

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 5TH-6TH, 2024 // REVELATION

THE MIGHTY ANGEL (REVELATION 10:1-4) THE VANTAGE POINT CHANGES

Chs. 4-9 are from a heavenly perspective, but Ch. 10 is from Earth, much like the brief interlude in Ch. 7. John moves from being a spectator 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.

ANOTHER INTERLUDE

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

- Ch. 10 calls John (past), Ch. 11 mentions prophets (future), & we're in between (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 (Exodus 16:10; Luke 9:34) and can literally be translated as looking like atmosphere.
- **"Rainbow over his head"** is like the one in Revelation 4:3, symbolizing mercy and integrity.

THE "MIGHTY ANGEL" (CONT.)

"Face was like the sun" is how Jesus appeared in Revelation 1:16. **"Legs...like pillars of fire"** is similar to the pillars that led Israel in Exodus 13. This could show authority and leadership.

- **"Right foot on the sea, his left on the land"** is not about size, but authority over the earth.
- We will get to **the scroll** in his hand later.

SOME THINK IT IS JESUS, BUT IT IS NOT

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. If it is Gabriel, John is the 4th (Daniel, 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 ARE NOT SURE WHAT THEY SAID

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

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

YOU KNEW THIS WAS COMING (REVELATION 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 a familiar posture for swearing an oath (Genesis 14:22; Daniel 12:7), but this is only the second time an angel does this in the Bible.

THE OATH IN DETAIL

"By the one who 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 the 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 man has always asked, "When will this end?" Jesus' disciples asked this question in Matthew 24.

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

"...AS HE ANNOUNCED TO HIS SERVANTS"

Prophets received the message of God's return for millennia. He has sent them to say **He will return and reward or punish people based on their choices** (Amos 3:7; Matthew 24).

- Now John becomes 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 are to be longing for His return and preparing for it**. Even if His 2nd coming is years away, **life is short, and we are not promised tomorrow** (James 4:13-14).

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

RESPONSIBILITY (REVELATION 10:8-11)

BACK TO THE SMALL SCROLL

The same voice that John heard in v. 4 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.

THE 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 - from those leaders to the general public.**

"TAKE IT AND EAT IT"

As John walks to the angel and asks for the scroll, he 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 it but **digesting the words and thinking about God's plan**. This is a form of meditation (Psalm 19; 119).

ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

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

RESPONSIBILITY IS BITTERSWEET

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**.
- Secondly, **it became bitter, showing the reality of the hardships of true Christianity**.
- Revelation is bitter/sweet as well; fun at first, then harder to digest further on. This is the case for Christianity. **If we're truly following God's will, faith will be difficult at times.**
- **Christians will experience suffering, heartache, and stress, but 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 isn't plagues, angels, or ecological disasters. It will be His followers preaching the Word.**

OUR TIME IS BRIEF

- As Jesus' return approaches, hardships will intensify. So, **we cannot put off preparing for difficult times because we will fall**.
- Also, even if His return is distant, our lives are short and we're not promised tomorrow. This should invoke **a sense of urgency to get our souls into alignment with God**.

IT IS EASY TO FORGET THE MAGNITUDE

- Because of selfishness, distraction, apathy, and sin, we often fail to think on the magnitude of life and eternity.
- **We must keep the brevity of life and the weight of eternity at the forefront of our minds**. It must drive us to get closer to Jesus and love others immensely!

WE ARE ALL OFFERED A "SCROLL"

- Becoming a Christian comes with more than just **salvation**. It also comes with **sanctification** (maturation in Jesus) and a **Great Commission** (sharing the good news).
- In other words, **we have a responsibility to not only live for Jesus but to teach others the importance of knowing the Creator**.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY IS BITTER/SWEET

- God chooses to do His greatest work to and through us. This work is often painful and challenging, but **we must remember the rewards outweigh the work and pressure**.
- God wants to develop us. The Bible never promises us ease. Ease doesn't grow or build up; only tension can do that.
- Biblically loving others will assuredly break our hearts, but **we must continue to love and share truth with others because everything is at stake**.
- **How are we loving others?** Are we **kind, patient, humble**, and displaying **righteousness, grace, and truth** (1 Corinthians 13)?