

Revelation 10

Introduction:

Revelation chapter 10 verse 1 through chapter 11 verse 14 is the second “parenthetical passage” of the Book. It occurs between sixth and seventh trumpet judgments.

I. The Notable Personage – vs. 1

There is some diversity of opinion as to the identity of this mighty angel.

a. Jesus Christ

Many see this angel as none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Such an assertion is based upon comparison of His description.

- Clothed with a cloud – Ps 97:2; Act 1:9; Lk 21:27; Rev 1:7
- Rainbow upon his head – Rev 4:3; Ez 1:28
- Face as the sun – Rev 1:16; Matt 17:2
- Feet as Pillars of fire – Rev 1:15

b. A Created Being

Others see this angel as just that, an angel – albeit a glorious one. This is based on three reasons:

- i. The use of the word “Another” – vs. 1
This would suggest another of the same kind as in chapter 9, i.e created spirit beings.
- ii. The Fact that this Angel swears by the Living God – vs. 6
However, see Gen 22:16; Is 45:23; Jer 49:13; Ps 89:35; Heb 4:3
- iii. Angelic beings can have glorious appearances.
Cf. Ez 28:12-15; Dan 10:5-6, 12; Rev 18:1

II. The Notable Act of the Mighty Angel – vs. 2-3

a. In His Hand

This mighty angel holds a ‘little book’. This is the object of interest later.

b. With His Feet

The placing of his feet on the land and the sea indicates the taking possession of the earth. I Cor 10:26, 28 “...the earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof.”

c. By His Voice

The roar of the lion is symbolic of imminent, assured victory. Hos 11:10; Joel 3:16; Amos 1:2; Is 5:29

III. The Notable Response from Heaven – vs. 3-4

a. Seven Thunders – vs. 3

As noted previously, thunder symbolizes impending judgment. According to Psalm 29:3-9, thunder represents the Voice of the Lord (in this Psalm, the term “the voice of the Lord” occurs 7 times). See: Ps 18:13; I Sam 7:10; Jn 12:29

b. The Seven Thunders Sealed – vs. 4

John was about to record what he heard but was commanded to seal them up. What was heard was for John’s ears only.

“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.” (Walvoord The Revelation of Jesus Christ). II Cor 12:4; Job 37:5

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- IV. The Notable Declaration – vs. 5-7
- a. A Solemn Oath – vs. 5-6
Believers ought not to swear by an oath (Matt 5:33-37; Jm 5:12), but God has sworn by Himself (e.g. Heb 6:13) as an affirmation of what He has said.
 - b. Time No Longer – vs. 6
This means, ‘no more time’, ‘time has run out for man’, ‘no more delay’.
Luke 16:25; Jn 9:4; Eph 5:16; Col 4:5
 - c. The End of the Age – vs. 7
The Lord reveals that with the sounding of the 7th trumpet, the events of the consummation begin. Thus we can conclude that the 7 Seals and the first 6 Trumpets have taken us through most of the 7 year Tribulation Period.
 - d. The Mystery of God – vs. 7
In the Bible, the term ‘mystery’ referred to a truth that was previously hidden, but now revealed. e.g. I Cor 15:51-53
Here, it seems the ‘mystery of God’ has to do with establishing His kingdom, glimpsed by the Old Testament prophets. Rev 11:15
- V. The Notable Document – vs. 8-11
- a. A Little Book
This little book is open in the hand of the mighty angel. It is possible it is the (now opened) seven-sealed book of chapter 5 – or representative of the whole of the Word of God.
 - b. The Command to eat the Book – vs. 9
Ez 2:9-10; 3:1-4, 14; Jer 15:16-18
 - c. The Effects of Eating the Book – vs. 10
 - i. Sweet to the mouth – Ps 119:103
 - ii. Bitter to the Belly
The Bible is a two-edged sword. It contains the sweet message of salvation and the bitter message of damnation. Heb 4:12; Pr 16:24; Is 30:8-11
 - d. The Command to Prophecy – vs. 11
Having digested the Word of God, John is told he must prophesy to many.
 - i. Christians are to digest the Word of God
I Pt 2:2; II Tim 2:15; Heb 5:13-14
 - ii. Christians are to proclaim the Word of God
This is our second duty with regard to God’s Word. – II Tim 4:2