

10062024 Rev 10 The book of Revelation gives us a divine outline of the things to come: ESV1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. **The things you have seen...** John and Jesus.... **The things that are: the church age:** chapters 2-3 **After these things** Chapters 4-5 the Rapture, the lamb and the throne..... Chapters 6-19 the Great Tribulation.... Chapter 20 the millennium and Satan loosed on the earth...chapter 21 the new heaven and earth.

And we have been promised a blessing to all those who read, hear and hold on to this prophecy ... ESV Rev1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. **We are to hold onto this Prophecy**

In Chapter 10 of Revelation we come face to face with several mysteries. I suppose there are millions of people on earth this morning that struggle with the mystery of a silent heaven. **Why doesn't God explain what is going on? It must seem to many that he is unconcerned, and, perhaps, even unable to do anything, about human affairs.** Evil seems to run rampant everywhere. Injustice, cruelty, viciousness, and increasing crime are on every side. Even the main stream News broadcasts can't be trusted. People are asking, "Why doesn't God do something about it?" "What is wrong with a God who cannot run the world any better than this?" Those are the questions we face in this chapter.

When we looked at Chapters 8 and 9 we saw certain horrendous disasters that are yet to come upon the world. Perhaps we feel the need of some encouragement at this point. **The Spirit of God always anticipates such need and has given us in Chapters 10 and**

most of Chapter 11 an intermission, a kind of parenthesis that comes in between the judgments of the sixth and seventh trumpets.

This interlude also shows mercy in allowing more opportunity for repentance. It is as if God brought things to the brink, then pulled back a little to grant mankind more time to repent At this point chronologically we are approximately half way through the seven year tribulation...lets jump in

ESV REV 10 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. ² He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, ³ and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. ⁴ And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”

- **Another mighty angel like the ones who blew the first six trumpets..**
- Many have identified this **mighty angel**, this messenger, as Jesus because some of the imagery also applies to Him YET The word **Another means of the same kind**
- A better identification is with the angel known as Michael because there are also similarities to this **mighty angel** and to Michael as he is described in and 12:7. In 12:1 he is identified as Michael

NLT Dan 12:7 The man dressed in linen, who was standing above the river, raised both his hands toward heaven and took a solemn oath by the One who lives forever, saying, “It will go on for a time,

times, and half a time. When the shattering of the holy people has finally come to an end, all these things will have happened.”

- **A rainbow was over his head:** Not only is the rainbow a reminder of God’s promise to man, but it is also a natural result when the **sun** shines through a **cloud**. “clearly this angel has come from the very presence of God” with great power and authority.
- **He had a little book open in his hand: *different than the scroll, yet probably closely related.*** A Book designed of God but long concealed, “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.” A mystery
- **b. He set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land: The angel’s stance shows that he had the command authority over both land and sea. complete authority over the entire earthly situation as it is under his feet” (Walvoord) Three times John will mention this... **super impressed with foot ON the Sea****
- **To the roar of this Angel, seven great peals of thunder reply.** John heard what they uttered and was about to write it down, he tells us, when there came another voice that said, “Do not write it, but seal it up.” By the way, that is the only part of Revelation which still remains sealed. The rest has been unsealed for our benefit, but this utterance is sealed up again.
- **thunder is always a symbol of the judgment of God, so it is something to do with judgment.** I do not know why it was

sealed. John does not tell us. Perhaps he did not know himself. He simply obeyed what he was told to do.

