

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION – Chapter 10

God's Message To A Sleeping Church

### **“THE SWEETNESS AND BITTERNESS OF PROPHECY”**

As we begin Revelation 10 it is important to note ... **that it is an interlude chapter between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments.** Like Revelation 7 between the sixth and seventh seals, this chapter pauses the progression of judgment to focus on divine revelation, prophetic responsibility, and God's sovereign timetable. This interlude extends from 10:1 to 11:14. No corresponding interlude exists between the sixth and seventh bowl judgments, for at that time, the end will have come and there will be no time for further warning.

Revelation 10:1-4 (NIV) ... **“(1) Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. (2) He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, (3) and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. (4) And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”**

So the chapter begins with a description of a strong or mighty angel that some believe is Jesus Himself. The reasons for doing so are because of the obvious connections to the description of the Lord Jesus given in Revelation chapter 1. Speaking of Jesus, there we read ... **“(14) His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. (15) His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. (16) In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.”** (Revelation 1:14-16)

As much as I love to see Jesus in any text, I cannot do it with this passage. While the preincarnate Lord Jesus was given the title of the *'the Angel of the Lord'* in many Old Testament appearances (for example Gen. 16:13, Gen. 24:7, Gen. 31:11, Jdg. 6:22) ... **He is never spoken of as an angel in the New Testament.**

In fact, He is clearly differentiated from them, being far greater than them (Heb. 1:3-5). This, as the text says, is *'another mighty angel'* ... and the Greek word for *'another'* (*Allos*) means *'of the same kind'*. It points back to the previous *'mighty angel'* that was mentioned in Rev. 5:2. Both are angelic, *not the Lord Jesus* ... but let's not underestimate just how awesome these angelic beings are!

Revelation 10:5-7 (NIV) ... **“(5) Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. (6) And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! (7) But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”**

John describes a mighty angel coming down from heaven and standing with his right foot on the sea and his left on the land. Of particular note, is **a little book** in the angel's hand. When the angel cried out with lion-like voice, **seven thunders** uttered their voices ... but John is forbidden by a voice from heaven to write the things which the thunders uttered. *At this point the mighty angel swears by God that there will be delay no longer*, for when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet ... the mystery of God will be finished, as God declared to His servants the prophets!

## THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED

This angel, who is still standing on both the sea and the land, lifts his right hand to heaven giving a solemn oath by Him who lives forever (*this again indicates that this is an angel and not Jesus*), saying that there will be no more delay. There are several very interesting points to take from this around the declaration, the delay and the mystery:

**The Declaration** - Firstly notice that this angel swore by Him who created the heavens, the earth and the sea – and all that it contains. Now we see why it says three times in this chapter that he stands upon both the sea and the land. He has a message **from the One who created all things**. The heavens, the earth and the sea are all the Lord's.

- **Jesus made them, He owns them. He paid the price to redeem them. And He is coming for them.** So as this angel obeys the Lord and places his feet upon both land and sea, he is symbolically showing that Jesus is claiming it all back! As an Old Testament example, remember how God said to Joshua concerning the Promised Land ... *'I will give you every place where you set your foot'* (Joshua 1:3). That is what is playing out here, but not just for the land of Israel but for the whole planet!

**The Delay** - Secondly notice that at the sound of the 7th trumpet, there will be no more delay. God is currently delaying His judgment. Now you and I may be praying '**delay no longer please**' ... for we want to see the King return and righteous reign! This place is tiring! But for the sake of the lost, God is currently delaying His return.

Peter says this very thing where, in the context of the Lord's return and judgement of this world, he writes ... **“(9) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”** 2 Peter 3:9-10 (NIV)

**In other words ... what currently stops the judgement of God, is the goodness of God ... even towards those that currently hate God!** But that day of judgment will come and at the time of the 7th trumpet there is no more delay. The martyr's of the 5th seal will be pleased and get their prayers answered for they too have longed for this day! (Revelation 6:10-11)

**The Mystery** - At the time of the seventh angel, when that trumpet is blown, the mystery of God is finished, Complete. Over. Accomplished! So, when is this and what is this mystery? ***This is at the Second Coming of Jesus!***

Later in Revelation 11 we see that when the 7th trumpet sounds '...there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ***“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”*** (Rev. 11:15). So that gives us the timing. God's plan has been accomplished at the sound of the 7th trumpet.

- **This is one of the reasons why I see the seals, trumpets and bowls all ending (though not starting) around the same time ... in the events surrounding the return of Jesus Christ.**

**So, what is the mystery of God that is finished at this point? *A mystery is something once hidden but now revealed*** (Romans 16:25-26). So, as we read, this mystery includes all that He spoke about through the Old Testament prophets ... including the judgment of the wicked and the establishing of His kingdom and rule on earth once again.

Revelation 10:8-11 (NIV) ... **“(8) Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies 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 asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” (10) I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. (11) Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”**

Then the voice from heaven tells John to take the book from the angel. *As he does so, the angel tells him to eat the book, with a warning that while it will be sweet as honey in his mouth, it will make his stomach bitter.* When John eats the book, he is told that he must again prophesy about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings (8-11).

