

1. Last week I taught Rev 9:20-21. When time expired we had just begun an analysis of Revelation Chapter ten.
2. Before continuing, I want to provide “1Jo 1:9 time” as may be necessary.
3. Now we are ready to study chapter ten which might be entitled “The Man Who Ate the Little Book.”

The Man Who Ate the Little Book

1. This chapter describes an interlude of peace.
2. Up to this point we have studied some eleven judgments which in varying degrees have devastated planet earth.
3. And now in chapter ten God once more stays his hand.
4. Let’s see what we can learn from verses one through four:

KJV

Rev 10:1 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:

Rev 10:2 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,

Rev 10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Rev 10:4 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.

NIV

Rev 10:1 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.

Rev 10:2 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,

Rev 10:3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.

Rev 10:4 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."

Principles

1. Beginning with chapter ten a parenthetical section is introduced which will continue through Rev 11:14. The parenthesis seems to take a step back to the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation for the specific purpose of describing the interesting accounts of two witnesses—Elijah and Moses. Rev 11:15-19 foresees the return and reign of Christ.

1.1 Like chapter seven, which speaks of the 144,000 evangelist, chapter ten does not advance the narrative but presents certain imagery which facilitates an understanding of the apocalypse.

2. In the opening verses of chapter ten a character is introduced who is described as "another mighty angel."

2.1 The word another is a translation from the Greek **Allos** meaning "another of the same kind," that is, an angel similar to other angels which have been previously introduced.

2.2 The word for "mighty" is **Ischuron** meaning great strength or power.

3. It seems from the context that this angel is not the sixth angel mentioned in Rev 9:13, nor the angel which sounds the seventh trumpet in Rev 11:15.

Rev 9:13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God.

Rev 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and 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."

4. The Bible describes many levels of rank, power, and authority among the angelic realm.

4.1 Gabriel, for example, was an angel who was said to "stand in the presence of God" and partake of the authority of His throne.

4.2 The angel described here in chapter ten as we have seen is said to have "great strength and power" - **Ischuron!**

4.3 The angel that appeared to doubting Zacharias with the announcement that he would have a son named John (the Baptist) rebuked Zacharias for his unbelief.

Luk 1:19 I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was He who sent me to you with this good news!

4.4 Many have concluded that the angel in this chapter is most likely Michael. He is called "the archangel" in Jude verse 9 and he is seen in Rev 12:7-8 as "strong enough," to defeat Satan. Mankind probably will be unable to actually see the two dramatic events for both will take place in the spiritual realm.

Jude 1:9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Rev 12:8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

4.5 The supreme authority of this mighty angel called "another angel" is displayed in the discourse of chapter ten.

4.6 But while the angelic hosts of heaven as well as Satan and his demon legions look on, this angel will claim initial possession of planet earth for Jesus.

4.7 The fact that Satan doesn't prevent the angel from accomplishing his mission bears witness to the fact that he is one sent from God - a special angelic emissary.

5. As no clear statement is made, we must determine the character and nature of this angel by all that follows. There are clearly times when God, the Lord, Son of Man and Son appear accompanied by clouds.

Psa 104:3 God ... makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

Isa 19:1 ... the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them.

Dan 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

Dan 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him.

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking (*from the Mt. of Transfiguration*), a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

5.1 This strong angel has been given the dignity and honor of appearing in the same mode; he is said to wear a cloud as his robe.

5.2 Surrounding the head of this majestic being is the rainbow. You will no doubt remember that God said that the rainbow was His sign to remind everyone that He would never again destroy the world with water (Gen 9:9-13).

Gen 9:9 "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you
Gen 9:10 and with every living creature that was with you--the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you--every living creature on earth.

Gen 9:11 I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Gen 9:12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

Gen 9:13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

5.2.1 The rainbow may very well be a reminder that God keeps His promises, and even more important, in judgment He remembers mercy.

