

Take!

Revelation 64 – Book of Joy and Sorrow

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Revelation 10:8-11

Eat!

Am I Done?

No!

- + John may have believed he was done with prophecy
 - + Christ sits on Father's Throne
 - + Jewish missions evangelize the world
 - + Gabriel announces Christ remains as Lord over Heaven and Earth
- + John was only half done
 - + Church had failed
 - + Lost refuse to bow to Christ after His Warnings: Seals and Trumpets
- + John is being prepared for Hard Message: Jewish Judgment

John Takes the Book: John to Digest the Word

- + History follows God's Plan written in Heaven (Ps 33:10-12; Hab 2:2-3; 1Co 2:7; Ep 1:3-14)
 - + Christ's word divides wheat from chaff even soul from spirit (Is 55:11; He 4:12)
- + Believers not autobots; believing message crucial to prophecy
 - + They must believe the message; taste the word that it is good (Ps 34:8)
 - + They are *living messages* written by the Spirit, read by ALL (2Co 3:2-3)
 - + This equally true of Lost; each person an evangelist of one's belief
- + John told to take and eat, digest {believe}, Christ's continuing message: It's not over yet!

Christ's Word: Sweet and Bitter

- + Reminiscent of Ezekiel's ministry (Ez 2:8-3:11)
 - + God's word to Ezekiel: Lamentation/mourning; Captivity-Redemption (De 32)
 - + Sweet in the reading, God is Lord; but hard in practice, accountability
 - + Lost *persecutes* believer and repentance is a crisis of Truth (Ac 9:15-16; 2Co 2:15-16)
- + John's ministry recites Christ fulfilling Deuteronomy: Jews (De 32)
 - + Sweet in the mouth: Bible turns to Jews {Paul} (Ro 11:1-6)
 - + Bitter in Belly: Judgment bringing ALL to repentance or shame (De 32:43; Ze 12:10)
 - + John already suffering for Christ: Island of his death {Patmos} (Re 1:9)

John's Subsequent Message: Sinner's Utter Rejection Despite Evidence

- + John takes and eats, believes, Christ's words
 - + Childbirth travail results in new life (Jn 3:3; 16:20-22; Ro 11:25-36)
 - + Jewish history focuses attention on Satan's spiritual/worldly activities
- + Familiar events and characters now to come:
 - + Two Witnesses
 - + Antichrist and False Prophet
 - + Destruction of Babylon: Antichrist's capital and Hermetic *prostitute*
 - + Armageddon with Christ's Return
 - + Millennial Kingdom and its *failure*

Your Faithfulness: What is Your Message?

- + Prophets despaired of their bitter message: Personal sacrifice
 - + Elijah ran to Mount Horeb (1Ki 19:1-18)
 - + Peter returned to fishing (Mk 1:16-20; Jn 21:1-19)
- + Do you endure the contradiction of unbelievers as Christ? (He 12:3-4)
 - + Believers will experience tribulation from the Lost (Mt 5:11-12; Jn 16:33)
 - + Believers will doubt but persevere to the end {Spirit} (He 3:12-14; 10:23-25)
 - + If you hide His light then He will deny you; i.e., not saved (Mt 5:14-16; 10:32-33)
- + Next lesson: Two prophets {First and Second Age} return to testify to: Jews; the World and to Satan {Demons}