

Revelation

Chapter Ten

Revelation 10:1

"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."

An Interlude

- Just as there was an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal there is another interlude here between the sixth and seventh trumpet.
- The first interlude was for the sealing of the 144,000 Israelites in Chapter Seven.
- Here in Chapter Ten it is for the purpose of allowing an angelic messenger to announce the end of the kingdoms of this world and the arrival of God's Kingdom.
- In Chapter Eleven when the seventh trumpet is blown the kingdoms of the world will become the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The Mighty Angel

- John witnesses to "another mighty angel coming down from heaven"
- The word "another" in the original text is "allos" which means "of the same kind".
- This is a similar angel to what John witnessed in Chapter Five.
- "Then I saw a **strong angel** proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"-Revelation 5:2

Divine Similarities

- There are a lot of commentators who believe this angel to be Jesus because of the similar attributes that this angel has compared to that of Jesus.
- Many interpreters also refer to the many appearances of the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament as support for this mighty angel being that of Jesus.
- However, with the subtle words of “still another” before the appearance of this angel seems to tie this angel to the angel in Revelation 5:2, and not the second Person of the Trinity.
- John would not, I believe, introduce Jesus as “still another” but as Lord and Savior.
- Note Revelation Chapter One as an example of John’s vision of Jesus and his falling at the feet of Jesus. John does not fall in worship before this “mighty angel”.

Divine Similarities

Attributes	Mighty Angel	Jesus
Coming down from heaven	Revelation 10:1	Luke 21:27; 1 Thess. 2:19; 1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 22:7
Clothed with a Cloud	Revelation 10:1	Ex. 16:10; Psalm 68:4; Dan. 7:13; Matt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7
A Rainbow	Revelation 10:1	Genesis 9:13; Rev. 4:3
Face like the sun	Revelation 10:1	Matt. 17:2; Rev. 1:16
Feet like pillars of fire	Revelation 10:1	Rev. 1:15
Holding a little book	Revelation 10:2	Rev. 5:8
Voice like a lion	Revelation 10:2	Rev. 5:5
Authority over sea and land	Revelation 10:2	Gen. 1:9-10; Zec. 9:10; Mat. 28:18; Eph. 1:22; Rev. 5:13

Angelic Messengers

- God seems to utilize powerful angels for the purpose of administering His divine plan in history.
- In **Revelation One** an angel signified the Revelation to John as a sign to its validity as coming from God.
- In **Revelation Five** a strong angel proclaims the unworthiness of anyone to take the scroll in the right hand of God
- In **Revelation Seven** an angel seals the 144,000 Israelites.
- In **Revelation Eight** an angel throws the golden censer to the earth with the prayers of the saints.
- In **Revelation Ten** an angel announces the end to the earthly kingdoms of man.

Revelation 10:2-3

“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, and cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.”

A Little Book

- This is a "little book" and could be the book that only Jesus had the right to take and open.
- The little book was open in the angel's hand.
- The contents of the little book are nowhere revealed in Revelation, but they seem to represent in this vision the written authority given to the angel to fulfill his mission." (Walvoord)
- The mission in which this angel seems to concern himself with is the authority of God's kingdom.

Authority Over The World

- The angel stands astride the sea and the earth symbolizing his authority over the whole world as he holds the little book is open in his hand.
- "The setting or planting of his feet on sea and land is the formal taking possession of both; or the formal expression of the purpose to do so."-Bullinger
- The Lord is the creator of all the land and the sea and will someday take possession as one who has the whole world in his hand.
- All things must someday be put under the feet of Jesus (Ps. 8:6; Heb. 2:8)

Israel's Kingdom Is Yet Future

- "...the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and **you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves**. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you."-Deuteronomy 11:23-25

The United Kingdom



The Divided Kingdom



The Promised Messianic Kingdom



The Lion Roars

- "Let the nations be awakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow-For their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel." - Joel 3:12-16
- Gentile nations will be judged as well as Israel but only Israel alone as God's chosen nation will have the unconditional promise of His divine protection during the final conflict in the valley of decision.



