

## ET105 The Father's Pain Relievers

**J**ohn, a companion in tribulation of all who have and will endure suffering for Christ Jesus, saw many visions when he was on an island called Patmos [Re 1:9].

In one vision, he saw some saints dressed in white robes. They had come out of great tribulation and had washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb [Re 7:14].

These saints will be brothers of many saints who died during the 5th Church Age. The Church of Sardis began in 1517 after 1200 years of "papal rule" over the world.

Many who opposed papal doctrines died during the Protestant Reformation. Jesus does not speak of these deaths in His letter to this church [Re. 3:1-6], but he mentions them being "clothed in white raiment" and having "their names written in the book of life" [Re 3:5]. Jesus said this in His letter to Sardis concerning those brothers who were to face death:

Re 3:6: *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*

"Foxe's Book of Martyrs" tells the stories of some saints in Sardis who washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. John says little about how they endured the persecutions, but read their stories and know that angels from the Father relieved their pain.

Matthew-26 tells the story of Christ's journey to appear before Caiaphas. He and His disciples eat the Passover and pray in the Garden. When Judas comes to take Jesus, one of the Lord's disciples cuts the ear off the high priest's servant:

Mt 26:52: *Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. 53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall **presently give me more than 12 legions of angels?***

In V52, notice how the disciples are ready to fight Judas and his band of men. But Jesus would have none of that. Then in V53, read what He says about how He could ask for help to endure the pain of His Cross. If He needs help, all He has to do is ask the Father. The bold print tells what the Father will do.

In that verse, another word for "presently" is command; and the number of angels in one Roman legion was 6,000. These multiplied by 12 equals 72,000 angels. But that number is far too small because the number 12 means the whole or all there is. So Jesus said that, were He to ask for help, the Father would send all the angels in heaven to meet His need.

This is how you interpret these 12 legions: The numbers from 1 through 9 are roots. Each root has a specific meaning. The meanings of numbers 11 through 19 are opposite of their roots. Ten means "a measure;" Hundred means "fullness;" and Thousand means "maturity." For more details, read FL204, "Introduction to Bible Numerology."

The number two [2] means divide. Twelve, the opposite of 2, means the entire entity before its division. [All roots have branches; therefore, one division of 12 stands for government.] What Jesus meant by "12 legions" is this: If He should ask for help, the Father would send every angel in heaven to His rescue.

This is why 72,000 is far too small. According to Hebrews 12:22, the number of angels in mount Sion, which is the city of the living God, also called "heavenly Jerusalem," is "INNUMERABLE."

"But," you may ask, "If fate sends me to die a literal death for Christ, will the Father send angels to help me endure my cross?" The simplest answer is YES, and one simple scripture guarantees this:

1Co 10:13: *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].*

Every temptation is a trial. And there is no trial greater than death. That scripture is clear enough, but it helps to have several witnesses "for such a time as this."

Matthew-10 supports the promise in 1Co 10:13. There are others that are more complex, but the scholar must remember to always interpret the scriptures within their texts. Matthew-10 is one of the more complex texts.

In 10:1-4, Jesus gives His 12 disciples power to cast out devils and to heal all manner of sickness and disease. Then, in V6-V15, He teaches some details of their ministry. Please read these verses before continuing.

That was the fun part; in V16-V31, He teaches them what to expect as they minister. First, they will be as sheep in the midst of wolves. They must be wise as serpents but as harmless as doves.

They must be brought before governors and kings for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. During these times, they must rely on the Spirit of the Father to tell them what to say. Some of this might put a little fun into the work, but what comes next might take a little fun back out the work.

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Their own family members will turn against them, even delivering them to be put to death [V21]. When they suffer persecution in one city, they are to flee to the next. And they must know and understand to expect all this because they are not above their master, i.e., the Lord Jesus.

V26-V27 gives one cause of this hostility. God will tell them the secrets within the hearts of men. Not just this, but what they hear in secret, they are to shout from the housetops. I hope you read the text because you could experience this.

In V28, Jesus tells them not to fear those who kill the body. Then He tells them about the value of two sparrows and that the Father knows when one of them falls to the ground. Next, He says something strange — *“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered”* [V30].

Now, are we to believe the Father keeps track of every little bird that dies? Does He number the hairs on our heads? Or is Jesus speaking parables to teach God's hidden truths? The latter, I am sure.

First, the point is not if the Father keeps track of all little creatures. He is the God of knowledge [1Sa 2:3], He can answer any question about anything. The question is not, “Does He?” The next question is, “Why should He?”

God made us in His likeness. Jesus is His likeness. He made us like Jesus. If you could, would you try to keep track of the number of birds that die? Of the number of hairs on your head? Of course not. Then, neither would Jesus keep track.

Okay, Jesus spoke about little birds to illustrate how valuable we are to the Father. And He spoke of the hairs on our heads because they depict the souls of the righteous whose bodies have fallen to the ground. Now, the purpose of all this background is to set the stage for interpreting these two verses:

Mt 10:32: *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

Mt 10:33: *But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

Because these two verses culminate the lesson on help from the Father, their interpretations involve the theme that leads to them. So then, we must interpret them in their setting. The Holy Spirit will not allow us to remove them from this setting and apply them to some other doctrine.

For example, you cannot use these verses to teach the salvation of the spirit. You can use others, but not these.

The theme of our text is the possibility of dying for having ministered the Gospel and for revealing the secrets of men's hearts. People hated Jesus for doing this and they will hate us for the same reason.

And, when going to His cross, Jesus said the Father would send Him all the angels in heaven if He asked Him for help. So then, V32 means this: If in any great trial, if we confess Jesus in the faces of our adversaries, Jesus will ask the Father to send as many angels as we need to help us give our lives for Him.

V33 teaches the opposite. If you do not confess Jesus in the face of your adversaries, He will not confess you to the Father and He will not send any angles to help you bear the pain of your suffering.

When the Martyrs of Sardis gave their lives for Jesus, the Father's angels numbed their pains. And if you enter tribulation, boldly confess Jesus as the Christ and the Father will send all the angels you need as your way of escape [1Co 10:13].

### Symbols in Seal Five

Re 6:9: *And when he had opened the 5th seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, & for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy & true, dost thou not judge & avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; & it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also & their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled.*

The 5th seal parallels the 5th Church Age, which is Sardis. John saw the souls of the slain under the altar. This is the Brass Altar stationed between the Gate of the Outer Court and the entrance to the Tabernacle.

On this altar, Israel offered the flesh of animals that depict the lives and sometimes bodies of worshipers in the body of Christ, Jesus, and all of His disciples that die a Martyr's death are as the flesh on this altar of brass.

The ashes of these bodies fell under the brass altar. In ceremonial fashion, these ashes were carried to a clean place outside the camp. Ashes represent memories.

It is the voices of these memories that cry out to God for vengeance on those who murdered them. This is the connection between the saints who died in Sardis and the saints who will die in the Great Tribulation.