

**Chapter summary - Chapter 7 dealt parenthetically with the 144,000 and the many martyrs, without advancing chronologically the events of the Great Tribulation. Similarly 10:1-11:14 give additional information as a background to the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.<sup>1</sup>**

**Chapter 10 centers around a little book which a mighty messenger brought from Heaven and gave to John. The little book is evidently not equivalent to the seven-sealed book of Revelation 5:1. The little book seems to be the record of what God intends to do in the bringing a finish to Jewish idolatry and Gentile insolence. It is a word of prophecy about God's purposes for the earth.<sup>2</sup>**

**We may call this angel the herald angel of the great things that belong under the seventh trumpet, as seen in chapter 11:15-19. The great burden of this angel's message is that "there shall be delay no longer" (10:6, R.V.). The angel of chapter 10 is not Christ, but His messenger sent to announce a most solemn crisis.**

**This angel in chapter 10 really introduces chapter 11, with God's two witnesses prophesying at Jerusalem; the great view of God's plans concerning Israel, and Satan's opposition, of chapters 12 and 13.<sup>3</sup>**

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### **5. The little scroll is presented before the seventh trumpets sounding, (10:1-11) - "A LITTLE BOOK WITH A BIG BITE!"**

#### **1) The little scroll is delivered, (1-4)**

#### **INTERPRETATION:**

<sup>1</sup> (After the sixth trumpet judgment vision), **I** (John), **saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven**,<sup>4</sup> (symbolizing his divine sanctioning), **clothed** (or enveloped), **with a cloud**, (symbolizing judgment). **And a rainbow was on his head** (symbolizing God's covenant of mercy and faithfulness even in judgment), **his face was like the sun** (symbolizing the holy character and thus action of this being), **and his feet like pillars of fire**, (symbolizing the sever testing that was to come).

<sup>2</sup> **He had a little book open in his hand**, (the contents of which are no where revealed in Revelation, but obviously have something

#### **COMMENTARY:**

<sup>1</sup> Walvoord, and Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Logos Library System.

<sup>2</sup> Benson, Revelation: *The Grand Finale of History*, pp. 47, 48

<sup>3</sup> Newell, *The Book of the Revelation*, p. 140

<sup>4</sup> Some say that this "mighty angel" is Jesus Christ because of the grand description that is given of him and his actions in the following verses; which are similar to Revelation 1:12-17. I don't believe it is Christ though. Jesus Christ is unique. He is not like any other. The Apostle John sees "another strong angel," one just like he saw earlier, (cp., 5:2; 18:21). Also, John knows who Christ is (e.g., Rev. 1:5, 13, 17-18; 2:18; 3:7, 14; 5:5; 6:1, 16; 7:17; 8:1; 19:11, 13, 16). Why would he identify Christ as an angel then? In addition to this, Christ does not come down to the earth until the end of the tribulation period, (Mat. 24:30; 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7-8). One last thing, Christ cannot swear by any greater than Himself! (Heb. 6:13)

to do with the context of the chapter). **And he** (the mighty angel), **set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land** (symbolizing that his authority extends over all the entire earth; i.e., both land and sea),

<sup>3</sup> **and cried with a loud** (commanding/intimidating), **voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices**, (further addressing the population of the earth and authenticating the divine origin of the angel's message [*we are not told who the seven thunders are or what they say*]).

<sup>4</sup> **Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write** (what was said); **but** (before I could), **I heard a voice** (not from the angel, but), **from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them,"** (keep what was said secret [cp., Dan. 8:26; 12:9])

## F APPLICATION:

God does not reveal to man everything He will do during this period of time, (or any other period of time). Some things will just have to be found out at the time of their occurrence. We don't have to know everything. What is necessary to know in order for us to fulfill God's will for our lives, and to prepare us to enter into heaven properly, is all we need to know and is certainly revealed to us. That is what needs to occupy our mind and energy; not obscure prophecies.

## 2) The little scrolls messenger's proclamation, (5-7)

### INTERPRETATION:

<sup>5</sup> **The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven** (signifying the swearing of an oath before God Himself),

<sup>6</sup> **and swore by Him** (the God of Heaven), **who lives forever and ever** (has no beginning or end), **who created** (and thus owns and rules over), **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**, (i.e., no delay in the coming judgments. They will come without anymore merciful let-ups that the millennial kingdom of Christ may be ushered in ASAP [cp. Rev. 6:10, 11]),

