

dec 4

how long o Lord

"and they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'how long, o Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" rev 6:10

even now i can almost hear the voices of those who have suffered and been martyred for faith in our Lord. though our sufferings be more or less, we gladly join in this cry to the Lord. Lord, we know You are merciful and kind, not willing that any should perish, but how long will You prolong Your revenge and our justification?

Lord, those crying out in heaven are even now ever with you, but the fulfillment of our desire still awaits us. You know the hearts of men everywhere and hold all things in Your hand. we know Your timing is perfect as with all things pertaining to life and Godliness. it's just that our desire often outweighs our patience. at the very least, grant us more of Your presence as we wait and endure.

"if Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. for how then will it be known that Your people and i have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?" exo 33:15-16 Lord, we will not linger in any place where you are not welcomed as well. by Your grace, we will not entertain any thought that might grieve Your Holy Spirit.

our heart cries out, "whom have i in heaven but You?"

and there is none upon earth that i desire besides You." psalms 7:25 all my springs are in You; springs bubbling up to everlasting life in exquisite pleasures. You are forever my God and i am Your people. there is no anguish this world can inflict as severe as Your absence would.

Lord, these are the cries and affirmations of those who are given over to You. "let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth – for Your love is better than wine. because of the fragrance of Your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth; therefore the virgins love You." songs 1:2-3

as a chaste virgin awaiting her betrothed back home from His extended absence, we read Your love letters and meditate over them. Your words of love confine us in a prison and Your promises of what shall be only adds more guards to our cell. we are prisoners of hope. let there be no tomorrow unless it brings a promise of Your coming.

how do i love Thee? let me count the ways.
i love Thee to the depth and breadth and height
my soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
for the ends of being and ideal grace.
i love Thee to the level of every day's
most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
i love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
i love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
i love with a passion put to use
in my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
i love Thee with a love i seemed to lose
with my lost saints, -- i love Thee with the breath,

smiles, tears, of all my life! -- and, if God choose,
i shall but love thee better after death.

can any words express love better than elizabeth
barrett browning's "sonnets from the portuguese?" and
yes, i shall love You better after death - after i have
laid down this earthly tent, for i shall see You as You
are - all glorious and magnificent, birther of love
surpassing all other's conceiving.

just as some cultures have arranged marriages by their
parents, Father God has chosen who shall be wed to His
beloved Son and it is marvelous in our eyes. for You,
dear Father, know the hearts of all and our frame was
not hidden from You when we were made in secret and
skillfully wrought.

i know most of us never thought we would live to see
things in such a state. surprised, perhaps, but maybe
we shouldn't be. when we look at scripture, we learn a
few things. as soon as noah entered the ark the rain
began. likewise, even as lot's family were escaping,
his wife was able to view the destruction as it was
commencing.

that seems to indicate the tribulation will follow very
closely after the rapture - close enough for one to
view the beginnings as jacob's trouble begins. the
stage is now fully set, waiting for the straw that
broke the camel's back. grace has brought us safe this
far, and grace will lead us home. all we can do now is
wait and continue our cry. "how long o Lord?" how
long before the bridegroom retrieves His bride and
bliss begins?

are you pregnant or not? are you "expecting" or not?
the unwatchful will be blind-sided for sure. they will
be caught unaware. "but you, brethren, are not in
darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a
thief." 1 thes 5:4 eyes up!