

# God's Plan for the Future

## Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

### The Tribulation: The Martyrs

#### Selected Scriptures

Note these heroic believers from the Bible and the circumstances that lead to their martyrdom.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of their martyrdom** (Revelation 6:9-10)

*When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. (10) They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

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*(Ex 29:10-12) – Then you shall bring the bull before the tent of meeting. Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the bull. (11) Then you shall kill the bull before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting, (12) and shall take part of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and the rest of the blood you shall pour out at the base of the altar.*

The martyrs will be slaughtered as a sacrifice offered to God who will then bring them into His holy presence.

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**The \_\_\_\_\_ of their martyrdom** (Revelation 6:10-11)

*They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (11) Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.*

As the martyrs wait for God to act upon their request for justice (6:10), God will comfort them in five ways:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 6:9)

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 6:11)

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*(Rev 14:13) And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"*

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 14:18-20)

*And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." (19) So, the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. (20) And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia [200 miles].*

5. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 20:4)

*...I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for 1,000 years.*

### The \_\_\_\_\_ of martyrdom

Christian martyrdom is not a thing of the past. Some recent statistics back up that statement:

- Well over \_\_\_\_\_ Christians (a conservative number) are martyred worldwide each year.
- The U.S. State Department reports that Christians in more than \_\_\_\_\_ countries are persecuted by their government or by their neighbors.
- In North Korea, Christianity is illegal, and about \_\_\_\_\_ Christians are now held in labor camps.
- In Nigeria, almost \_\_\_\_\_ churches were destroyed and \_\_\_\_\_ Christians were killed in 2013.
- The government of \_\_\_\_\_ monitors Christian church services and arrests new converts.
- Eight states in \_\_\_\_\_ have passed anti-conversion laws, which are used to disrupt church services, force Christians from their homes, destroy church buildings, and even kill pastors.

In light of the Christian martyrs of yesterday and today, may we be inspired to stand strong in our commitment to Christ regardless of the consequences.