

BOOK OF REVELATION

Part 17 – Second Parenthesis:

The Messenger and the Little Book: Chapter 10

I. INTRODUCTION

REVIEW: We saw the first six of seven Seals on the Seven Seal Scroll opened in Chapter 6. The opening of each one brought a terrible judgment on the earth. Specifically, the judgment was what God allowed to happen as a natural result of man rejecting God and in seal six, we saw what happened when God simply withdrew his continuous grace from the Earth. In Chapter 7 we saw, what was the first parenthetical passage in the Book of Revelation. There was a pause in the progression of the judgments to seal the 144,000 Jewish male witness so that they could not be harmed or killed. We also saw God's mercy being exemplified once again in the fact that he halted the progress of the judgments. In Chapter 8 we see the first four trumpet judgments unveiled all supernatural judgments that are stellar in nature. In Chapter 9 we see trumpet judgments five and six. This time the judgments comes through demonic forces being allowed to run their course unrestrained by God.

Now we see the beginning of the second parenthetical passage in the book of the Revelation. It starts here in Chapter 10 and runs through Chapter 11 verse 14. We will be studying the appearance of the “angel” on earth with a message, seven thunders that uttered, and the Apostle John being given a “little book”.

II. EXEGESIS – THE MESSENGER AND THE LITTLE BOOK.

A. VERSES 1-4: APPEARANCE OF THE MESSENGER AND THE SEVEN VOICES.

VERSE 1-2 “(1) And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: (2) And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,”

Remember the word “angel” has the meaning of messenger. This messenger can be an angelic being. This messenger in Chapter 2 and 3 was the pastor of a local church. Here in Chapter 10, this angel, this messenger is a very unusual messenger. The passage tells you who this messenger is by giving you his description. It is a description we have seen before:

(1) A rainbow upon his head: Notice that we see a similarity in this description given to the Father in heaven in Revelation Chapter 4, who gave the seven sealed scroll to the Son of God in Chapter 5.

Revelation 4:2-3 “(2) And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. (3) And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.”

(2) His face like the sun: It is almost identical to the same description that the Apostle John gave in Revelation 1:14 of the Lord Jesus Christ in his glorified state:

Revelation 1:13-16 “(13) And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. (14) His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; (15) And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. (16) And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”

(3) His feet as pillars of fire: It is almost identical to the same description that the Apostle John gave in Revelation 1:15 of the Lord Jesus Christ in his glorified state:

So it is very obvious who this messenger is. It is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself. The fact that he sets his left foot on the earth and his right foot upon the sea is showing that the Lord Jesus Christ has dominance over the whole earth, even during this time when the influence of Satan and his demons are rampant. Also remember that he is part of the Godhead, as is the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:9 “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

VERSE 3 “And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.”

The Lord Jesus is referred to as the lion of the tribe of Judah in this passage:

Revelation 5:5 “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”

When the Lord Jesus Christ speaks, his voice is very strong and distinct and the Apostle John draws the comparison of his voice having characteristics of a lion when it roars.

*VERSE 4 “And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices,
I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,
Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.”*

This is one of the most unusual passages in all of scripture. The Apostle John is commanded 12 times throughout his vision to write either the messages to the churches or what he is witnessing as if he is overwhelmed by what he is witnessing and forgets to keep writing. This is the first and only time that the Apostle John is commanded not to record what he is witnessing. All Bible students have asked the question, “Why was he commanded not to write what these seven thunders uttered?” The scripture does not tell us why the Apostle John was commanded to seal up what these thunders uttered and it is up to the imagination of the reader to ponder. We will have to wait until we arrive in heaven to find out.

B. VERSES 5-7: PROCLAMATION OF THE MESSENGER

*VERSE 5-6 “ (5) And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea
and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,
(6) And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven,
and the things that therein are, and the earth,
and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein,
that there should be time no longer:”*

The word “swear” in the original language carries the meaning of taking an oath. Notice that the Lord Jesus Christ, the messenger from God seen here, is seen taking an oath by himself and the other members of the Godhead, being he could not take an oath by anyone higher than himself.

Hebrews 6:13 “For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,”

We see the same scene described, but in slightly different terms, unfolding before the prophet Daniel as well. It is the last vision Daniel receives and he is told that the revelation he is given is finished for now. The last prophecy Daniel receives is that there are 1290 days left until the Abomination of Desolation is concluded. This is approximately 3 ½ years in duration. It is interesting to note that it will be a blessing for those who make it 1335 days, referring no doubt to the Millennial Kingdom of Christ being fully established. This would possibly indicate a 45 day period of time from the Second Coming of Christ to the full order of the Millennial Kingdom is fully established. Each dispensation is characterized by a brief period of transition and the full order of the dispensation being some number of days later. The Millennial Kingdom of 1000 years is followed by the New Heaven and the New Earth and that state being eternal and without end. Thus there would be no need for the concept of time after the creation of the New Heaven and the New Earth comes about.

Daniel 12:7 “And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

VERSES 7 “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.”

The messenger here indicates that “in the days” of the seven angel sounding the seven trumpet that “the mystery of God” should be brought to completion. The mystery of God here is the completion of the Great Tribulation and is also referred to in some passages as “The Day of The Lord”. Much of the Great Tribulation was a mystery to the prophets of the Old Testament. They received glimpses of this time period, while the Apostle John is given full and complete revelation by God himself. These “days” here represent a short period of time that will be culminated in the ushering in of The Millennial Kingdom referred to in Chapter 20.

C. VERSES 8-11: THE BOOK IN THE HAND OF THE MESSENGER

VERSE 8 “And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.”

The Apostle John is now commanded by the same voice that commanded him not to write in verse 4, to take a little book from the Lord Jesus Christ.

***VERSES 9-10 “(9) And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.
(10) And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter..***

The Apostle John is instructed to take this little book from the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle John was then instructed to eat this “little book”. It would taste good while he was eating it but would make his stomach feel bitter. This is another passage that many Bible students have often wondered what the meaning of the passage is. One meaning is very clear. The prophecy that God's judgment and justice will be complete is at first very “sweet” to the believer as he will see justice from God come to fruition. However once the impact of that judgment settles in fully, the Apostle John becomes nauseated because he knows that many people will die horribly and go out into eternity without Christ.

*VERSE 11 “And he said unto me,
Thou must prophesy again before many peoples,
and nations, and tongues, and kings.”*

God was not done with the Apostle John. This book, the book of the Revelation, would be the way that the Apostle John would be able to testify before different groups of people, even after his lifetime on earth. The prophecies came from the Godhead, but was penned into The book of the Revelation has been read by many and because it is the Word of God, testifies of the power of God all over the world.

III. APPLICATIONS

- **Take comfort. The Church age saint will not go through the Tribulation or the judgments described here.**
- **We see with the second interlude here as in restraint in the judgments, the mercy of God continuing even with the hard hearts of mankind.**
- **The Judgment of God may seem to us at first to be sweet because we finally see his perfect justice.**
- **However it should also make you slightly nauseated due to the fact that many as a result of this judgment and their own non-belief will go out into eternity without Christ.**