

The Martyrs and the End of the World

Seals 5-6

Sunday, June 26 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Wednesday, June 29 at 7 PM
Second Sunday after Pentecost / First Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, we are in chapter 6 of Revelation and Jesus – *the Lamb* – is opening the sealed-scroll to reveal various NT events! Last week we saw the sad realities of ♦false teaching, ♦war, ♦famine, and ♦Hades. Today, *as seals 5 and 6 are opened*, we will:

- Hear a conversation between Jesus and people who have been put to death because they *kept* testifying about Jesus.
- Read of the *cataclysmic events* and the reaction of unbelievers on the day Jesus returns.

1. **Seal 5 – The Martyrs Under the Altar:**

- a. ⁹ **When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of [on account of] the word of God, and because of [on account of] the testimony [μαρτυρίαν – martyr = one who bears witness or gives testimony] which they had maintained [kept on giving, holding]; Think about martyrs; Dr. Becker wrote: “...they held fast in spite of all the efforts of the persecutors to persuade them to deny the faith.” (110) Furthermore, they were not just *killed*; the word used by John is the word often used to describe *the slaughter of animals!***

- b. **10** and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Doesn’t that sound odd; *aren’t we supposed to forgive and forget?* Yet even David prayed: “Pour out Your indignation on them, And may Your burning anger overtake them” (Psalm 69:24 NAU). Dr. Becker explained: Such words “**remind God’s enemies that their sins will surely be punished if they continue [without repentance].**” (111-112).
- c. **11** And there was given to each of them a white robe [symbolizing God’s righteousness; Rom. 3:20-22; Rev. 7:13-14]; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of their fellow servants [slaves] and their brethren who were [about] to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.* What a contrast: unbelievers die and go to Hades (v. 8), while believers receive a white robe and the blessing of rest! But did you notice how long they are to rest? *Until the others appointed to be martyred have also been put to death!* But think about this: As the martyrs are resting, those who slaughtered them are kindly given time and being called to repent! *God is good to you and me, even to the worst of sinners!*

2. **Seal 6 – The End of the World:**

- a. **12** I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake [*“great” is mentioned only here, Ezekiel 38:18-20, and Luke 21:8-11, 25-28*]; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; **13** and the stars

of the sky [literally heaven] fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The sky [heaven] was split apart [was separated, departed] like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. Those are earth-shattering events which will take place when Jesus returns! Every earthquake of all time has been pointing ahead to this GREAT EARTHQUAKE mentioned in verse 12.

i. Recent earthquakes:

1. February 27, 2010 – Chili, 8.8 mag. (alignment with **Elenin** – a dwarf star, Earth, and Sun).
2. September 4, 2010 – New Zealand, 7.0 mag. (alignment with **Elenin**, Sun, Earth, and Mercury).
3. March 15, 2011 – Japan, 9.0 mag. (alignment with **Elenin**, Earth, and Sun).

ii. Possible future earthquakes: Elenin on these dates will be about 10 times closer to earth than above:

1. September 27, 2011 – alignment with Venus, Sun, **Elenin**, and earth.
2. October 17, 2011 – *not an alignment*, but this is the *closest* that **Elenin** gets to earth.
3. November 23, 2011 – an alignment with **Elenin**, Earth, and Sun.

b. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders [captains] and the rich [men] and the strong [men] and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence

[literally the face] of Him who sits on the throne
[God the Father], and from the wrath of the Lamb
[God the Son]; ¹⁷ **for the great day of their wrath has
come, and who is able to stand?"**

- i. The unbelievers will ask to be *crushed to death* rather than face the wrath of the Lamb – They will pray to the mountains: **“Fall on us and hide us from”** *from God the Father and from His Son* whom WE have persistently rejected!
- ii. On that GREAT DAY to come, who will be able to stand?
 1. NOT those who reject the Christ: Jesus said: **“...if you do not believe that I am *the one I claim to be*, you will indeed die in your sins”** (John 8:24 NIV). Then what; Jesus said that such people will be **“cast into hell, ⁴⁸ where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.”** (Mar 9:47-48 NAU)
 2. ONLY those who receive the Christ: Paul summarized God’s work for our salvation with these words: **“When you were dead in your sins..., God made you alive with Christ”** (Col. 2:13 NIV).

Conclusion: Now, *in Christ*, we are ♦alive, ♦forgiven, and ♦ready for His return; therefore, let us ♦give thanks, ♦be at peace, and ♦live for Christ! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*