

# Underneath the Altar

Rev 6: 9-17

# Underneath the Altar

- Revelation 6 is a fascinating chapter
  - It is divided into three sections
  - First..... there are the 4 seals opened
    - Diplomatic conqueror appears (white horse)
    - Then peace is taken from the earth (red horse)
    - Then famine with hyperinflation (black horse)
    - Then  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the earth dies through sword, pestilence and wild beasts (pale horse)
- Then the fifth seal is opened (Vs 9-11)
- Finally, a sixth seal is opened (Vs 12-17)

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- We see when this 5<sup>th</sup> seal opened, a scene unfolds of martyred saints (Rev 6: 9-11)
- There are many things we must note....
  - First....Revelation uses O.T. language frequently
    - Lev 4: 17-18...And the priest shall dip his finger *in some* of the blood, and sprinkle *it* seven times before the LORD, *even* before the vail. And he shall put *some* of the blood upon the horns of the altar which *is* before the LORD, that *is* in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which *is at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
    - Lev 17: 11.... For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul

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- The interesting thing is the Hebrew word for life is “nephesh” which is translated (soul)
  - So, what we are seeing here is a massive revival for those who hold to....
    - Vs 9b...the Word of God
    - Vs 9b...the testimony which they had maintained
  - Rev 12: 11.... 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.
- But who are these martyrs who have given their lives?

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- Some will say that these are Christian believers
  - Those who say this try to say the “Church” is going through the Tribulation
- There are some things we must address
  - First, if you will notice....
    - These are “souls” of those slain
  - Why then would they not be the Church?
    - I Thess 4: 15-18
    - The “church” believers will receive new bodies at the Rapture of the Church....
    - I Cor 15: 51-53...

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- I need to address something to help us
  - Question....what happens to believers when we die?
  - II Cor 5: 1-8..... We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
  - For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
  - When a Christian dies his or her soul goes immediately into the presence Christ
  - But the body is “laid to rest” until the trumpet sounds (I Thess 4: 15-17)

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- Therefore, the Christian when they die...
  - The soul goes immediately into the presence of Christ
  - The body goes into the earth awaiting the resurrection of the body at the Rapture
- Question...why is it important for us to know this?
- You will note...these “souls” described in Rev 6: 9-11 have not yet received resurrected bodies
  - And are therefore in disembodied state
  - But that does not answer who these people are??

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- Who are these people?
  - They are “tribulation saints” who come to Christ during this Tribulation timeframe
  - They will endure great persecution
    - Rev 12: 11...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.
- Question...will there be a great end time revival?
  - The answer is “Yes” but it will take place during the Tribulation
- How can this be?
  - Rev 7: 4-10.....

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- Rev 11: 1-7
  - The two witnesses.....will be preaching
  - Also, there will be millions of Bibles left lying around.....
- So, these “Tribulation saints” will be ushered into the presence of Christ...but not with resurrected bodies.
  - But they will cry out for justice (Gen 4: 10.... And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.)
- Rev 6: 11....Unto them was given a white robe?
  - Question....how do you put a robe on a disembodied soul with no body?

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- Rev 7: 9-10
  - A redeemed congregation clothed in celestial robes
  - Isa 61: 3.....
  - Rev 7: 14-15
    - There are clothed in the righteousness of Christ
- Isa 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.

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- We may or may not understand all that God does for His people..
  - What we do know is this.....
  - II Cor 6: 2...for He says, “AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU”; behold, now is “THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,” behold, now is “THE DAY OF SALVATION” —
- Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.....
  - The only question is when will you and I do it?

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- What we are seeing here is a people...
  - To whom salvation was dearer to them than life itself.
  - Rev 7: 9-17....
- And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes....
  - If you were to ask them.....
  - Was it worth all the pain and suffering?
  - They would overwhelmingly say “YES”