The significance of **eating the little book** is clear enough, for it symbolizes John mastering the contents of the message (cf. Ezekiel 2:1-3:11). As to its contents, it may pertain to the prophecies of chapters 12-22, which certainly contains prophecies of peoples, nations, kings, etc. **While the sounding of the seventh trumpet would indicate the mystery of God was finished regarding the judgment of Israel,** John would be shown more things to proclaim regarding the judgment of pagan Rome starting in **chapter 12.**







- This vision appears designed to impress upon John that with the sounding of the seventh trumpet *his work will not be over.* Indeed, in **chapters 12-22** we shall see the revelation of God's judgment against pagan Rome and ultimately the world!

## REVELATION 10

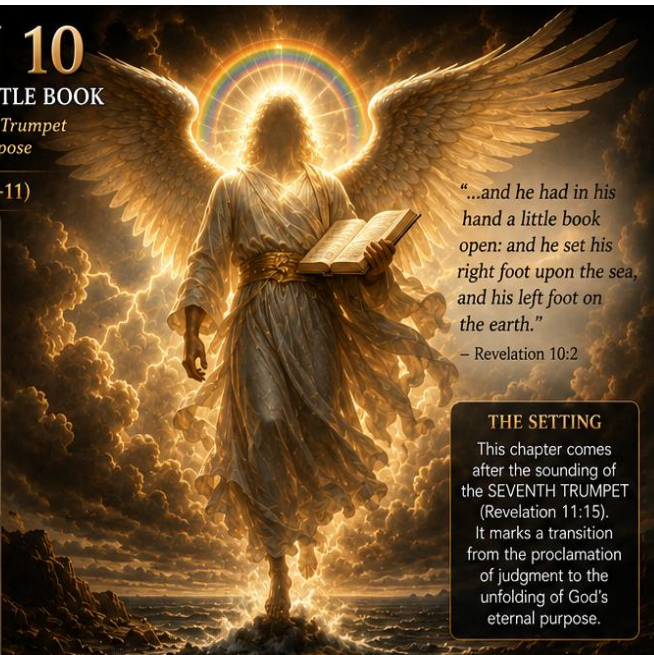
### THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

*A Prophetic Transition: From the Seventh Trumpet to the Unfolding of God's Eternal Purpose*

**THE VISION (REVELATION 10:1-11)**

<b>1</b>		<b>A MIGHTY ANGEL</b> v.1 Clothed with a cloud, rainbow on his head, face like the sun, legs like fire, a voice like a lion.
<b>2</b>		<b>LITTLE BOOK</b> v.2 A little book open in his hand. Represents God's Word and plan.
<b>3</b>		<b>SWEET AS HONEY</b> v.3 John eats the book; it is sweet in his mouth like honey.
<b>4</b>		<b>BITTER IN HIS STOMACH</b> v.4 It becomes bitter, indicating the hardship of the message.
<b>5</b>		<b>COMMISSIONED TO PROPHECY AGAIN</b> v.5-6 John is told to prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.
<b>6</b>		<b>MEASURING THE TEMPLE</b> v.7-11 John is given a reed like a measuring rod to measure the temple, altar, and those who worship there.

**THE POINT:** God reveals His Word, calls His people, and unfolds His eternal plan with purpose and precision.









“...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.”  
– Revelation 10:2

**THE SETTING**  
This chapter comes after the sounding of the **SEVENTH TRUMPET** (Revelation 11:15). It marks a transition from the proclamation of judgment to the unfolding of God's eternal purpose.

**KEY SCRIPTURE**  
“And he saith unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” – Revelation 10:11


**SYMBOLIC TEACHING POINTS**

	<b>A MIGHTY ANGEL</b> Represents the glory, authority, and majesty of God's messenger. He brings a significant revelation.
	<b>THE LITTLE BOOK</b> Symbolizes God's revealed Word and the future events of His plan that must be received and understood.
	<b>SWEET AS HONEY</b> The Word of God is initially delightful and desirable; it satisfies the soul. (Psalm 119:103)
	<b>BITTER IN THE STOMACH</b> The Word reveals coming judgment and difficulties; it is not only pleasant but sobering and heavy.
	<b>PROPHECY AGAIN</b> Believers are called to continue proclaiming God's truth in a world that desperately needs it.
	<b>MEASURING THE TEMPLE</b> God is concerned for His people and His dwelling place. He measures, protects, and distinguishes His own from those outside.

**APPLICATION FOR TODAY**

- Receive God's Word with an open heart.
- Understand that truth may bring conviction and challenge.
- Be willing to be used by God to proclaim truth again.
- Trust that God is in control and will fulfill His eternal plan.

**THE TRANSITION**




The Seventh Trumpet announces the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11:15).

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Revelation 10 begins the unfolding of what must take place next.

**THE BIG PICTURE**

Revelation 10 reminds us that God's Word is powerful, purposeful, and personal. He reveals His plan, calls His people, and brings everything to completion according to His perfect will.



*Pastor Dale Crowley*

## NEXT ... REVELATION CHAPTER 11 ...