5.3 The angel's face glowed with the brilliance of the sun, reminding us of the glory of the One from whose presence the angel had just come.

5.3.1 When Moses descended down Mount Sinai from the presence of the Lord, the Scripture declares "Moses didn't realize as he came back down the mountain with the tablets that his face glowed from being in the presence of God".

Exo 34:29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.

5.4 As already noted in Chapter 1, the "feet like pillars of fire" symbolize judgment. As the angel dramatically plants his fiery feet upon the land and the sea, it symbolizes God taking possession of the planet by divine judgment.

5.5 The angel's voice is like that of a lion as he pierces the silence. As the angel roars his message, it is answered by an even more awesome sound of "seven thunders" which communicate some kind of "special" message; the Apostle John immediately begins to record what he has heard.

5.6 He is prevented from doing so by a voice from heaven. There has been a lot of speculation as to what this message was.

5.6.1 It must be something so potent that the world simply could not take it. We will have more to say about the message later.

6. Some expositors believe that the angel mentioned here is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. This conclusion is based in part on the description given of the angel; e.g., his coming on a cloud, and his possessing great power and majesty. I am not so persuaded.

7. Walter Scott identifies the angel as "an uncreated being of divine majesty and power... It is the Lord Himself." Walvoord writes however: "Scott ... goes beyond the text ... in affirming that the being is "uncreated."

8. It is certainly true that in the Old Testament, Christ appeared frequently as the Angel of Jehovah, the first instance being in Gen 16:7, where the Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar.

Gen 16:7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

9. In the book of The Revelation, Christ is presented in several symbols, the most frequent of which is the Lamb slain as in chapter four through six.

10. Walvoord goes on to write: "The evidence seems to support the idea that our holy angel is simply a powerful angel who has been given great power and authority."

11. J. B. Smith believes it is an error to identify this angel as Christ. The angel of Rev 10:1 is ... clearly an angel and not Christ the Lamb."

12. The angel of verse one is described as one who "comes down from heaven;" there is no evidence that Christ comes to earth before His 2nd Advent.

12.1 The Second Advent is described later in great detail in Rev 11:15-19 and 19:11-21.

12.2 As we will later see in Rev 10:6 this angel will take an oath which places "him" below Deity thus making clear his identity is angelic and not divine.

13. There are many instances in The Book of the Revelation where angels are described as the ministers of God to both punish the wicked and to protect the righteous.

14. As we have seen in chapter 12 Michael the archangel is mentioned by name as contending against Satan and the wicked angels; casting both from heaven.

15. As we earlier noted there would seem to be much to support the conclusion that Michael is our strong angel.

16. The description of the angel is in very graphic terms. His face is described as glorious as the sun and his feet compared to pillars of fire.

17. John sees him in a most dramatic pose, with his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot upon the earth, implying a position of power and authority over even more than just planet earth.

18. Hal Lindsay has written of this description as follows: "This always brings to my mind a picture of two fighters, one standing with his foot on the back of the other and his right hand raised in a signal of conquest. "I believe the small book contained the title deed to the earth and that the angel's stance of conquest represents his claim to the earth on behalf of Jesus Christ."

18.1 The words, "There shall be delay no longer," in verse 6 supports the position that the event occurs just before the end of the seven-year Tribulation; Christ will delay His coming no longer.

18.2 A big question in Chapter 10 is: What is the mystery of God which has been proclaimed to God's servants, the prophets?

18.3 Lindsay goes on to write: "I personally believe that this mystery is the age old enigma: Why has God allowed evil to continue in the world and not put down His enemies and establish His perfect Kingdom long ago?" Peter in 2Pe 3:9 clears up much of this mystery. God is not really being slow about His promised return, even though it sometimes seems that way. God is not willing that any should perish, and He is giving more time for sinners to believe and be "saved."

