

# How Long, O Lord? | Revelation 6:9–17 (ESV)



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## Observation: What does the text say?

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- **vv.9–11:** The Fifth seal is opened. The souls of the **martyrs** rest **under the altar**; they were slain for the word of God. They cry, “*How long, O Lord?*” Each is given a **white robe** and told to rest a little longer.
- **vv.12–14:** The Sixth seal is opened. A **great earthquake** erupts. The Sun is **black as sackcloth**. The Moon is **like blood**. The Stars fall. The sky is rolled up like a scroll.
- **vv.15–17:** Kings, great ones, the rich, the powerful, slave and free hid in caves, crying, “*hide us from the face of him on the throne, and the wrath of the Lamb. Who can stand?*” (consider: all hide.)
- Connected with **Leviticus 4:7:** Blood on the horns of the incense altar and at the base of the altar of burnt offering. Sacrificed lives are remembered and rewarded.

*Scriptures: Revelation 6:9–17; Psalm 79:10–13; Joel 2:30–31; Leviticus 4:7; Isaiah 2:19; Luke 18:1–8*

Ontario Community Church: Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.  
John 6:47 (ESV) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.”

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## Interpretation: What does it mean?

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### **God is not late. He works in His own timing.**

- God is completing something in his time. He is gathering the family together.
- This relates to the Parable of the Persistent Widow; The widow kept crying for justice; and justice will come. So do the saints beneath the altar, waiting upon the Lord (The Righteous Judge).

*Luke 18:1–8; Habakkuk 2:3; 2 Peter 3:9*

### **The martyrs are not forgotten. They wear white in anticipation.**

- The white robe is God making everything new. Everyone will be restored unto Him.
- **Consider the Apostle Paul as he wrote (paraphrased):** “*To die in the Lord is to be clothed in Christ.*” (Philippians 1:21)

*Revelation 7:9–17; Revelation 14:13; 2 Timothy 4:7–8*

### **Two kinds of hiding. Two kinds of face.**

- You can hide **in** the Lord, hidden in the Lamb.
- Or hide **away from** the face of God, as the kings do.
- Essentially, it is the same face of God, yet two destinations (responses). The Lamb is the difference.

*Numbers 6:24–26; Revelation 6:16; Colossians 3:3*

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## Application: How should we live?

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### **Cry out to the Lord. Prayers are not wasted.**

- Your prayers (cry) rise with the incense. God hears. God counts. God answers.

*Luke 18:1–8; Revelation 5:8; Revelation 8:3–5*

### **Endure: God restores His own.**

- Rest a little longer. The family is almost complete. The white robe is already woven.

*Philippians 1:21; Revelation 14:13; Romans 8:18*

### **Proclaim. Share the gospel. Whatever the cost.**

- Share your faith through words and action. Our mission is to share the Gospel. Plant seeds. Trust God with the harvest.

*Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 12:11*

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