Revelation 6:9-11

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Revelation 6:9-11.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

9a When the Lamb broke the fifth seal,

9b I saw underneath the altar the souls of those

9c who had been slain

9d because of the word of God,

9e and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

10a and they cried out with a loud voice, saying,

10b “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain

10c from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

11a And there was given to each of them a white robe;

11b and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer,

11c until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren

11d who were to be killed even as they had been,

11e would be completed also.

1. Recall the context of these verses. What seals are being referred to? What were the first 4? What is unfolding in these events? Who is the Lamb in v. 9?
2. What does John see in v. 9 when the 5th seal is broken? What altar is being referred to?
3. Why were these people slain? Where have we seen this language in Revelation so far?
4. How do these people relate to those in the churches of ch. 2-3?
5. What did these souls under the altar say?
6. Where else in the Bible do you see similar uses of the plea, “how long?” What is this normally in reference to?
* Day 2

Read Rev 6:9-11 again.

1. Why is the Lord described as holy and true in this context?
2. What does it mean to “refrain”? What is the Lord refraining from?
3. Meditate on the plea of v. 10. How does this reflect and depend upon the character of God? What other biblical principles tie into this plea?
4. Who are those “who dwell on the earth”? Where else is this used in Rev.?
5. What are these souls given in v. 11? Why? What is this?
6. What are they told in v. 11?
7. How long were they to rest?
8. Until when were they to rest?
* Day 3

Read Revelation 6:9-11 again.

1. What does v. 11 say about the sovereign plans of God?
2. How should v. 11 be a comfort for God’s people?
3. How does this seal fit in with the rest? How is this the outpouring of the judgment of God? (Peek ahead to Rev 8)
4. Summarize the meaning of these verses in 21 words or less.
5. How should these verses shape your thinking, believing, and living?
6. How should these verses shape your praying?