



A Glimpse Into Glory

<https://upliftforservants.com/podcast/a-glimpse-into-glory/>

(Pastor Fred Daniel pastors [Brookhaven Baptist Church](#) of Greensboro, NC. He also serves on the board of WWNTBM.)

Because of my age, I have been thinking a lot about Heaven. I have been spending a lot of time studying about heaven because as a pastor I have neglected this. I have thought, "Well it will be cool, and we will enjoy it and have a wonderful time when we get there." But the more I study, the more I realize the Bible speaks more about Heaven than we preach on. Today I am going to look at Revelation 6. We are at the 5th Seal during the tribulation time where the martyrs are speaking out. I think some things can encourage our hearts about what we have waiting for us.

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: Revelation 6:9

At first look, this does not look like a very promising passage on Heaven. However, I think there are some things we need to think about. In my mind for years, I thought we would be spiritual beings floating around heaven with harps and going to church all the time. But some real things are encouraging to me. The Bible tells us that we will be known as we are known.

- First of all, the people that died as martyrs relocated to Heaven.

These people were the same people that were killed down on earth. So there is recognition and continuity that takes place. We do not change into something else that goes into the presence of the Lord. The people that are there now are not different people but are the same people, and righteous men made perfect in their spirit in Heaven. I think this is cool, but the martyrs were remembered for their lives on earth. They were known and identified because of their testimony on Earth, which for us means that we should be sure we are very careful about our testimony here. That memory of our testimony goes with us into the presence of the Lord.

- These people are talking and fully aware.

They are actually speaking to the Lord, we might call it prayer, but they are in His presence having communication there with Him. They can lift up their voices. They are rational, communicating emotional, passionate people, just like they were on the earth. There is a continuity with our persona and psyche with the Lord. They cried out with a loud voice. It does not say that the crowd cried out with loud voices (plural). They had a unity about them in the presence of the Lord. I enjoy going to other places in the world and having fellowship with the Christians immediately. Sometimes even with a language barrier, we are still able to cry out and sing to the Lord with several languages at one time.

In Heaven, it will be a place of unity and shared perspective of what God is up to in a way. These folks are fully conscious and aware. There are some that teach about soul sleep, but these souls are not asleep. They are awake. They are talking to the Lord about the things going on the earth at present. I do not know that they could see everything happening on the Earth, but somehow they were aware of what was happening on Earth. They ask God to intervene with things on Earth.

They are free to ask God questions. Sometimes I feel guilty asking God the questions that I ask Him because they do not sound like they have much faith in them. But these guys and gals are saying, "We need some vengeance. What are you going to do about it? When is it going to happen?" And God lets them ask those questions, which is wonderful. I think we are going to be learning forever in eternity. The people that are in Heaven now have a grave concern about the vengeance and retribution. To me this shows that we will be actively involved in thinking, worshipping, and seeing what God is doing and work even as eternity comes.

- Their memory seems to go with them there.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? Revelation 6:10

In vs. 10, they remember that they were murdered for the cause of Christ. So they are concerned about those things. They are praying for judgment on those that persecuted them on the other side of Jordan in Heaven. They are acting in solidarity. They are interceding for suffering saints on the earth. That suggests to me that they are at least somewhat aware of what Satan is doing here.

- Those in Heaven get to see God's attributes directly, which is just another evidence of their consciousness.

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. Revelation 6:11

They are still very distinct individuals (vs. 11). Their distinct personalities continue. Brother Gene and I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time together in the last couple of years. He is entirely different than me-which I do not mean as a negative thing for either one of us. But God has given him abilities strengths that I do not have, and it just seems like we will be enjoying those differences for all eternity.

- Another aspect that I have thought a lot about is that the martyrs here in verse 11 are wearing robes.

I have never seen a spirit wearing robes and I hope I have never seen a spirit. We were traveling through Guantanamo Bay in Cuba the other night. The form of a man in white was traveling or

floating above the road ahead of us. It scared me for a minute. As we got up close, we could see it was a man wearing white clothes riding on a black horse. We had not seen a horse. For a moment I thought I had finally seen a ghost. When we are in Heaven, even in the spirit form as these guys are, there is a semblance of physical characteristic that they are known to each other. They are wearing robes, which may be symbolic in meaning, but it is something physical there.

- I love vs. 11 when God answers their questions. Even in Heaven, people are talking to God, and He is answering them directly just as He did with Adam and Eve.

That is going to be wonderful to be in His very presence and be able to talk to Him. People ask, "Well, how's He going to be able to do that with millions of Christians?" Well, He's doing it right now already, so I am not worried about it. He will talk physically with us. God promised them that they would get an answer to the prayers they were making in Heaven. He said for them to hold on for a while and He would take care of it. It is kind of like how it is here on Earth. A lot of times, I do not get a yes or no from the Lord, but "hang on for a while." He is the same yesterday, today and forever and we will know Him while we are there.

- There seems to be a semblance of time in the eternal state.

In Isaiah 66, when He is talking about the end times, He says "from one new moon to the next new moon," "from the Sabbath to the Sabbath." There is a semblance of order. Isaiah talks about how we will be meeting on a regular basis once a week in the eternal state, which is just going to be wonderful to spend time with the Lord. This familial aspect. Naomi is one of my favorite younger ladies. I am thankful for what she is doing for the Lord. I sometimes count her as the sister I do not have. We will have that same sort of relationship in Heaven. They are calling other Christians on earth as brothers and sisters. We are going to share the same father, the same family, and there will be a vital connection between the events and the people in the eternal state. We are going to be actively involved with each other. Lastly, God is sovereign over everything here on earth, and He will continue to be sovereign in the eternal state, down to the last detail of everything happening on Earth, in Heaven, and every bit of drop of bloodshed and every suffering for the cause of Christ. There have probably been 10s of thousands that have died in just a year or two's timeframe, but He knows exactly who all those people are and He knows us as well. I am getting excited that what we are preaching is real, and we will be able to physically, as well as spiritually, enjoy it when we are in the presence of the Lord. There is a book I think you should get called *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn.

It is an excellent book to help make us think. In the past two months, it has made me realize that we pastors have skipped over so much about what Heaven will be. We should be encouraging folks and looking for the return of Christ. We just looked at three verses today, and there is so much we can pull out to encourage us. We have a retirement plan for folks, and we ought to be excited about it.