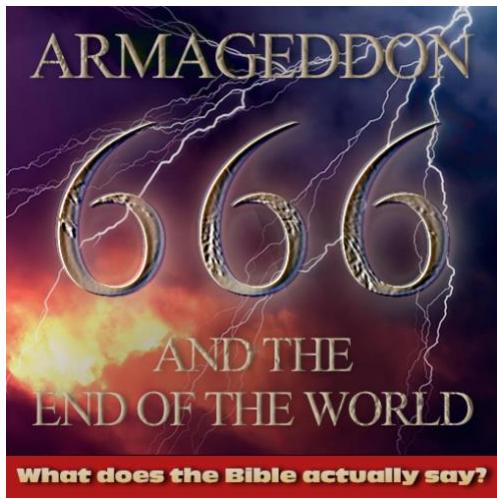


Martyrs to the cause



10 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. **2** He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land,**3** and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. **4** And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.” **5** And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven**6** and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay,**7** but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of

God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets. **8** Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” **9** So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” **10** And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.

11 And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings. Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there,**2** but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. **3** And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” **4** These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. **5** And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. **6** They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. **7** And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,**8** and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. **9** For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb,**10** and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. **11** But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.**12** Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. **13** And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

[Revelation 8:1-9:21]

Martyrs to the cause

Introduction: what would you give your life for?

1) Suffering doesn't by itself cause people to turn to God (see 9:20)

- so we skip the seven thunders (10:4)

2) Instead Jesus commissions his people to be witnesses and martyrs (11:3-4 cf. 1:20; 2:13)

- it's a bittersweet mission (10:9-10; [cf. Ezekiel 2:8 – 3:3](#))
- behind enemy lines (11:2-3)
- for 42 months = 1,260 days = “times, time and half a time” (10:2; 11:3; [cf. Daniel 7:25](#))
- and your words will have great power, like Moses and Elijah (11:6, [cf. Exodus 7-10; 1 Kings 17-18](#))
- but that won't stop Satan from killing you, [as they crucified Jesus](#) (11:7-8)
- and the world will hold a party to celebrate your death (11:10)
- but you will rise from the dead, [as Jesus rose from the dead](#) (11:11-12)

3) And people will turn to God (11:13 cf. 1 Kings 19:18)

Conclusion: this is worth giving your life for!