

With the opening of the Fifth Seal in the Book of Revelation, we are introduced to a group of martyrs who have suffered and died for the Gospel during the time of the First Four Seals. However, the words of these saints have often puzzled, and even disturbed, many Christian commentators. John saw them cry out with a loud voice:

Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?

(Revelation 6:10-11)

How do we reconcile this vision with the promise of Heaven being a place of bliss and utter contentment? The answer God gives opens up some astonishing insight. John records it in these terms:

They were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number would be complete both of their fellow servants, and of their brothers and sisters, who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed.

(Revelation 6:11-12)

Notice they were told to rest a little longer, signifying they had already been in a state of complete peace. Their location, under the altar, at the feet of Christ, is further confirmation.