nD 11. REV ELATION. 995   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED V! RSION REVISED.   
 slain for the word of God,|\* for the word of God, and for sei.t9.   
 and “for the testimony   
 which they held: '° and ‘the testimony which they bore: i   
 they cried with a loud 10 and they cried with a loud #10.   
 voice, saying, How long, voice, saying, "Mow long, Thou »2xew.i.1   
 O Lord, holy and true, Ma er \*holy and true, ¥ dost thou xen.   
 dost thou not judge and not judge and avenge our blood on yen xi   
 avenge our blood on them them that dwell on the earth ? 4) And   
 that dwell on the earth? there was given unto every one of   
 "And white robes were   
 given wnto every one of|   
   
 point only is the character of the former that no inference can be drawn from this   
 vision sustained. It is the “dwellers upon vision respecting the intermediate state   
 the earth” who are the objects of the between the death of the saints and the   
 judgment invoked: as it was the earth, coming of the Lord): and they cried   
 nnd its inhabitants, and its produce, which with a great voice, saying (they, viz.   
 were the objects of the former judgments. the souls, which are identified in the sen-   
 See again below on the sixth seal. tence with the persons themselves: not, as   
 9.] And when he opened the fifth seal, I some thiuk, the s/ain as distinguished   
 saw under the altar (it is altar of saci from the souls), Until when (i.e. how   
 fice which is here meant; the peculiar form long), thou Master (it is God who is here   
 ‘of the word slain, which follows, scems addressed; with Him rests the time when   
 plainly to imply this: see below) the to avenge His elect, see Luke xviii. 7,   
 souls (ic. departed spirits. It is mani- holy and true, dost thou not judge (sive   
 festly idle to enquire, seeing that the decision in the amatter of) and exact   
 Apostle was in a state of spiritual and vengeance for our blood from them that   
 supernatural vision, Zo these disembodied dwell on the earth (i.e. the ungodly   
 spirits became visible to him, ‘That they world, as distinguished from the chureh of   
 were not clothed with bodies is manifest) God)? As hitherto, so here again, the   
 of those thet have been slain on account analogy and order of our Lord’s great pro-   
 of the word of God and on account of the phecy in Matt. xxiv. 11 is closely followed.   
 testimony which they had (so literally: ‘The signs of His coming, and of the en   
 i.e, which was committed to them to hear, of the world” were there announced by   
 and which they bore: see ch. xii, 17. Himself as war, famine, and pestilence,   
 Mueli has been said about the souls vv. 6,7, And when He had declared that   
 of the martyrs not being their departed these were but the beginning of sorrows,   
 spirits, which must he conceived of as He next, vv. 9 f, announces the per-   
 being im bliss with Christ, and in con- secution and martyrdom of His people.   
 sequence it has been imagined that. these Similarly here, after the judgments al-   
 were only their animal lives, resident in ready atmounced, we have the prayer   
 blood and shed forth with it. But no such for vengeance on the part of the martyrs,   
 difficulty really We know, whatever and the announcement of more such   
 be the bliss of the departed martyrs and martyrdoms to come. And as our Lord’s   
 confessors, that they are waiting for the prophecies revived a partinl fulfilment   
 coming of the Lord, without which they iu the events preceding the destruction   
 are not perfect: and in the holy fire of of Jerusalem, und may haye done so   
 their purified zeal, they look forward to again and again but await their great.   
 that day as one of righteous judgment on and final fulfilment when the day of Ilis   
 the ungodly world, ‘The representation coming approaches, so it is with these.   
 here, in which they are seen under the The ery of the martyrs’ blood has been   
 altar, is simply symbolical, carrying out ever going up before God since Stephen   
 the likening of them to victims slain on an fell: ever and anon, at some great time of   
 ultar. Even as the blood of these victims persecution, it has waxed louder: and so   
 was poured under the altar and the life was on throngh the ages it shall accumulate   
 in the blood, so their souls are represented and gather strength, till the great issue of   
 as under the symbolical altar in heaven, the parable Luke xviii, 1 ff. is accom-   
 crying for vengeance, as blood is often suid plished. And there was given to them   
 to do. After this, it hardly weed be suid each a white robe (there will be no real