

The Little Book

Revelation 10:1-11

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Review: Rev 9, The 5th & 6th Trumpets

You really don't want to be on earth during that time so repent and follow Christ while you can.

Chapter 10 is another parenthetical interlude...

- The purpose of this vision, is to prepare us for the final pouring out of God's judgments, the close of the end of the age, and the destruction of the enemies of the Lamb
- It is a warning for the lost and an encouragement for the believers

The Mighty Angel with the Little Book

Revelation 10:1-3

I saw still another mighty angel' coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. ² He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out; seven thunders uttered their voices.

Why is this angel described as mighty?

- It sounded like he was big... one foot on the sea, the other on the land
- If it wasn't for his being called an angel, his description sounds like it could be talking about God... coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud, arrayed in a rainbow, face like the sun, feet like pillars of fire.
- Certainly he is acting for God doing mighty things.

What is the significance of setting, one foot on the sea and the other on the land?

- As we've discussed before... In Revelation, the "land" always represents Israel, the "sea" is symbolic of the Gentile nations
- By the angel placing his feet on the "land" and the "sea", it indicates that he is making a declaration for all God's earth!

What is this *little book*?

The *little book* is perhaps a short version of the disposition of all things, the portion that John himself will see and write about.

What declaration is this angel making for God?

- This creation belongs to God!!! — — —
GOD CREATED IT!
- The world was not made for Satan (or the enemies of God), it was made for Christ and man

Revelation 10:4-7

⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write, them." ⁵ The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven ⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, ⁷ but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Who is Him who lives forever and ever?

God

How is God described here?

He is the creator of all things... earth and sea, Israel & Gentiles

Why does God tell the Apostle John not to write what the Seven Thunders utter?

It is to be a mystery – the command to “seal up” what the seven thunders uttered is reminiscent of the same command given to the prophet Daniel, see Daniel 12:4, 8-9.

What does it tell us that the prophecy was sealed?

Sealing up revelation shows that prophecy is progressive illumination... more about prophecy is understood as we get closer to their fulfillment:

- Technology: we can see how many prophecies once thought to describe supernatural events can now be fulfilled through natural means.

How does progressive illumination address the most prominent argument of rapture-deniers?

Rapture scoffers often argue that this is a recent doctrine that was created by Darby in the 1800's so it should be rejected (despite the evidence that early theologians believed in it).

- It wasn't until the 1500's that the Bible became available to the common man; it took a couple of hundred years for people to shake off the cultural resistance to letting Scripture speak for itself to re-discover the doctrine of the rapture.

When will the mystery of God no longer be a mystery?

When Jesus returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation.

What does this tell us about the mystery of God?

The "Mystery of God" is the long delay of our Lord in taking the Kingdom unto Himself and in establishing righteousness on the earth

How long have we had the mystery of God?

- The "Mystery of God" has been seen for thousands of years in which sin and death have run riot
- God has allowed Satan to increasingly have his way with human life in the affairs of this world
- Those worshiping other gods, the atheist, the agnostic, and unbelievers laugh and mock the Christian believers

Why has God delayed bringing an end to His mystery?

He has done it out of His grace for our benefit...

Romans 11:25 – *For I do not desire brethren that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that hardening in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

God has used this long period of delaying His return to save many people out of all nations...

Acts 15:14 – *God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name*

And He has also delayed to better prepare us for eternity...

2 Cor 5:7 – *For we walk by faith, not by sight*

The more we can learn to walk by faith in this life, the better prepared we'll be to participate in what God is doing in eternity.

What does it mean to walk by faith?

- To trust God in all things & obey Him
- To have an active relationship with Him – involve Him in all things through prayer
- To recognize that He is in control and thus everything happens for a reason – He speaks to us even in our circumstances

What other mysteries of God are there?

- The ultimate conversion of the Jewish people is called a mystery (Romans 11:25).
- God's purpose for the church is called a mystery (Ephesians 3:3-11).
- The bringing in of the fullness of the Gentiles is called a mystery (Romans 11:25).
- The living presence of Jesus in the believer is called the mystery of God (Colossians 1:27-2:3).
- The gospel itself is called the mystery of Christ (Colossians 4:3).

John Eats the Little Book

Revelation 10:8-11

⁸ Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth" ⁹ So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." ¹⁰ Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. ¹¹ And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about, many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

What do you think is in the little book?

The context reveals that this is God's revelation of details associated with the return of Christ.

Why was John told to eat the little book?

Symbolism: To eat it is to assimilate it, to digest it, to get it into his very being!

- John was to experience, to testify, and prophesy again
- Note that John wasn't the only prophet called to digest God's words...

Ezekiel 3:1-3 – *Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.*

And also there was...

Jeremiah 15:16 – *Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.*

Why was the book sweet to the taste but bitter once it was in the stomach?

- It is "sweet" to know God's vision, His revelation and His Word... His promises are sweet... the good news of the gospel is sweet... God's grace is sweet... eternal life is sweet...
- It is "bitter" to understand what is planned for lost man and what is absolutely certain to be implemented - Hell is a real place!

Why does God give us such a bitter message?

- Out of His grace... So that mankind would be warned and saved from the wrath to come
- The good news is not complete without the bad news for those who reject God
- And out of the bitterness comes a sweetness that will cause the bitterness to be forgotten.

Isaiah 65:17- For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered nor come to mind

v11 – About what was John to prophesy?

- About many peoples, nations, tongues and kings... what would happen during the Tribulation on earth
- This is setting up the remainder of Revelation

What trends are we seeing today that indicate the stage is being set for the Tribulation?

World government

- Global warming, terrorism, economy, pandemic
- U.S. in decline as a superpower
- U.S. rise in rule-of-man
- U.S. loss of freedoms... trend toward socialism & totalitarianism

Geopolitical alignment

- UN resolutions against Israel
- Ezekiel 38 nations activities

Israel

- Preservation of their cultural identity in Diaspora
- The Jews back in their land
- Interest in a temple for national identity
- Hebrew language
- Reclaiming land
- Developing oil & gas
- Powerful military
- On brink of regional war

Technology

- Mysterious AI & quantum computing
- Big Brother state – monitoring of phone GPS
- Digital currency control of transactions
- Miracles now possible by natural means
- Mankind messing with human DNA
- Mankind being prepped for alien disclosure

Spiritual Condition of Church

- Amillennialism – not believing what the Bible says
- Theistic evolution – compromising with the world
- Laodicean apathy

State of Society

- Violence... “as in the days of Noah”
- Worldwide embrace of sexual immorality
- Growing wickedness; calling good evil & evil good
- Growing irrationality; giving over to a debased mind
- Growing deception

So, what applications can be made in the here and now regarding what we've learned about the Little Book?

- God's delay in letting mankind run things on earth is about to end
- So, we should get on with what God is calling us to do... Salvation hangs in the balance