18.4 God's patience through all these centuries has provided ample opportunity for all men to repent and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

19. Of primary importance here is that in his hand is a little book which is opened.

20. In Revelation 5, the Lamb has in His hands a seven-sealed book which in successive chapters is unrolled describing first the seals, the trumpets and then the vials or bowls.

21. This book is already open and specifically is called "a little book," referring no doubt to its small size.

22. Some have tried to connect this book with the scroll but there is no clear identification which would make these the same or even connected. On the contrary the name of the book itself is even different.

23. In Rev 5:1 the scroll is described by the Greek **Biblion**, whereas here the diminutive form is used, **Biblaridion**.

24. The contents of the little book are nowhere revealed in the book of the Revelation, but they seem to represent in this vision the written authority given to the angel to fulfill his mission.

25. The angel cries with a loud voice like a lion's roar and seven thunders are heard.

26. After the lion's roar and the thunder an articulate voice is heard.

27. But John is commanded to "write them not."

28. Though the principal purpose of the Revelation given to John was to enable him to write the book of the Revelation and thus to pass on that divine revelation to the church.

28.1 In this instance, the revelation is for John's ears and eyes only; he is not permitted to reveal what he heard.

29. This illustrates a divine principle that while God has revealed much, there are secrets which God has not seen fit to reveal to man at this time. Deu 29:29

Deu 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

30. Let me now give you an expanded translation of verses one, two, three and four.

Expanded Translation:

Rev 10:1 And then I saw another powerful angel, I could not be sure but I thought it was Michael, he was standing above planet earth; then the angel slowly descended from heaven clothed with a cloud. And over his head there was a radiant halo. His face was like the sun and his feet were like pillars of judgmental fire.

Rev 10:2 In the angel's hand was a small scroll. He placed his right foot upon the sea and his left foot upon the land, his posture and position seemed to portray that there was nothing on planet earth which was not under his authority.

Rev 10:3 The angel cried with a great voice, it was like the roar of a lion. And when he roared, seven thunders could be heard. After the thunder I could hear and understand what was said.

Rev 10:4 I prepared to record the awesome message but then I heard a voice out from the heavens saying, "Do not record that which followed the seven thunders."

31. Now let's see what we can learn from verses five, six and seven.

KJV

Rev 10:5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

Rev 10:6 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:

Rev 10:7 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.

NIV

Rev 10:5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.

Rev 10:6 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!"

Rev 10:7 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."

Principles

1. One reason the angel portrayed in this vision is not Christ Himself is the fact that he swears by God, implying that God is greater than the angel.

2. It is a very solemn oath. The oath is translated in the NIV: "That there will be no more delay."

2.1 That the oath is made to God is clear for attention is called to the special character of the authority of God over the earth as the One who lives forever and as the One who created all things in heaven and in earth.

3. As the Creator, God is also the sovereign Ruler who can declare that there shall be no more time, that there will be no more delay.

4. This expression has sometimes been misunderstood to mean that time will cease.

4.1 John Walvoord has written: "The expression here, however, does not refer to time as a succession of chronological events; but rather it means that time is running out, that is, that there will be no further delay because the final judgment of the seventh trumpet is about to sound."

5. In explanation of the statement that there shall be no more delay, verse seven declares that the sounding of the seventh trumpet will bring about the completion of the mystery of God.

Rev 10:7 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."

6. Kelly identifies "the mystery of God" as "the secret of His allowing Satan to have his own way, ... evil prospering and of good being trodden underfoot. God checks, no doubt, the evil in a measure, partly through human government and partly through His own providential dealings ... The reference to the mystery of God seems to mean absolute truth concerning God Himself which has not been fully revealed."

7. However it should not be overlooked that the mystery is said to have been "declared to his servants the prophets." (Rev 10: 7)

8. The mystery of God which is about to unfold was therefore revealed in both the Old and New Testaments in those many passages which speak of the establishment of eschatological triumph.