- God has a habit of not revealing everything.... Why? **Keeps the enemy off balance...keeps us in faith...**

ESV Deut 29:29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Jesus speaking to peter *ESV John 13 :7* Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”

Paul taken to Heaven *ESV 2 Cor 12:3* And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

- Then the Angel **proclaims his mission and what is about to happen for he was given this by God...whom he swears by...**

⁵ And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven ⁶ and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, **that there would be no more delay,** ⁷ but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

- **Finally No more delay in the days of the seventh trumpet the mystery of God will be revealed....as declared by the prophets...**

- The *mighty angel* gave a solemn oath declaring that the end is irrevocably set in motion, **that there should be delay no longer.** There was absolutely no turning back.
- He is swearing by the triune God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - - that there will be no longer any delay in explaining the mystery of God
- That gives us a glimpse of what is coming in the book of Revelation. The *mighty angel* gave a solemn oath declaring that the end is irrevocably set in motion, **that there should be delay no longer.** There was absolutely no turning back.
- **The mystery of God would be finished: What mystery? One important aspect of this mystery is that it has been declared to His servants the prophets.**

The mystery of God:– is used for a many different aspects of God’s plan.

- The ultimate conversion of the Jewish people is called a mystery and The bringing in of the fullness of the Gentiles is called a mystery ([Ro11:25](#)).
- God’s purpose for the church is called a mystery ([Eph3:3-11](#)).
- The living presence of Jesus in the believer is called the mystery of God ([Col 1:27-2:3](#)).
- The gospel itself is called the mystery of Christ Col 4:3 “The mystery of God which is declared as subject to fulfillment is unfolded therefore in the Old Testament in the many passages which speak of the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth.” (Walvoord)

So God is beginning the end, the resolution of all things, the gathering together (resolution, summing up) of all things in one in Jesus (Ephesians 1:10).

NLT Eph 1:10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

- He has been King over heaven and earth and the whole universe, but he has never yet reigned on earth.
- He has ruled on earth, and he has overruled. He governs human events, bringing them into being and changing things, but he does it, in a sense, remotely.
- He has never taken his great power and openly reigned upon the earth. But when the seventh angel sounds, then he will begin to reign.

If you want to see that, look ahead into Chapter 11, Verse 17. There we find the twenty-four elders praising God and saying,

NLT REV 11:17 And they said, “We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign.

- *Christ Reigning on earth* is the day when the prayer we have all been praying for so long, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” will be answered. That is what is to be found in the prophets,
- Among many other places, Daniel, Ezekiel and the other prophets **God freely acknowledges that life today is full of mysteries; but it will not always be so. A day will come when all questions of this age will be answered.**

ESV Rev 10:8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the scroll that is 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 told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.”¹⁰ And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.¹¹ And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

- Weird instruction....**Take and eat it:** John was commanded to **take the little book** from the *mighty angel* and actually **eat it**.
- This **book is both sweet and bitter**.
- **I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it:** “This figure of eating the book is familiar, and suggests the soul is fed on the Word of God.”
- In [Ezekiel 3:1-3](#), the prophet was also commanded to eat a scroll, the revelation of God to Israel.

NLT MATT 4:4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that comes from the mouth of God.’”

- Eating the word is a way of indicating that the truth written on that scroll becomes personal.
- **It was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter:** This **little book** was initially sweet to the taste, but becomes bitter in John’s stomach.

- “Every revelation of God’s purposes... is ‘bitter-sweet,’ disclosing judgment as well as mercy.” Victories and defeats, trials and triumphs
- Every believer Before the final triumph is going to pass through a formidable personal ordeals.”
- But it is more than personal...
- When John, ate the scroll, it was sweet in his mouth but turned sour in his stomach. **But only then was he given a new assignment! Want an assignment from God??...eat the word he has given you!**
- **“taking the Word of God into the innermost being as a necessary prerequisite to proclaim it with confidence and authority”**

John’s prophecy spoke of the fate of the *entire world*, not just one nation, empire or emperor, but all and it will have a bitterness...and sorrow and bitterness attached to it....

Never read the judgments of Revelation and are virtually unmoved. They say, "That is going to happen to people in the end times, but it does not concern me. I am part of the church. We are going to be raptured before those days, so it does not touch me." *We ought grieve at the judgments of God ...it is bitter...*

So what are we to do? Matt 5:¹⁴ “*You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.*”¹⁵ *No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.*”¹⁶ *In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*