

The Things That Must Take Place
The Fifth Seal – Dying Because of the Faith
Revelation 6:9-11

Introduction:

- A. Persecution after Revelation was written
1. Polycarp, a personal d_____ of John.
 - a. Became the _____ of the church of Smyrna
 - b. Was publicly tried, condemned, and killed because of his faith in Jesus. He was _____ years old.
 2. Persecution against Christians continue – the top dangerous places for Christians to live according to Christianity Today.
 - a. Top 3: North Korea, Somalia, L_____
 - b. Next 4: Eritrea, Yemen, N_____, Pakistan
 - c. Next 3: Sudan, I_____, Afghanistan
- B. Why does God allow Christians to die because of the faith?

Is a stamp of divine genuineness on the g_____’s origin (9)

- A. The Lamb breaks the fifth
1. John notices the **souls** of Christians who had been killed because of their connection with:
 - a. The w_____ of God (the shared it)
 - b. The t_____ they maintained (the lived it)
 2. The term soul in this context means that these martyrs were without b_____.
 - a. They were yearning for Jesus to r_____ to earth and bring justice for the deaths.
 - b. At Christ’s return they would receive their new b_____.
- B. Three things to notice in this passage.
1. These martyrs were s_____, the exact word used to describe Jesus’s sacrifice as the Lamb in 5:6
 2. These martyrs were underneath the a_____ showing that their deaths were a sacrifice to God.
 3. These martyrs were of the p_____ from John’s standpoint.

- a. The Bible records three martyrs (i.e. people who died because of their faith in Christ)
 - 1) Stephen, the deacon who was s_____ to death by a Jewish mob with the approval of the ruling council of the Jews (Acts 7)
 - 2) James, the apostle John's brother, was b_____ King Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:2).
 - 3) Antipas was p_____ executed (Rev 2:13)
- b. History records more martyrs
 - 1) All the other a_____ were killed for their faith as Jesus prophesied in Matt 24:9.
 - 2) Jesus prophesied of Peter's death as being for the g_____ of God (Jn 21:18,19).
- C. Early martyrdom brought glory (attention) to God by showing that Christianity was from God not m_____.
 1. Before the resurrection
 - a. The apostles were c_____
 - 1) They abandoned Jesus after His arrest out of f_____ (Jn 21:56)
 - 2) Peter d_____ even knowing Jesus three times in one night (Mk 14:66-72)
 - b. The apostles were d_____
 - 1) Jesus first showed himself alive to a group of w_____ who were told to tell the apostles.
 - 2) The apostles did not b_____ the women.
 - 3) Jesus had to personally appear to the apostles before they believed that He had risen from the dead.
 2. After the resurrection
 - a. None of the apostles b_____ politically, monetarily, sexually for proclaiming the gospel.
 - b. All the apostles willingly d_____ for proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.
 3. No coward and doubter would die for a lie. Early martyrdom demonstrated that the gospel is real and is from God not men.

Is a step of divine necessity for the gospel's advancement (10,11)

- A. Jesus had already stated that the things revealed are things that M_____ take place (4;1). – there is no other option.
- B. The question asked and the answer the given
 - 1. The question: *How l_____...?*
 - 2. The answer: Until all believers whom God has determined to be killed for their f_____ have been killed.
- C. After the book of Revelation was written
 - 1. Martyrdom increased dramatically in the 2nd century and was not confined to church leaders but to all c_____ of people, even children.
 - 2. The more that persecutors killed Christians, the more Christianity s_____.
 - 3. Today, the killing of Christians is widespread.
 - a. The top country who had the most believers killed for their faith in 2023 - _____ (4,118 or 80% of the total martyred)
 - b. God has used and is using martyrdom to bring people to Christ and advance the gospel to bring Rev 5:9 to a reality.
 - 1) Example: In Somalia
 - 2) Example: In North Korea
 - 3) Example: In Ukraine

Conclusion:

- A. The Christian faith was never meant to be a life of ease
 - 1. Lk 9:23 - *If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*
 - 2. Lk 14:26 - *He who does not hate his own...life cannot be My disciple*
 - 3. Lk 9:24 - *If anyone wishes to save his life, will lose it. But if anyone loses his life for My sake, will save it.*
- B. Will you be a living testimony of life in Christ no matter the cost?