

Ukraine-A Foreshadowing of The End Time?

Part 5

The Coming Christian Massacre

Revelation 6:9-11

Tanya Nedashkivs'ka, 57, mourns the death of her husband, killed in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine.

Journalists stand by a mass grave in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine.

In the courtyard of their house, Vlad Tanyuk, 6, stands near the grave of his mother Ira Tanyuk, who died because of starvation and stress due to the war, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine.

Just a few examples of the atrocities that have been occurring on almost an hour by hour basis since Russian forces crossed over Ukraine's border in order to inflict unspeakable horrors upon the innocent civilians of this once peaceful nation.

Once again, we approach the concept of Ukraine's suffering depicting in an all-too-gruesome way, what life will be like on a global scale under the rule of the Antichrist of Revelation. We do so reverently and tearfully not to monopolize their holocaust to further a theological narrative, but in a very real dread recognizing that Jesus has saved us from such an awful fate. At the same time, and in an almost simultaneous instant, we realize that some we love are doomed to such a world if they miss the rapture and are alive to live through the Great Tribulation. Beyond this recognition, we are certainly moved to realize that this is the reason Jesus, in Luke 19:41-44 wept over the city of Jerusalem, knowing their fate because they had rejected their opportunity. Let's look at our text this morning.

Revelation 6:9-11 Holman Christian Standard Bible

The Fifth Seal

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the people slaughtered because of God's word and the testimony they had. 10 They cried out with a loud voice: "Lord, the One who is holy and true, how long until You judge and avenge our blood from those who live on the earth?" 11 So a white robe was given to each of them, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow slaves and their brothers, who were going to be killed just as they had been.

When Jesus Christ breaks the fifth seal, the souls of all the martyrs of the world are seen under the altar of God. What is it talking about when it says martyrs? It COULD be a picture of all those who have died for the Lord Jesus Christ down through the ages.

But this particular reference is probably to the martyrs of the end time. The reason we suspect that is that they cry out for justice against those who killed them and that judgment falls in the sixth seal. So these martyrs seem to be referencing the end time martyrs.

So John and the heavenly host see the souls of the martyrs. Where are these martyrs? They are under the altar. We need to digress a moment back to the Old Testament and the furnishings of the tabernacle. These furnishings were only patterns of the worship center in heaven.

This means that there is a perfected altar of sacrifice in the throne room of heaven. The altar in the tabernacle was where the animals were sacrificed. The blood was poured out at the foot of the altar, symbolizing that the animal was being sacrificed for the person offering it.

This is the picture here. The lives of the martyrs, their blood, has been sacrificed and poured out for God. The martyrs have offered their lives up for God. So, in heaven, the martyrs have a very special place before God: they stand at the foot of the altar. They are given a very special place near to God.

There's a strong lesson in this for all believers. That lesson is that God has a very special place for those who are faithful until death, a place that is close and dear to his heart and throne. This alone should cause us to be faithful to Him every minute of every day.

That gives you a warm feeling, doesn't it? To be close to God, close to His throne and to His presence, serving him throughout all of eternity and then laying down one's life for Him. Remember what Jesus said? "In Matt. 16:25, he said, "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."

In verse 9 we see that these martyrs are slain for God's Word and for the testimony they had borne for Christ. There are two things here that we need to look at:

1. They were slain for the Word of God. And
2. They were slain for the testimony they had borne concerning Jesus Christ.

What does it mean when we read they were slain for the word of God? In the last days of human history some people will still love Christ and still believe the Scriptures. They will love the Word of God. They will believe it, live by it, study it, teach it, preach it, and pray over it.

Because of this, the world will react against the Word of God and kill believers. Why? In the end time under the antichrist, the people of the world will be required to give their first loyalty to the state. The government will demand loyalty to the state first, then the people can have freedom of religion and worship whatever god they wish.

The state will develop the idea of what could be called a state religion, something close to what exists today. At the moment it's known as "political correctness" and its cardinal sin is something nebulous called "hate speech".

During the Great Tribulation believers in Jesus Christ can only give their loyalty to Him, so they will be killed. They will be killed because they cannot deny the Word of God.

Also, the world has always rejected God, cursed God, denied God, ignored God, disobeyed God, and disbelieved God. In the end time, all this rejection will be intensified.

The point is this: the world in the end time will reject God's Word. The world and its government will demand that believers give their first allegiance to the state and that they keep quiet about the righteousness proclaimed in Scripture. The state will be atheistic and exalt itself as God.

The second thing we said is that the believers will be slain for the testimony they had borne concerning Jesus Christ. The martyrs will believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. But the world rejects that. In the end time the world's rejection of Christ will be intensified so much that they will kill all those who proclaim Christ to be the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

So the believers of the end time will be martyred because they refuse to deny Christ.

In verse 10 the slain martyrs cry out for justice. They address God as the sovereign Lord, holy and true. This continues to remind us that God is supreme Master and Sovereign of the universe.

God is holy, meaning “set apart” from all other beings in the universe. The martyrs want all sin and evil erased so that God will not be disobeyed any more by unholy living. So they address Him as Sovereign and holy.

God is true to His Word. If justice is to be executed upon earth, He is the One who has to do it. Therefore, the martyrs address God as the Sovereign Lord, holy and true.

Note that their cry is not one of vengeance against men upon earth instead of loving them and longing for them to be saved. Their cry is a cry for vindication of the Word of God. They are crying out to God for Him:

- To stop the injustice against His Word and against His Son.
- To stop the injustice against His own glory and justice.
- To stop the injustice of sin and evil against Himself.
- To stop the injustice of unrighteousness and to bring righteousness to the universe.

They were actually praying for God’s kingdom to come upon earth. This is why I feel that Jesus taught us to pray “Thy kingdom come,” and “forgive those who trespass against us.”

Let’s think about the martyr for a moment. No one suffers the hell and wrath of sin any more than a martyr. A martyr has endured the greatest wrath and hell that sin can cast against a person. It’s the fire and wrath of sin that kills him. So the martyr, above all others knows how terrible sin insults and rages against God. Would you agree?

So when a martyr reaches heaven and sees the Lord and the Father and all the glory and majesty of heaven and then begins to share with the Lord, the martyr is bound to cry out:

Rev. 6: 10 – “How long, sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

Ps. 74:10 – “How long will the enemy mock you, O God? Will the foe revile your name forever?”

Ps. 79: 5-6 – “How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? How long will your jealousy burn like fire? Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.

Ps. 94:3-4 – “How long will the wicked, O LORD, how long will the wicked be jubilant? They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers are full of boasting.”

We can kind of begin to see why the psalmist felt as he did.

Let us pray.