



VISION OF VICTORY

A STUDY OF REVELATION

#12: THE END IS NEAR—6:1-17

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He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!”...

Revelation 21:4-5a (NLT)

I. GOD’S COMFORT FOR THE PERSECUTED

1. God promises to avenge the wrong

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD.

Romans 12:19 (NLT)

2. Examples from Revelation 6:1-17

For see, the day of the LORD is coming—the terrible day of his fury and fierce anger. The land will be made desolate, and all the sinners destroyed with it. The heavens will be black above them; the stars will give no light. The sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will provide no light. “I, the LORD, will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their sin. I will crush the arrogance of the proud and humble the pride of the mighty. I will make people scarcer than gold—more rare than the fine gold of Ophir. For I will shake the heavens. The earth will move from its place when the LORD of Heaven’s Armies displays his wrath in the day of his fierce anger.”

Isaiah 13:9-13 (NLT)

- **First seal: A white horse of God’s righteous judgment (v.1-2)**
- **Second seal: A red horse of war, violence and bloodshed (v.3-4)**
- **Third seal: A black horse of economic hardship (v.5-6)**
- **Fourth seal: A pale green horse of disease, famine, and death (v.7-8)**
- **Fifth seal: Souls of martyred Christians under the altar (v.9-11)**
- **Sixth seal: Unleashing of God’s wrath on those who hurt His people (v.12-17)**

A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’ People will beg the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and plead with the hills, ‘Bury us.’ For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Luke 23:27-32 (NLT)

II. GOD'S STRENGTH FOR THE PERSECUTED

How I can stay strong until eternal justice is done:

1. Choose to be joyful despite persecution

"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.
John 15:18 (NLT)

The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.

Acts 5:41 (NLT)

2. Know that God will use my suffering for good

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

3. Love and pray for my opposition

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
Matthew 5:44 (ESV)

4. Deepen my appreciation for God's mercy toward me

even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:12-16 (NLT)

5. Remember that God's justice will eternally prevail

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 (NIV)