

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 26

THE FIFTH SEAL

(REVELATION 6:9-11)



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Do you know that there is coming a day when any ministry which does not carry a spirit of prayer will burn out and cease to exist?

Why is that so?

Revelation 12:7-14 tells us that Satan and his demons will be cast down to the earth during the final three and a half years of human history. **The earth will be full of darkness, saturated with demonic activities and influences. The intensity of darkness will be so strong that if we have not cultivated intimacy with the Lord and do not carry the spirit of prayer, our ministry will snuffed out (Matt. 25:8)!**



This is likely to happen at the fifth seal, which marks a major turning point.

The fifth seal in Revelation 6:9-11 describes martyrs crying out before the throne of God. Verse 10 tells us specifically that **they are End-Time martyrs** because their perpetrators are still alive on the earth. More than martyrdom, **the fifth seal is highlighting the prayers of the End-Time martyrs**, because they were crying out before the throne of God, ***“How long, O Lord... until You judge and avenge our blood...”***



Hence the fifth seal describes a **prayer movement that is happening in heaven**. Concurrently, **God is raising up a night and day prayer movement on the earth that is contending for the release of God's justice** (Lk. 18:1-8), as well as a **prayer movement involving the remnant of Israel** (Zech. 12:10; Isa. 64:1-12; 30:18-33; Ps. 94:1-23; 98:1-9; 99:1-9). **When these three prayer movements mature and converge, their fullness will bring forth the release of the sixth and seventh seals, and ultimately all the trumpet and bowl judgments!**

The release of the fifth seal will signal the rise and maturing of the End-Time prayer movement on a worldwide level. The Body of Christ will function fully as a house of prayer. There will be an increase and acceleration of the End-Time prayer movement in terms of maturity, authority, anointing and the number of people involved, etc.

At the fifth seal, there is a shift in terms of God's judgments.

They will now be directed at the Antichrist and his empire. With the maturing of the prayer movements, the saints will be entrusted with the authority and power to release the great End-Time outpouring of the Spirit, as well as the trumpet and bowl judgments through their prayers!

As such, it is wisdom to cultivate the spirit of prayer now and to acquire the seal of God on our forehead (Rev. 7:3; Ezek. 9:4-6; SoS. 8:6)!

There are three passages that tell us of the importance of the End-Time prayer movements. **Primarily, the prayer movements serve as the governmental centre of God, and will play a vital role in bringing about the release of the decrees of God (Dan. 7:9-22; Isa. 42:10-13; Joel 2:12-17,28-32).**

We can see this clearly in Daniel 7:19-22. Verses 19 to 21 could be understood as addressing the time frame of the first four seals. This is when the Antichrist intensely persecutes the saints and prevails against them. This means that many of the saints will be killed and martyred. Then all of a sudden in verse 22, there is a turn of events when the Ancient of Days came and made a judgment in favour of the saints.

Why is there such a sudden change? Was there something happening between verse 21 and verse 22 that brought forth the change?



If verse 19 to 21 is about the first four seals, and verse 22 is about God releasing His judgment on the Antichrist through the sixth and seventh seal, the trumpets and the bowls, we can then infer that **what happened in between verse 21 and 22 is the fifth seal!**

Indeed, it is the united, intense and mature prayers of the saints in heaven and on earth in the fifth seal that will move the heart of God to issue a decree in favour of the saints! This in turn brings about the release of the sixth seal and the Church will rise to her finest hour. There will be the unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Ekklesia and we will move with great power and authority!



**BOTH LUKE 18:1-8 AND
REVELATION 6:9-11 ARE
ABOUT THE PRAYER
MOVEMENTS THAT WILL
RELEASE THE JUSTICE OF
GOD AT THE END OF THE AGE.**





Luke 18 is seen from the earthly perspective while Revelation 6 is written from the heavenly perspective. Both prayer movements will grow in tandem and mature until they reach their fullness.

The main focus of the night and day prayer movement in Luke 18 is to release justice (Luke 18:7-8). **The Biblical definition of justice is God making wrong things right.** The phrase *“though He bears long with them”* means that God is holding back the release of justice **until certain conditions are fulfilled.** The conditions are — there must be night and day prayer on the earth and the preordained number of End-Time martyrs in heaven must be completed (Rev. 6:11).

Revelation 6 verse 9 to 11 gives us four important insights:

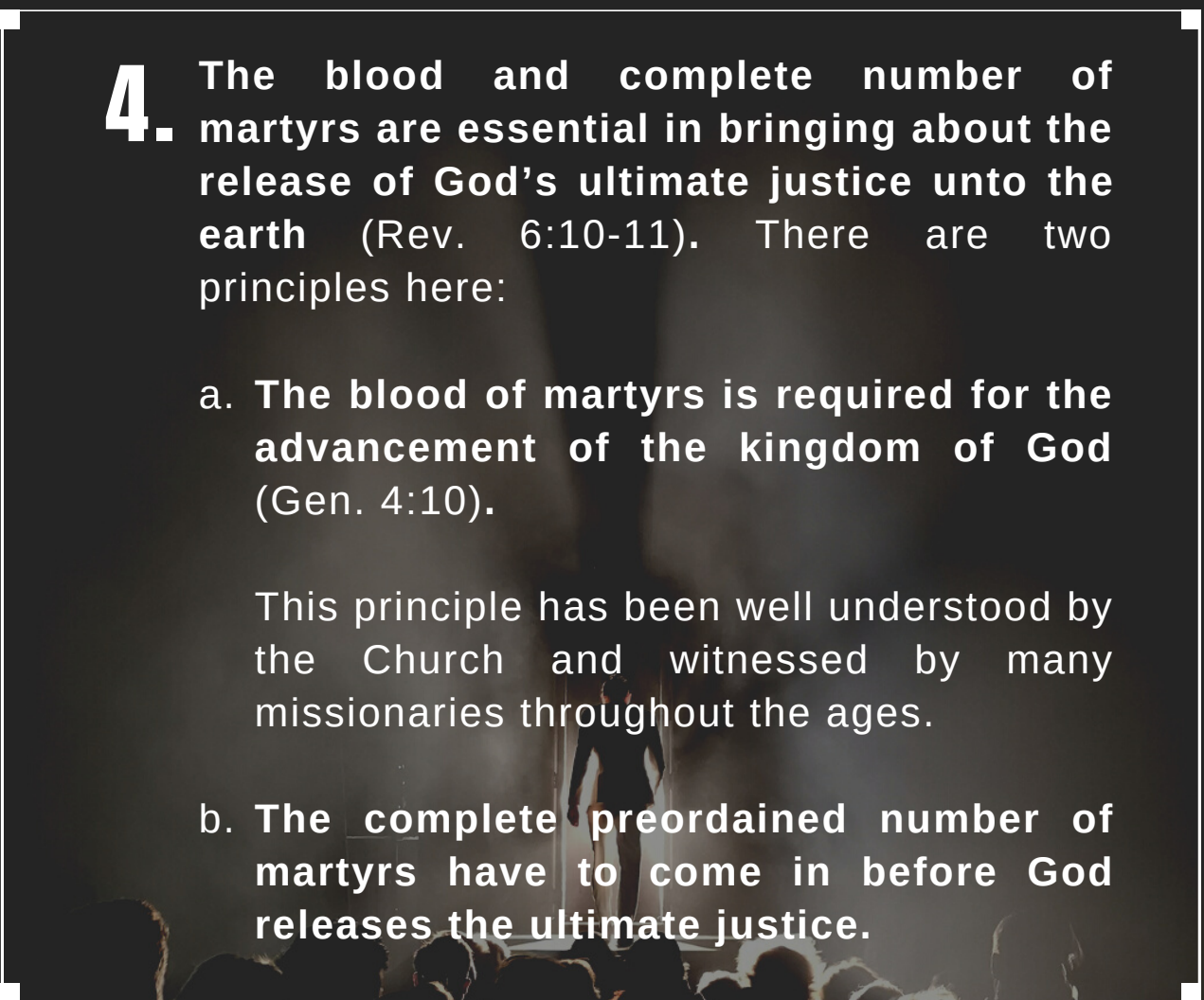
1. There is a prayer altar before the throne in heaven (Rev. 8:3-5; 9:13; 14:17-18; 16:7).

2. There are End-Time Martyrs crying out before the throne for justice to be released unto the earth (Rev. 6:10-11).

The prayers of the End-Time martyrs in the heavenlies play a vital role in bringing about the release of God's justice on the earth.

3. The primary focuses of the End-Time prayer movement are found in the prayer, "How long, O Lord?" (Rev. 6:10). This is the only prayer request found in the Book of Revelation and there are three main focuses:

- a. A prayer to vindicate God's reputation (Ps. 74:10).**
- b. A prayer for deliverance of the saints (Ps. 6:3; 13:1-2).**
- c. A prayer to judge evil, Satan and the Antichrist (Ps. 94:3).**



4. The blood and complete number of martyrs are essential in bringing about the release of God's ultimate justice unto the earth (Rev. 6:10-11). There are two principles here:

- a. The blood of martyrs is required for the advancement of the kingdom of God (Gen. 4:10).**

This principle has been well understood by the Church and witnessed by many missionaries throughout the ages.


- b. The complete preordained number of martyrs have to come in before God releases the ultimate justice.**

**Indeed, we can see how
martyrdom fuels, strengthens
and empowers the End-Time
prayer movement.**

In conclusion, the fifth seal is a vital turning point which will enable the saints to partner with God in the final three and a half years of human history. Partnership with God to release the End-Time judgments hinges on the maturing of the prayers of the saints in heaven, the saints on earth and prayers of the Jewish remnant.



**KNOWING
THIS,
WHAT
SHOULD
OUR
RESPONSE
BE?**



We have to intentionally cultivate the spirit of prayer as well as the Joel 2 lifestyle of wholeheartedness and gathering together in sacred assemblies to pray. And we have to start now!

This is no trivial matter. Without cultivating the spirit of prayer and acquiring the seal of God, we would not be able to withstand the intensity of the darkness that is coming at the End of the Age. Neither would our ministry be able to continue.

May we be like the five wise virgins who acquire the oil of intimacy. We need to intentionally cultivate the spirit of prayer now, so that we can truly partner with the Lord in the coming most intense hour of human history!



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