

The Revelation of Jesus Christ **The Fifth and Six Seals Are Opened**

Revelation 6:9-17

1. _____
When the Lord Jesus Christ opens the fifth seal, John now sees the result of persecution against believers which is happening in the same time period of the previous four seal judgments. These Christians have been killed because they held faithful to the teaching of Christ (Rev. 6:9 cf. Heb. 11:37-40). John was able to share the unique prayer here from the martyred believers (Rev. 6:10-11; cf. Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4). These glorified saints are calling for God's justice to be accomplished because the wickedness done against His people is real and grievous (cf. Ps. 17:13; 79:6-7). The Lord graciously consoles them, not rebuking their prayer, and gives to them each a white robe as they wait for the rest of God's appointed martyrs to join them (cf. Ezek. 24:15-18; Hos. 1:1-2).

2. _____
The opening of the sixth seal gives us a vivid view as to the terrifying and awesome power of God that is being unleashed upon the world. Here is what may be compared to a full solar eclipse where the sun is dark but the moon is a blood red (v.12b). Wearing sackcloth is a symbol of repentance and mourning (Luke 10:13) or simply of a morning over loss (Gen. 37:34). Here the whole creation wears this darkness of sackcloth while it is enduring the judgment of God (cf. Rom. 8:19-22). It is altogether possible for all of these calamities to be explained scientifically, but there will be no doubt as to its supernatural origin and intention (cf. Ex 10:21 ; Luke 23:44-45).

3. _____
All men know that God exists, and they deny His existence and power to their own hurt (cf. Rom. 1:18-19; Ps. 19:1-3). It is with an amazing consistency that many of those who most clearly see God's power will then respond to the Lord in a way that is beyond irrational and objectively foolish (cf. Rev. 6:15-17). Merely experiencing first hand the undeniable power of God displayed awesome or terrifying ways is not guaranteed to result in the softened heart or belief in the Lord (cf. Luke 16:27-31; John 5:45-47).