

REVELATION Chapter 10

Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, August 2014

We have seen in chapters 8 and 9 God's judgments against the oppressors of His people. In chapters 10 and 11 we have another interlude, to encourage, comfort, and assure. The delays of God's judgments come to an end, and word is given of His intentions.

I. GOD'S MERCY HAS COME TO AN END, 10:1-6

A. The appearance of a mighty angel, vv. 1-2

1. We have already seen a strong angel (5:2), and other angels which intervene to carry out God's intentions (7:2 and 8:3-5).
2. This angel is described:
 - a. Clothed with a **cloud**: *the majesty of a heavenly messenger* (see Exodus 16:10; 33:9; Numbers 11:25; Psalm 18:11, 17; Matthew 17:5; Luke 21:27).
 - b. A **rainbow** about his head: *symbolic of the divine covenant of mercy* (see Genesis 9:12-17; Ezekiel 1:28; Revelation 4:3; 10:7).
 - c. His face as the **sun**: *the darkness of persecution would become the glory and splendor of victory!* (see Malachi 4:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6; cf. Matthew 17:1-5).
 - d. His feet as pillars of **fire**: *feet are symbolic of the messenger* (see Romans 10:15; Psalm 119:59; Ephesians 6:15; Revelation 1:15) *and pillars of fire symbolic of the presence of the messengers God* (see Exodus 12:21-22; 14:19; 23:20; 32:34; Luke 1:79).
 - e. In his hand a **little book** is opened (no longer sealed, for the Lamb had opened it – 5:2, 5).
 - f. He stands on both **land and sea**: *all inclusive and powerful, with a universal message for the persecutors who controlled both land and sea.*

B. The action of the mighty angel, vv. 3-6

1. He cried with a **loud voice** as a lion roaring: *power, majesty!* (see Jeremiah 25:30; Joel 3:17; Amos 3:8).
2. Seven **thunders** utter their voices: *power, judgment!*
 - a. "Thunder" in the Old Testament signified the voice of God in judgment.
 - b. See Exodus 9:23; 19:16; 20:18; 1 Samuel 7:10; 2 Samuel 2:10; 22:14; Job 26:14; 37:2; Psalm 18:13; Isaiah 30:31-32; John 12:29
3. John is told not to write: *"seal up...write not"*
4. The angel lifted up his hand to heaven (see Daniel 12:7), declaring that *"there should be time no longer"* (that is, no longer any delay or lapse of time – see 11:15 and 16:1-21).

The 7th Trumpet is coming! God's judgment would not be delayed!

II. THE 7th ANGEL WITH THE 7th TRUMPET WILL FINISH THE MYSTERY OF GOD, 10:7

A. The 7th Angel will not sound yet – but when he does God’s intentions will be finished.

1. The 7th angel sounds in Revelation 11:15.
2. The 7th angel brings the last of the **three woes**.

B. The “mystery of God” had been given to the prophets.

1. “**Mystery**” = that which is being uncovered, unveiled (that which cannot be known until it is made known, or revealed – compare Ephesians 3:3-5, 9-11; Colossians 1:26-27).
2. The particular “mystery” here is what has been under discussion: that is, *the conflict between the church and Rome, God’s judgment against Rome and the church’s victory!*

III. JOHN’S INSTRUCTIONS FROM HEAVEN TO CARRY OUT, 10:8-11

A. John is told to take the little book, vv. 8-9.

1. John asks the angel to give it to him, but John is told to **take it** (he must be active in the Matter of receiving this message).
2. He is told to **eat it** (compare Ezekiel 2:8 – 3:14): *It would be both sweet and bitter* (God’s Word is both sweet and bitter, containing things that are both difficult to take and comforting – see Psalm 19:10; 119:103; Proverbs 24:13-14; 2 Corinthians 2:15-16; Matthew 13:14-16; etc.).
 - a. “**belly bitter**”: the church will suffer – this is a hard message (2:10; 7:14; 11:7; cf. John 15:18-19; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 2:20-23; etc.).
 - b. “**mouth sweet**”: the church will ultimately be victorious (11:11-18).

B. John follows the instructions from the angel, v. 10

C. Final instructions are given to John, v. 11.

1. The angels had messages from God to John to write unto God’s servants.
2. Note the message in verse 11 (compare Revelation 1:7; 6:17; 10:6).

More details will follow (Revelation 12-22) after the 7th angel has sounded.

SUMMARY: We have seen an angel of great power who assures the saints that God and His cause will be victorious over the oppressors.