The valley that is seen between the Jewish cemetery on this side and the road on the other is the Valley of Jehoshaphat

Seven Thundering Voices

- "Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. **The voice #1** of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. **The voice #2** of the LORD is powerful; **The voice #3** of the LORD is full of majesty. **The voice #4** of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. **The voice #5** of the LORD divides the flames of fire. **The voice #6** of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. **The voice #7** of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!" The LORD sat *enthroned* at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever. The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace."-Psalm 29:1-11
- This Psalm makes reference to the Lord reigning as judge during the Noahic Flood which is in conjunction to the global judgment that is coming up the nations of the world.

Revelation 10:4

"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.""

Seal Up And Do Not Write

- We will never know what was said until the appointed time.
- John was told, "What you see, write in a book" (Rev. 1:11) and "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this" (Rev. 1:19),J
- John started to record the things which he was being shown but was told not to write what he heard.
- It is the only time in the book of revelation that John is told to, "seal up and do not write".
- "This indicates that God has not revealed in Scripture all the judgments that will take place on the earth during the Great Tribulation."-Newell
- "Here is a definite commandment from God that no indication shall be given as to the correct interpretation of the seven thunders. In spite of this, however, some commentators have attempted to do that which God forbade John to do. It seems that the reverent student of the Word of God can do nothing but pass on to that which follows."-Barnhouse

Revelation 10:5-6

"The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 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"

The Announcement Of The Angel

- The angel makes a solemn oath to God that the things that are about to take place are coming from God Himself Who is the Creator of all things.
- God owns all that He has created and because He owns it all He can reclaim it back to Himself at any time as King of all Creation.
- "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made...."
- The proclamation will be known during this time that, "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness."-1 Corinthians 10:26

No More Delay

- God has been delaying His judgments so people would come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:1-9)
- An answer to the prayers of the martyred saints: "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10)
- The earth's time has come to a completion and God will now fulfill all His promises He made in Scripture to Israel about the kingdom.
- The Devil's response to this declaration: "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, **because he knows that he has a short time.**"-Revelation 12:12

- "Although the Saviour may come any day, and our duty is to be looking for Him every day, it is still possible that all present prognostications on the subject may fail, as they have always failed; that years and years of earnest and confident expectation may go by without bringing the Lord from heaven; and that delay after delay, and ever repeating prolongations of the time of waiting may intervene, till it becomes necessary for the preservation of the faith of God's people to hear the fresh edict from the lips of their Lord, that *"there shall be no more delay."* Though the coming of the consummation be slow, *it will come.* There is not another truth in God's word that is so peculiarly authenticated. . . . Shall we then have any doubt upon the subject? Shall we allow the failure of men's figures and prognostications to shake our confidence or obscure our hope? **Shall we suffer the many and long delays that have occurred, or that ever may occur, to drive us into the scoffer's ranks?**"-Seiss

Expect His Coming

- Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make *it* plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, it will not tarry. "Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.-Habukkuk 2:2-4
- "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."-Titus 2:13-14

Jesus Is The Ruler Of The Kings Of The Earth

- The Book of Revelation is the final chapter of God's historical conflict between the forces of evil energized by Satan that culminates with the victory of Jesus' redemption of the world establishing His kingdom reign upon the earth.
- All the powers of humanity will be in united action at the end of the age in deliberate designed conflict with God
- Our prayer, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is a prayer for the rule of Jesus, as King, from Jerusalem.

- Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. -**Psalm 2**

- "In the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." -**Daniel 2:44**
- "The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign forever and ever!" -**Revelation 11:15**
- "Because you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what shall happen hereafter: and the dream is certain, and its interpretation sure." -**Daniel 2:45**

Revelation 10:7

"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. 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."