9. The prediction is related to the full manifestation of the divine power and holiness of God which will be evident in the glorious return of Christ, the establishment of His millennial kingdom, and the creation of the eternal state.

10. In chapter ten there is mention of the 7th trumpet; such trumpet judgments being parlayed into the seven vial or bowl judgments; however this mentioning in verse seven is but a casual one.

11. A strong angel, probably Michael, places one foot on the earth says John and one foot on the sea as though to stake out the planet as belonging to a soon coming Christ.

12. The mystery mentioned by the angel is all that eschatological doctrine formerly taught by prophets and apostles, especially as such doctrine relates to the triumph of Christ.

13. Things are now winding down and in chapter eleven; after John measures the temple and describes the events related to the rise and fall of Elijah and Moses, we have a description of the Second Advent of Christ with emphasis on the event itself.

14. John says the seventh trumpet or third woe is related to Christ's return; for you see, as we taught last week, verse fourteen clearly begins a heavenly picture of the event we call "The Second Advent."

14.1 With the sounding of the seventh trumpet the mystery of God will be revealed, the great mystery which was earlier announced to His people by His prophets and apostles. Everyone will know all of that which is called "the mystery of God."

NIV

Rev 11:14 The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

Rev 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and 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 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Rev 11:17 saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Rev 11:18 The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great--and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Rev 11:19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

15. In summary then with reference to the woes:

15.1 The first woe that is set loose on man is actually the fifth trumpet judgment. (Rev 9:1-12)

15.2 The second woe which man has to endure is synonymous with the sixth trumpet. (Rev 9:13-21)

15.3 The third woe (the seventh trumpet) is related to our Savior's return and this judgment contains the final and most awful catastrophes of all times, these are also called the "seven bowl judgments".

15.4 The detail record of the "seven bowl judgments" will not come until verse one of Revelation chapter sixteen; such hiatus is consistent with our outline.

16. Outline:

I. Rev chapter one - Introduction

II. Rev chapters two and three - the church

III. Rev chapters four and five – a picture of events in heaven

IV. Rev chapters six through eleven - tribulation (emphasis on events)

V. Rev chapters twelve through nineteen - tribulation (emphasis on characters)

17. Now let's take a look at an expanded translation of Rev 10:1-7.

Expanded Translation

Rev 10:1 And then I saw another very powerful angel. He was standing above planet earth; then the angel slowly descended from heaven clothed with a cloud. And over his head there was a radiant halo. His face was like the sun and his feet were like pillars of judgmental fire.

Rev 10:2 In the angel's hand was a small scroll. He placed his right foot upon the sea and his left foot upon the land, his posture and position seemed to portray that there was nothing on planet earth which was not under divine authority.

Rev 10:3 The angel cried with a great voice, it was like the roar of a lion. And when he roared, seven thunders could be heard. After the thunder I could hear and understand what was said.

Rev 10:4 I prepared to record the awesome message but then I heard a voice out from the heavens saying, "Do not record that which followed the seven thunders."

Rev 10:5 The powerful angel whom I saw standing above the sea and the land raised his right hand and looked toward heaven;

Rev 10:6 He then swore an oath to the One who lives forever, his oath was sworn to the Lord Jesus Christ, Who created the heavens and the things in it and the earth and the things in it and the sea and the things in it; the Angel swore to our Lord "that there would be no more delays;"

Rev 10:7 for soon said the angel, a seventh angel will sound his trumpet and then the mystery of God will be revealed, the great mystery which was earlier announced to His people by His prophets and apostles; it is then however with the sounding of the seventh trumpet everyone will know all of that which is called "the mystery of God."

18. Let's now move to a study of the last four verses of chapter ten.

KJV

Rev 10:8 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.

Rev 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.

Rev 10:10 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.

Rev 10:11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

NIV

Rev 10:8 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."

Rev 10:9 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."

Rev 10:10 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.

Rev 10:11 Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

End Lesson Taught 2-22-2017

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