

The Seven Seals

Ref	Description	Speaker
6:1-8	Four Horsemen 1. Antichrist 2. War 3. Famine 4. Death and Hell	Four Living Creatures from the throne room
6:9-11	5. Martyrdom	The martyrs
6:12-17	6. Great day of God's wrath	Important, impotent people
7:1-17	(Answer to 6:17)	Angels, believers
8:1-5	7. Epiphany	Trumpets

Should the Martyrs pray for vengeance?

Examples

Luk 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34 Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**

Act 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, **Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.** And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Exhortations

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, **bless them that curse you**, do good to them that hate you, and **pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, **avenge not yourselves**, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. [Deut 32:35]

The Pattern of Psalm 79

Psa 79:1 A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the **heathen** are come into **thine** inheritance; **thy** holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

2 The dead bodies of **thy** servants have they given to be meat unto the fowl~~s~~ of the heaven,

the flesh of **thy** saints **unto the beast~~s~~ of the earth.**

3 Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them.

4 We are become a reproach to our neighbours,

a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

5 **How long, LORD?** wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?

6 Pour out thy wrath upon the **heathen** that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name. ...

10 Wherefore should the **heathen** say, Where is their God? let him be known among the **heathen** in our sight

by the **revenging of the blood** of **thy** servants which is shed.

Rev 6:10 and Context	Psalm 79
How long, O Lord	5 How long, LORD
Doest thou	1-2, 10, thine inheritance, thy temple, thy servants, thy saints
Avenge our blood	10 Revenging of the blood of thy servants
Them that dwell on the earth	1, 10, the heathen (nations גוים H1471)
(Oppressor: antichrist, "the beast")	2 beast [singular] of the earth

References and Details on 6:10

O Lord δεσπότης G1203

Contrast κύριος G2962

OT: “Lord God,” אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה, δεσπότης κύριος

holy and true (genuine)

Rev. 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is **holy**, he that is **true**,

...

John 18:31 It is not lawful for us to put any man to death,

Vengeance in the NT

Lk 8:7 And **shall not God avenge** his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that **he will avenge them speedily.**

OT Warnings against Vengeance

Pro 20:22 **Say not thou, I will recompense evil;**

but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.

Pro 24:28 Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

29 **Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me:**

I will render to the man according to his work.

Two kinds of vengeance:

1 Pet 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, **reviled not again**; when he suffered, he **threatened not**; but **committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:**

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, **avenge not yourselves**, but rather **give place unto [God's] wrath:** for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.** [Deut 32:35]

Examples:

	Paul (2 Tim 4)	Our Lord
Divine Vengeance	14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: 15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.	Matt 23 (7x) Woe unto you , scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? ... 35 ... upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, ...
Personal Forgiveness	16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.	Lk 23:34 34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do.

2 Timothy 4:14-16

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil:
the Lord reward him according to his works:

15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath
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16 At my first answer no man stood with me,
but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may
not be laid to their charge.

- Who rewards those who are guilty of evil works?



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1/1/2023

“them that dwell on the earth”

3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 14; 17:2, 8

Contrast

- “Dwell” κατοικέω G2730: settle down and reside
- “Sojourn” παροικέω G3939, cf. παροικία G3940 “pilgrimage” and πάροικος G3941 “stranger, pilgrim”

1Pet. 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your **sojourning** here in fear:

1Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as **strangers** and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he **sojourned** in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Phil. 3:20 For **our conversation** (πολίτευμα G4175 state, commonwealth) **is in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Other References on the Martyrs

Who motivates the earth-dwellers in persecuting believers?

Rev. 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged **the great whore**, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath **avenged the blood of his servants** at her hand.

Ps 79:2 The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, **the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.**

11 white robes

Rev 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that **overcometh**, the same shall be **clothed in white** raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

their fellow servants ... should be fulfilled.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to **us-ward**, not willing that any should perish, but that **all** should come to repentance.