Mystery Of God

- In Scripture a mystery is something that can be known through a revelation by God.
- There are several mysteries revealed in scripture but only few yet be fulfilled.
- When the seventh angel sounds the trumpet the mystery of God will be fulfilled.
- Also, at the sounding of the seventh trumpet the third woe is initiated bringing the bowl judgments against the kingdoms of this world. –Revelation 11:14
- Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”-Revelation 11:15

<u>The Mystery In Scripture</u>	<u>Scripture Reference</u>	<u>Fulfilled</u>
The mystery of faith	1 Timothy 3:9	Yes
The mystery of the church	Romans 16:25	Yes
The mystery of the gospel	Ephesians 6:19	Yes
The mystery of the seven stars	Revelation 1:20	Yes
The mystery of Godliness	1 Timothy 3:16	Yes
The mystery of the kingdom of heaven	Matthew 13:11	Yes
The mystery of God	Revelation 10:7;11:15	<u>No</u>

<u>The Mystery In Scripture</u>	<u>Scripture Reference</u>	<u>Fulfilled</u>
The mystery of Israel's blindness	Romans 11:25	<u>No</u>
The mystery of the Rapture	1 Corinthians 15:51	<u>No</u>
The mystery of the God's will	Ephesians 1:9	Yes
The mystery of the Gentiles	Colossians 1:24-27	Yes
The mystery of Christ	Colossians 2:2	Yes
The mystery of lawlessness	2 Thessalonians 2:7-8	<u>No</u>
The mystery of Babylon	Revelation 17:5	<u>No</u>

Declared To His Prophets

- **66%** of the Bible is prophecy, and only **50%** of those prophecies have been fulfilled
- **There are 1,845 references to Christ's rule on earth in the Old Testament. A total of 17 Old Testament books give prominence to the event.**
- Of the 216 chapters in the New Testament, there are 318 references to His Second Coming. It is mentioned in 23 of the 27 New Testament books (apart from three singular letters to private individuals, and Galatians).
- **For every prophecy (300) relating to His first coming there are 8 more relating to His second coming.**

Revelation 10:8-9

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. 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."

Take And Eat

- John is commanded to take the little book and eat it.
- The word for eat in the original text is "*Katesthiō*" which means "consume, or devour".
- God's word is often referred in scripture to food.
- Jesus is referred to the "bread of life" in John 6:35,48
- Job stated, "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary *food*" - Job 23:12

The Word Is Bitter To The Stomach

- The truth of the word of God is always sweet as honey to those who follow its teaching but the reality is that it is bitter to some who will be lost in the futility of their own thinking. The sweetness of the Book of Revelation is the rapture of the Church and the return of Jesus; the bitterness is that there are going to be a lot of people lost to their own destruction.
- "Now thanks be to **God who always leads us in triumph in Christ**, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one *we are* the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?" - 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

- Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good *is* the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or *as* though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it *not* very dark, with no brightness in it? - Amos 5:18-20
- "To almost all people, prophecy is sweet. Prophetic conferences draw larger audiences than virtually any other kind of conference. The voluminous sale of the more sensational prophecy books is another evidence of how "sweet" Bible prophecy has become to so many people. But if "sweetness" is all there is, then it is worth little. Every student of prophecy should have the second experience that John had: bitterness in the stomach. A knowledge of things to come should give every believer a burden for people. For the way of escape from these things is the Rapture, and the requirement to qualify for the Rapture is the acceptance of Messiah now. A true student of prophecy will not simply stop with the knowledge of things to come. Rather this knowledge will create the strong burden to preach the gospel to others and thereby give them a way of escape." - Johnson

The Word Tastes like Honey

- Initially the word tastes like honey but when it lands in John's stomach it becomes bitter.
- All of God's word is sweet as honey.
- "How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!"-Psalm 119:103
- Ezekiel had a similar experience: "Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book *was* in it. Then He spread it before me; and *there* *was* writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. 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."-Ezekiel 2:9-3:3

Revelation 10:11

And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

John Must Prophecy

- It is only after eating the little book that John is able to prophesy again. We too must devour the book so that we can tell others about God's grace and salvation. We can not merely look at it and be fascinated but we must devour it with urgency.
- God seeks to redeem the world through judgment but some of those who are left and go through the tribulation refuse to repent in the face of His grace.
- "With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments *are* in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness; In the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD."-Isaiah 26:9-10

- John's scope of prophecy is the entire world, i.e. "peoples, nations, tongues, and kings".
- When the end comes for this group it comes and all who do not know Jesus will be lost forever in judgment. Today, is the day of repentance!
- This is the midpoint of the book, chapters 11-14, are for the purpose of introducing the kingdoms of the earth which will eventually be destroyed by God.
- God's wrath picks up again at Revelation 15:1