God's Word**

These were **not mighty warriors** in the world's eyes, but in heaven, they are honored

And they cry out, not in bitterness, but in boldness: "**How long, O Lord, holy and true?**"

It's a passage that speaks straight to the heart of anyone who's ever wondered

Does God see my suffering? Will justice ever come?

This study brings us into a deeply sobering and sacred moment in John's vision, **the opening of the fifth seal**

This passage is not just about martyrdom; it is a **powerful reminder** that **God sees every act of faithfulness**, even when it costs everything

Careless words **Matthew 12:36**, and actions, 2 Corinthians 5:10 & 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

It reminds us that justice, though delayed, is certain

Which calls us to live boldly and to trust deeply in the One who is both holy and true

As we explore this passage, let us do so with **reverence** and **readiness**, ready to **examine our own faith, endurance, and hope**

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 testimony which they held Revelation 6:9 NKJV

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:10 NKJV

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed. Revelation 6:11 NKJV

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The focus moves from external tribulation to **internal justice** and **divine timing**

The suffering of the righteous is not forgotten. God sees, hears, and has a set plan for vindication

I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain...

Under the altar is a symbolic reference to the heavenly altar, echoing the Old Testament sacrificial system in *Leviticus 4:7*

In the tabernacle, blood from sacrifices was poured at the base of the altar

Here we see **souls**, representing the **ultimate sacrifice** of the martyrs

Souls of those who had been slain referring to **believers killed for their faith**

The Greek word “slain” *sphazō* (SP Sphaaa-zaa) means **to slaughter or butcher**, used for both animal sacrifice and martyrdom

For the word of God and for the testimony which they held

There are two reasons for their death: **Faithfulness to Scripture** and **Public witness** to Christ

Being **faithful to Scripture** is like following a map through dangerous terrain.

Even when shortcuts **look easier**, you stick to the path the map shows, because you trust the One who drew it

- It means holding to God’s word as the final authority – why?

Scripture isn’t just inspiring, it’s **God-breathed truth**

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness 2 Timothy 3:16

Being faithful to Scripture means we **don’t twist or ignore it** when it’s inconvenient

- It means believing and living what the Bible teaches

Faithfulness isn't just **knowing** the Word, it's about **living it out** **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only James 1:22 NKJV**

- It also means not compromising, even under pressure

They didn't deny the truth, even when it cost them their lives

To be **faithful to Scripture today** means that in a world full of changing values, opinions, and pressures

You choose to **trust, obey, and stand on God's unchanging Word**, even when it's costly

Faithfulness means you don't edit the Bible to fit culture, you align your life to fit the Bible

Witnessing For Christ

- Standing firm in a shifting culture

Faithfulness may mean being misunderstood, mocked, or even rejected

To be a faithful witness for Christ today is to stand for truth, even when it's not popular or fits the culture

- Trusting God's promises over the world's approval

Faithfulness **is not** about being **right in the world's eyes**; it's about being **righteous in God's eyes**

We do not obey for applause or popularity, but because we love and trust our King

These believers were not casualties of **random violence**; they were **faithful witnesses**

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:10 NKJV

How long, O Lord, holy and true...

Cried with a loud voice Their prayer is passionate, collective, and bold

How long? This is a deep biblical lament **Psalms 13:1; Habakkuk 1:2**. It's a cry for **justice**, not revenge

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? Psalm 13:1 NKJV It's a cry for **justice**, not revenge

O Lord, holy and true This is a recognition of **God's very character**

He is morally perfect (**holy**) and faithful to His promises (**true, certain, and sure**)

Until You judge and avenge our blood This is a call for God's **righteous justice**, not personal vengeance

The word "**avenge**" *ekdikeō* (Ek-dee-kaaa-oh) is used in the New Testament for **God's justice, not human retaliation**

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord Romans 12:19 NKJV

On those who dwell on the earth This is a recurring phrase in Revelation for **unbelievers** who are opposed to God's kingdom

This verse teaches that it is **right and godly to long for justice**

However, vengeance belongs to God alone **Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in *due* time; For the day of their calamity *is* at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them** Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed. Revelation 6:11 NKJV

Then a white robe was given to each of them...

White robe A symbol of **purity, honor, and victory**

The Church in Sardis **Revelation 3:4-5**

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels Revelation 3:5 NKJV

Though they physically died on earth, they will be **honored in heaven**

It was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, God gives them both **comfort** and **clarity**

Today, rest implies **peace and security**, but not idleness as we wait

Until the number... was completed **Timing!**

There is a **divinely ordained number of martyrs**, indicating that **God has a purpose and timeline** for His justice

Even suffering is under God's sovereign plan. **Justice may be delayed, but it is never denied**

Why? Because of who we are in God's eyes

You may not be martyred in a physical sense

But every time you stand for truth, love sacrificially, or face mockery for your faith, God sees you...

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The song "Fishes and Loaves" by Josiah Queen uses the biblical story of Jesus miraculously feeding a large crowd with a small lunch to symbolize faith, surrender, and the idea that even limited resources can achieve great things with divine help.

Matthew 14:13-21

We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish, they answered. Matthew 14:17 NKJV

The song emphasizes the importance of **giving control of difficult situations to God, even when feeling uneasy or uncertain**