

## Revelation Chapter 10

### 1) The Little Scroll (10:1-11)

- a) **1** 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.”
- b) The progression of the seven trumpets is interrupted here, before the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.
- i) There was also an interruption between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seals – chapter 7.
- c) Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven,
- i) All angels have might, but some have more power and authority than others.
- (1) Luke 1:18-20 - **18** And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” **19** And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. **I stand in the presence of God**, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. **20** And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”
- (2) Rev. 8:2 - Then I saw the **seven angels who stand before God**, and seven trumpets were given to them.

- (3) See page 2 of the handout for Revelation Chapter 8 for more on the angels who stand before God.
- ii) Whether this angel was one who stood before God or not, he was a “mighty angel”.



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with a rainbow over his head,  
and his face was like the sun,  
and his legs like pillars of fire.  
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,

- iii)
- (1) Cloud, sun, pillars of fire – symbols of judgment
    - (a) Rev. 1:16 – and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.
    - (b) Rev. 1:15 – his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace,
    - ...
  - (2) Rainbow – symbol of mercy
    - (a) Relate to the bitter-sweet message contained in the little scroll
    - (b) The angel is a representative of God, the giver of mercy
      - (i) Rev. 4:3 – around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.
  - (3) Right foot on the sea, left foot on the land – great authority to bring a message for all the earth
    - (a) John mentions it again in verses 5 and 8.
- iv) A few commentators think this was Jesus, but some things indicate not.
- (1) This angel brought a message – a function usually done by an angel.
  - (2) It would seem unnecessary for Jesus to swear by the things the angel swore by in verses 5 & 6.
- d) He had a little scroll open in his hand.
- i) The scroll is open, not sealed.
  - ii) It is small – small enough for John to chew and swallow.

- iii) It becomes the major focus of this chapter.
- iv) All will want to know what the scroll contained
- e) The angel called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.
  - i) Rev. 5:5 - ... behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David ...
    - (1) Another allusion to the fact that this angel was a mighty representative of the throne in heaven.
    - (2) He speaks for God.
      - (a) Acts 7:53 – you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.
      - (b) Gal. 3:19-20 - ... and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.
      - (c) Hebrews 2:2-4 – For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable ...
- f) And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write,
  - i) Rev. 1:11 - ... “Write what you see in a book ...
  - ii) Rev. 1:19 - Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.
  - iii) John had his reed, ink, and scroll ready to write.
- g) but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”
  - i) The voice from heaven is the voice of the Lord, who would have authority to intervene.
  - ii) The purpose of sealing has been used to:
    - (1) Verify ownership
    - (2) Assure genuineness
    - (3) Protect the contents
    - (4) Conceal the contents
  - iii) In this case, nothing was written, so concealment is meant.
  - iv) One can read hundreds of pages of comments on what the seven thunders might have said and not be any wiser.
    - (1) Some think that the words of the thunders were sealed to thwart attempts to fix dates and times of events.
  - v) What immediately follows says there will be no more warnings. If thunders were to be used for warnings, they were superseded, and God did not deem it necessary for us to know.
    - (1) The best conclusion may be that the thunders are seven elements of judgment which God chooses to not reveal at that time, if ever.

- h) And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 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
  - i) At one time, a swearing in consisted of placing the left hand on the Bible and raising the right hand toward heaven.
    - (1) Deut. 32:40 - For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever,
    - (2) Dan. 12:7 - And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time,
    - (3) Bibles may have been removed from courtrooms, but the raising of the right hand signifies that the oath is given before the God who dwells in heaven.
  - ii) The angel swears by the eternal God and Creator of everything – the one who controls everything.
  - iii) No more delay
    - (1) The six trumpets that have already sounded were warnings.
    - (2) No more delay indicates no more warnings.
    - (3) Warnings were given to bring repentance – the time for repentance has ended.
- i) 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.
  - i) The reason there will be no more delay is that the sounding of the seventh trumpet will bring fulfillment of the mystery of God.
    - (1) Rev. 1:1 – The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ...
    - (2) Rev. 22:6 – “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”
  - ii) What is the mystery of God?
    - (1) The mystery that God wants to reveal, is what is contained in the book of Revelation, and it is about to be fulfilled.
    - (2) The sounding of the seventh trumpet will announce the beginning of the fulfillment, and the wrath of God will be poured out from seven bowls.

- (a) Remember that when the seventh seal was opened, seven trumpets were announced to come. When the seven trumpet shall sound, seven bowls will be announced to come. However, when the seventh bowl is poured out, there will not be seven more of anything – no more delay!
- (3) Is there more to the mystery of God?
- (a) Throughout the N. T., mystery is something that was once unknown but has been made known, and prophets of the O. T. announced it, and angels longed to look into it, without knowing when or how it would be fulfilled.
- (b) 1 Peter 1:10-12 - [10](#) Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, [11](#) inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. [12](#) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.
- (c) Romans 16:25-26 - [25](#) Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages [26](#) but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—
- (d) Ephesians 3:4-6 - [4](#) When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5](#) which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. [6](#) This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- (e) Ephesians 3:8-10 - [8](#) To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9](#) and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, [10](#) so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
- (4) The common thread running through the previous four verses is: salvation, the obedience of faith, Gentiles partake of the promise in

Christ Jesus, through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known. All state or relate to “*salvation*”.

(a) 1 Peter 1:3-5 - **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(5) Perhaps it will be more clear when we read what follows the sounding of the seventh trumpet. Since there will be no more delay, no more warnings, the end toward which the promises point will be at hand.

j) 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.”

i) For the second time it is said that the scroll is open.

ii) John’s role changes from observer to participant.

k) 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.” 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. And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

i) Ezekiel 2:7-10, 3:1-4

(1) **7** And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house. **8** “But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” **9** And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. **10** And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

(2) **1** And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” **2** So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. **3** And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. **4** And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them.

ii) When Ezekiel ate the scroll, it was sweet as honey.

- (1) No bitterness was explicitly stated, but it contained words of lamentation, mourning, and woe.
- (2) Ezekiel was told by God: “go, speak to the house of Israel”.
- (3) Ezekiel 3:14 - The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the Lord being strong upon me.
- (4) The scroll apparently contained a message from God.
- iii) When John ate the little scroll, it was sweet as honey.
  - (1) When he had eaten it, his stomach was made bitter.
  - (2) John was told: “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”
  - (3) The little scroll apparently contained a message from God.
  - (4) The prophecy that John was to give may also bring woe.
- iv) Observations
  - (1) The word of the Lord is sweet when assimilated.
    - (a) Psalm 19:7-11 - More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
  - (2) Delivery of the message may bring bitterness.
    - (a) Exposing sin is necessary, but not always pleasant.
    - (b) Pronouncing punishment is necessary, but far from pleasant.
    - (c) Rejection of the message is difficult for the messenger.
  - (3) Delivery of the message is not optional: “You must again prophesy ”
- v) Was the message to John indicating that more of the Revelation is to follow, for him to write down?
  - (1) Or was the message to encourage him that he would continue preaching throughout all the tribulation and calamity?