

Contrast of Characters

Revelation Chapter 6

Souls under the Altar

Those Who Dwell on the Earth

- Have been slain/martyred (v.9)
- Believe the word of God and have testified to it (v.9)
- Seek their relief through God, not self (v.10)
- Are given white robes and told to rest a little while longer, until the full number of those to be killed/martyred is completed (v.11)
- May possibly be the same entity as the great multitude dressed in white robes who have come out of the great tribulation (7:9, 13-15)

- Have killed those whose souls are now under the altar (v.9)
- Are eventually to be judged for the blood they have spilled (vv.10, 11)
- Are still alive (and un-judged) as of the 5th seal (v.9)
- Are to be tested during the “hour of testing” that is to come upon the whole world (3:10)

i.e., believers

vs.

i.e., non-believers

White robes speak of holiness and purity. Jesus and holy angels are described elsewhere in scripture as wearing white robes (Matt 17:2, 28:3; Mark 9:3, 16:5.) The right for men/women to wear white robes is reserved for the redeemed and comes as a result of a willingness to walk with Jesus regardless of the risk (Rev 3:4-5). In Revelation Chapter 7, it is clearly spelled out that the ones who come out of the great tribulation will be wearing white robes that have been washed and made “white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev 7:13-14). Then in the account of Jesus’ return, we see the armies “which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean” following Him on their white horses. Clearly, the white robes are worn by believers who are alive in heaven, but no longer alive here on earth (at least not in the sense of being in earthly bodies.)