<sup>7</sup> **but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound** (the seventh trumpet judgment), **the mystery of God** (e.g., Why God permitted evil and allowed it such free reign for so long; why He didn't immediately fulfill all of the promises; why the righteous suffered so long; what God's ultimate purpose for Israel and the Gentiles is concerning His kingdom; etc.), **would be finished** (all of these questions and more, would be understood in these swift and final unfolding days of the great tribulation), **as He declared to His servants the prophets**, (Dan. 12:7; Zech. 14:9; Psa. 72:17; Amos 3:7; Jer. 7:25; 25:4).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> ...God's dealing with men will finally be resolved and understood during these days of the sounding of the final trumpet. (Morris, *The Revelation Record*, p. 184)

F APPLICATION:

In the Bible, a *mystery* is a “sacred secret,” a truth hidden to those outside but revealed to God’s people by His Word (Matt. 13:10–12). The “mystery of God” has to do with the age-old problem of evil in the world. Why is there both moral and natural evil in the world? Why doesn’t God do something about it? Of course, the Christian knows that God did “do something about it” at Calvary when Jesus Christ was made sin and experienced divine wrath for a sinful world. We also know that God is permitting evil to increase until the world is ripe for judgment (2 Thess. 2:7ff; Rev. 14:14–20). Since God has already paid the price for sin, He is free to delay His judgment, and He cannot be accused of injustice or unconcern.

The signal for this mystery’s completion is the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:14–19). The last half of the Tribulation begins when the angels start to pour out the bowls, in which “is filled up [completed] the wrath of God” (Rev. 15:1).<sup>6</sup>

### 3) The little scrolls is easily ingested, but not so easily digested, (8-11)

#### INTERPRETATION:

<sup>8</sup> **Then the voice which I heard from heaven** (forbidding me to record the words of the seven thunders), **spoke to me again and** (this time), **said, “Go** (right now and), **take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.”**

<sup>9</sup> **So** (in obedience), **I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.”** **And he** (the angel), **said to me, “Take and eat it** (digest it); **and it** (the contents of this little book), **will make your stomach bitter** (become upset), **but** (initially), **it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth**, (prior to your grasp of the entire significance of its contents).”

<sup>10</sup> **Then** (when the angel finished speaking), **I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and** (as John understood the precious promises of God and the soon coming literal reign of Christ upon the earth), **it was** (as the angel said), **as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it** (entirely up, and then understood the terrible warnings and prophetic judgements yet to come), **my stomach became bitter**, (I became ill).

<sup>11</sup> **And he** (the angel [some translations say "They," possibly referring to the angel and heavenly voice]), **said to me** ("It's not over yet, John"), **“You must prophesy again** (The book of Revelation is not complete yet. There is more that must be written), **about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings**, (and no one will be exempted from the consequences of this period of time, [cp., 5:9; 7:9]).”

<sup>6</sup> Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Logos Library System.

F APPLICATION:

- Israel wants to see their Messiah. We as believers want to see Satan cast into the Lake of Fire. We want to see Christ literally reigning upon the earth. We want to see the curse lifted from nature. But with that, we know that the opportunity for the unsaved will come to a violent and permanent end. A part of the Apostle John's bitterness must have come from the fact that Israel (as a nation), had rejected Jesus, their true Messiah. Because of these matters, an element of bitterness tarnished John's and as well tarnishes our present joy and future aspirations. We find our emotions and desires torn in two.

There is one thing alone that will, not take this bitterness away, but diminish it. Leading others to Christ while there is yet time. (Ex. starfish, "It made a difference to that one.")

- And now let us reflect upon the fact that blessing to earth's nations waits upon the condition of Israel, the *elect* nation. Christ will come, and "will turn away ungodliness from *Jacob*" and the receiving into favor of national Israel, will be as "life from the dead" for "*the world*": as Paul so clearly sets forth in Romans 11:26, 15; and James, in Acts 15:16, 17; as also all the prophets.

But these same prophets with one voice witness that before Israel can become a joy in the whole earth, they must first taste the full bitterness of rejecting their true Messiah. The "false shepherd" must come. Apostate Israel will make a "covenant with death" and a treaty with God's great enemy. The last state of "Israel after the flesh" will become "worse than the first."

But the *counsels of God* are ever settled and His word faithful. So that we shall see the Lord in Revelation 11 commanding John to measure "the Temple of God," with its altar and worshippers-even when the nation is apostate and the city "as Sodom"!

And the heavenly mind regarding Israel sees her as in Revelation 12:1 ; though her future experience on earth will be terrible (12:13-16). And a remnant will stand upon Mount Zion to sing heavenly praise! (14:1-5)

The two great prophets or "witnesses" whose testimony preserves Israel from doom, and lays the foundation of *the fear of the Lord* in the remnant, will now be considered.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Newell, *The Book of the Revelation*, pp. 145, 146