



**Big Idea:**  
**The incessant injustice of earth points to a coming judgment.**

The Pattern of Our Perdition		
Characteristic Pattern of this Age	Matthew 24	Revelation 6
Deception	v. 3-5	v. 1-2
War	v. 6-7a	v. 3-4
Scarcity	v. 7b	v. 5-6
Calamity	v. 7c-8	v. 7-8
Injustice (Martyrdom)	v. 9-13	v. 9-11

-- The fifth seal depicts **INJUSTICE** (v. 7-8, Mat. 24:7c).

**1.) EXPECT injustice (v. 7-8, at. 24/7c). (v. 9).**

- The image of souls beneath the altar traces back to the altar of animal sacrifices (Exodus 29:10-12, Hebrews 8:5).
- The martyrs in Revelation 6 are seen by John in a location that commemorates their sacrificial deaths and honors the way they died.
- The martyrdom of God's people is a **PATTERN** of life in this world that exists as a consequence to the sinfulness of humanity.

- Even while we fight injustice, we should understand that this world will never be rid of it until Christ returns (2 Tim. 3:12, John 16:33).
- Believers in Jesus Christ ought to expect injustice and be ready to endure it for the glory of God.

## 2.) **HATE** injustice (v. 10).

- The Christian heart should always remain hungry for justice. That is clearly the attitude of the resurrected souls of the martyrs in heaven.
- v. 10 – The atmosphere of this passage makes clear that this plea of the martyrs is as worthy a prayer as we see anywhere in Scripture.
  - As resurrected believers, their hearts and minds are made complete in Christ, and they are at this point unaffected by sin.
  - They hate unresolved injustice because **GOD** hates it.
  - *“Sovereign Lord, holy and true”* – It is their immediate knowledge of and experience of God's holiness and truth that impels them to cry out to Him for **JUSTICE**
- This is a plea for God to be vindicated and for His glory to be exalted over against His enemies (Luke 12:49, Proverbs 17:15).

## 3.) Be **PATIENT** (v. 11).

- God is waiting for the appointed time to bring His justice upon the earth (Isaiah 10:1-3).
- The New Testament gives us at least three criteria of Christ's return that require patience from God's people.
  - a. There is a predetermined number of **MARTYRS** that is waiting to be fulfilled before the end will come (v. 11).
  - b. The Gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations (Mark 13:10).
  - c. The second coming of Christ is patiently awaiting the day when the last of God's elect is saved by faith (2 Peter 3:9).

## Application

1.) Fight for justice, but leave **VENGENGE** to God (Rom. 12:19).

2.) Understand the centrality of **DYING** for Christ.

-- *To what degree are you willing to endure injustice? Unto what end are you willing to continue following Christ?*

-- The decision to follow Christ is a decision to persevere in the faith the way unto whatever end may come.

-- The way of Christ calls us to die to **SELF** today so that we do not have to die apart from God forever (Romans 8:13).

-- *What needs to die today so that you might live fully for Christ?*