

THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE SCROLL REV. 10

Read Revelation 10:1-11 (NIV)

****What Scholars Say****

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ANGEL HOLDING THE SCROLL (Rev.10:1-4)

Another angel is introduced, apparently not one of the seven angels that sounds the trumpets. Some believe this angel is Christ, but though Christ appeared frequently as the Angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament (Gen. 16:13; 24:7; 31:11,13; Judges 6:22), there is no evidence that this person was other than a mighty angel (cf. Rev. 5:2).

REV 10:[1] Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. [2] He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, [3] and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. [4] And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."

Rev.10:1-4. This angel is pictured as **robed in a cloud**, having a **rainbow above his head**, his face brilliant with glory **like the sun**, and with **his legs... like fiery pillars**. John added that the angel held a **little scroll** and stood with **his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land**. At the same time he shouted **like the roar of a lion**. The scene is certainly one to inspire awe, and when this angel shouted, the voices of the **seven thunders spoke**. John was forbidden to record **what the seven thunders** said. Someone in heaven said, "Don't write what you heard; do not reveal or tell it." While Revelation is primarily designed to reveal and not to conceal God's purpose and future events, some revelation was kept hidden as illustrated by God's prohibiting John to write what "the voices" of the seven thunders said. In contrast with the seven-sealed scroll held by the Lamb (5:1), this angel held a small scroll that was open. This scroll is small and is not sealed.

REV 10:[5] Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. [6] And he swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! [7] But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE IMPENDING END (Rev.10:5-7)

Rev. 10:5-7. The dramatic introduction of this angel (in vv. 1-4) was a preparation for the pronouncement which followed in verses 5-7. Solemnly swearing by God the eternal Creator,

the angel declared, **There will be no more delay!** In other words, there will be no more delay before the seventh trumpet is sounded.

Announcement was made that **the seventh...trumpet** would bring about the accomplishment of **the mystery of God**. This mystery had been previously announced to God's **prophets**. The reference, therefore, is not to hidden truth but to the fulfillment of many Old Testament passages which refer to the glorious return of the Son of God and the establishment of His kingdom of righteousness and peace on the earth. While God's purposes are not necessarily revealed in current events where Satan is allowed power and manifestation, the time will come when Satan no longer will be in power and the predictions of the Old Testament prophets will be fulfilled. Then all will know the Lord and the truth about Him (Jer. 31:34).

Within the period of time following the sound of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15), all the prophecies that God revealed to His **prophets** concerning the final days will come to pass. This concerns the fulfillment of God's purpose in the return of Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom (Rev. 11:15).

God's mysterious plan for the world is no surprise; the **prophets** who served God in the past warned that the day of the Lord would come (Joel 2:1-3, 10-11; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph. 1:14-18).

REV 10:[8] Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

REV 10:[9] So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." [10] I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. [11] Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

THE EATING OF THE SCROLL

Rev. 10:8-11. John obeyed the angel's instruction to **eat** the scroll, and though it was **sweet** (like **honey**) in his **mouth**, it soured in his **stomach**. The angel then added that John would **prophesy again**.

What does this incident mean? Though no interpretation was given John, it is evident that in partaking of the book he was appropriating what the book states (cf. Jer. 15:16). The scroll seems to symbolize the Word of God and divine revelation in general.

To John the Word of God was indeed sweet with its revelation of the grace of God and its many promises that belong to believers. David stated, "*The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb*" (Ps. 19:9-10). Though the Word is sweet to believers, it will be bitter to unbelievers especially when it brings divine judgment on them.

****My Thoughts****

1. A look into the spirit world – Read Revelation 10:1-4 (look at closely)

2. Read Revelation 10:4 - Why does God not want some things to be revealed?

3. *Dt. 29: [29] The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

4. God shares things with His friends that He won't share with His enemies.

Gen. 18: [17] And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?

Mark 4: [11] And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: [12] That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Matt. 7:[6] Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

5. We can't spiritually comprehend it.

1 Cor. 13: [12] For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 Jn. 3: [2] Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be...

2 Cor. 12: [2] I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. [3] And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- [4] was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. (NIV)

6. It's not time to be revealed.

Dan. 12:[9] He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.

Mark 13:[32] But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

7. It's harmful to know.

Gen. 2:[17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

8. Announcement was made that **the seventh...trumpet** would bring about the accomplishment of **the mystery of God**. God's mysterious plan for the world is no surprise; the **prophets** who served God in the past warned that the day of the Lord would come (Joel 2:1-3, 10-11; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph. 1:14-18).

Read Matthew 13:24-29, 13:36-43.

****Questions****

1. After the first six trumpets of judgment, what did John see? (10:1)
2. What did the mighty angel of John's vision look like? (10:1)
3. What did the mighty angel have in his possession? (10:2)
4. What did the mighty angel do? (10:2-3)
5. What did John try to do about what he heard? (10:4)
6. What command did John receive from heaven? (10:4)
7. What did the mighty angel do after John sealed up what the seven thunders said? (10:5-6)
8. What did the angel swear? (10:6)
9. How did the angel describe God in his oath? (10:6)
10. What announcement did the angel make? (10:6-7)
11. What did the voice from heaven tell John to do? (10:8)
12. What did the angel tell John to do with the little scroll? (10:9)
13. What unusual act was John asked to perform? (10:9)
14. What warning did the angel give John? (10:9)
15. What happened when John ate the scroll? (10:10)
16. What is the last thing John was told at this time? (10:11)

17. What do you think is symbolized by John's eating the scroll of God's words and finding it sweet in his mouth and sour in his stomach?
18. What is the "mystery of God" that will be accomplished?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Colo. Springs, CO 80935

Discipleship Evangelism

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UBS Handbook the Revelation to John

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