

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 1ST-2ND, 2018 // BOOK OF REVELATION

THE MIGHTY ANGEL (REV 10:1-4)

THE VANTAGE POINT CHANGES

Chapters 4-9 were from a heavenly perspective, but chapter 10 is from earth, much like the brief interlude in chapter 7. John moves from just being a spectator of events to being involved in the action.

- This chapter is very John focused. The plot now involves John accepting his role as a prophet to lost people.

THIS IS ANOTHER INTERLUDE

Like before the 7th seal, we have a break before the 7th trumpet that may further make us believe the 7th events are the same. This interlude focuses on John's and the church's **responsibility to witness to non-believers**.

- Chapter 10 calls John (past), chapter 11 mentions future prophets, and we are everyone in between (the present).

WHILE ON EARTH, JOHN SEES A "MIGHTY ANGEL"

-This is the most descriptive account of an angel in Revelation.

- **"Wrapped in a cloud"** shows God's presence (Ex. 16:10, Lk. 9:34) and can literally be translated as looking like atmosphere.
- **"Rainbow over his head"** is probably like the one in Rev. 4:3 which symbolized mercy and integrity.
- **"Face was like the sun"** is how Jesus appeared in Rev. 1:16.
- **"Legs like pillars of fire"** is similar to the pillars that led Israel in Ex. 13. This could show authority and leadership.
- **"Right foot on the sea, left foot on the land"** is not about size, but authority over the earth.
- We will get to the scroll in his hand later.

SOME THINK THIS IS JESUS, BUT IT ISN'T

John does not worship him and the angel takes an oath to God later. Most scholars believe this is Gabriel.

- Daniel 12:7 and Luke 1:19 make a great case for this. If it is Gabriel, John is the 4th (Dan, Zechariah, Mary, John) and last human in the Bible to receive a special message from him.

"...HE CALLED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE"

We have heard several loud voices since studying Revelation, but this one is like a lion and demands an immediate response.

- The response is unique as well. It comes from "seven thunders" that only appear here and no one knows exactly what it means.

WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE WHAT THEY SAID

Earlier John was told to listen and write down, now he is told to "not write it down!" Some believe these are **untold revelations** that unfold over time.

- It's a slippery slope when some claim salvation has been revealed, but not all revelation. **Though God does reveal things today, He'll never reveal anything that is contradictory to His Word.**
- David Pawson believes God is telling John how much more He could do to get humanity's attention, **but the last ditch effort will not come from God, but from us!**

YOU KNEW THIS WAS COMING (REV 10:5-7)

SWEARING AN OATH

The fact that the angel could stand on the land and sea impressed John, but so did the oath the angel took.

- Raising the right hand is familiar posture for swearing an oath (Gen. 14:22, Dan. 12:7), but this is only the second time an angel does this in the Bible.

THE OATH IN DETAIL

- **"By the One that lives forever and ever"** alludes back to the throne room scene in chapter 4. God's eternal life gives Christians hope.
- **"Who created heaven, earth, and sea"** reminds us of the mighty works of God. God's eternal power gives us comfort.

"THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A DELAY"

The angel answers the question mankind has always asked, "When will this end?" Jesus' disciples asked this question in Matt. 24.

- The answer is "in the days of when the 7th angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed." In other words, when we hear the last trumpet, it's all over.

"...AS HE ANNOUNCED TO HIS SERVANTS"

Prophets of God have been receiving the message of His return for millennia. God sent prophets to tell humanity that **He will return and reward or punish people based on their choices** (Amos 3:7, Matt. 24).

- Now John will become the last prophet to warn future generations about the coming of God to earth.

PREPARING FOR AN END

Whether Christ comes back in 1000 years or next week, we as **Christians are to be longing for His return and preparing for it**. Even if His 2nd coming is years away, **our lives are short and we are not promised tomorrow** (J.s. 4:13-14).

- **The Believer must have a sense of urgency for our soul and others' souls.**

RESPONSIBILITY (REV 10:8-11)

BACK TO THE SMALL SCROLL

The same voice that John heard in v4 speaks to him again and tells him to take the small scroll.

- This is a different scroll from the one in chapter 5. This is an open scroll that John is worthy to take and that he can understand.

THIS TRANSACTION SHOWS US THE ORDER

The small scroll is a message for John. This transaction shows us the process of how truth gets to humanity from God.

- Revelation/Truths from God to Jesus > Jesus to angels > angels to apostles/prophets/and leaders > those leaders to the general public.

"TAKE AND EAT IT"

As John walks over to the angel and asks him for the scroll, John is told to consume it. He is warned that it will "be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

- John isn't literally eating a scroll. He is **digesting the words and thinking about the plan God has for him**. This is a form of meditation (Ps. 19:10, 119:103).

ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

John records that he "took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it." Like other prophets before him (Ez. 3:3), what John is doing is accepting his role as a leader and communicator of the gospel and revelation of Jesus.

ACCEPTING THE CALL IS BITTER/SWEET

Two things happened when he accepted his responsibility to share the contents of the scroll.

- First, it was **"sweet as honey," showing the initial joy of doing what God has called us to do**. But, the second thing that happened is **it became bitter. This shows the reality of the hardships of true Christianity**.

Revelation is bitter/sweet as well. Fun at first, then harder to digest the further we go. This is the case for Christianity in general. **If we are truly following God's will, our faith will be difficult at times**.

- **The dedicated Christian will experience suffering, heartache, and stress. We must remember the reward is worth it!**

REMEMBER THE LAST DITCH EFFORT?

The end will come in chapter 11. One theme so far has been God's extreme attempt to get humanity to repent, but His last ditch effort comes from an unlikely source, us.

- **God's last attempt for change is not plagues, angels overhead, or ecological disasters. It will be the preaching of the Word from His followers.**

WE MUST OWN THIS

- V11 says that John "must prophecy again" to "many people's nations, languages, and kings." Once he accepted his call, there was no turning back.
- **Everyone in this room has a scroll**. We have a responsibility to those around us to **live out and share the message of Jesus Christ**.
- The responsibility starts in the **home**. It extends to our **friends, workplace, microcosm** (gym, coffee shop, grocery store, etc.) to our **city, nation**, and even to the ends of the **earth**.
- **Will it be difficult? YES!** It will break your heart a million times over, **but the rewards exceed the pain!**

WE HOLD THE ONLY TRUE LIGHT!

God in His wisdom knows the power of His **written Word and the personal testimonies of His followers**. He has chosen us to be His greatest weapon against evil and eternal damnation. **We hold the key to unlocking hope, change, freedom, and salvation!**