

Message #26

Revelation 10:1-11

At this point in Revelation, things are now well into the Great Tribulation and it is nearing the 3 ½ year point. **After the sixth trumpet judgment, which is the second “woe” judgment, has been completed the seventh trumpet judgment, which is the third and final “woe” judgment does not come immediately.**

There are two prelude events that occur prior to the seventh trumpet judgment, which is the finale of the wrath of God:

Prelude Event #1 - The angelic heavenly announcement that there is no further delay.
Rev. 10:6

Prelude Event #2 - The measurement of the Temple and its worshippers. Rev. 11:1-14

There are some who hold the position that Revelation 10:1-11:14 is still part of the sixth trumpet judgment. This is based on what is said in Revelation 11:14 - “the second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.”

However, based on what is stated in Revelation 9:20-21, we think the sixth trumpet judgment ended there and this is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgment.

The specific focus after this interlude will be on Israel. The final trumpet judgment will be specifically aimed at Israel and at Jerusalem and will feature the specific events that will lead to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The actual start of the seventh trumpet judgment will be in Revelation 11:15 and when this judgment is unleashed, everything swings to Israel.

If we do some math in Revelation and compare it to Daniel 9:27, we can somewhat determine where we are at this point in the Great Tribulation.

- 1) We know that at the 1,260 day point or the middle of Daniel’s 70th week there will be a major turning against Israel (Rev. 12:6).
- 2) If we backtrack the numbers, as God reveals them, we could conclude that Trumpet Judgment #6 lasts for 391 days before the 1,260 day point which is over 1 year (Rev. 9:15).
- 3) We know that Trumpet Judgment #5 lasts for 150 days (5 months) before that (9:5).
- 4) Trumpet Judgments 5 & 6 are a total of 541 days before the 1,260 day point begins.
- 5) Now if we subtract the 541 days from the first 1,260 days, we total 719 days.
- 6) We conclude that **the first six seal judgments occurred in 719 days or about 24 months or about 2 years.**
- 7) Trumpet Judgments 5-6 take up a total of 541 days, which is 18 months or about 1 ½ years.
If we add the 1 ½ years to the 2 years of the first six seal judgments, we arrive at 3 ½ years.
- 8) So at this point in the Great Tribulation 3 ½ years have occurred and 3 ½ years are still left.
- 9) The Seventh Trumpet Judgment will start the final 3 ½ years or 1,260 days.

In Revelation 10 we have two key persons involved in two distinct actions:

PERSON #1 – The action of the angel. **10:1-2**

As we have seen in this book of Revelation, angels play a major role. During the Tribulation demonic angels and God’s holy angels will play a vital role.

William Newell made an interesting observation when he said the more one studies the book of Revelation, the more we become impressed with the authority and the dignity of angels (*Revelation*, p. 141).

Angels, although unseen by people in the world, are very active in carrying out the program of God. Most people view angels as nice, positive and protective unseen beings. Many think of angels as being friendly spirit beings. It is true angels can be that. But they also may be ferocious and may be used to carry out negative judgments against those who are not right with God.

There are eleven observations we may make concerning this angel:

Observation #1 - This angel is another strong angel. **10:1a**

The pronoun “another” (αλλος) means another of the same kind of strong angel that has been used in these Tribulation Judgments (Rev. 5:2).

The adjective “strong” (ισχυρον) indicates that this is a very powerful angel who has tremendous strength and might (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 220).

This is not a typical harp playing angel. This is a very high ranked angel of God who is given tremendous power at this point in the Tribulation.

Some have actually suggested that this is Jesus Christ Himself. We completely reject this because Jesus Christ never appears as an angel in Revelation but as the Glorious Lamb and King of kings and Lord of lords.

Some have speculated that this is either Gabriel or Michael. The arguments for this speculation are based on the fact that Revelation is closely connected to Daniel and Daniel features both of these angels who are named (Dan. 8:16; 9:21/10:13, 21; 12:1).

Since the angel is not specifically named, we do not suggest it is either one. What we do conclude is that this angel is very highly ranked. What we do know is that this is a very high ranked angel who is specifically authorized by Jesus Christ to act at this point of time.

Observation #2 - This angel is coming down out of heaven. **10:1b**

This is a high ranked angel of God coming directly down from heaven. The Greek text literally reads that this angel is “coming down out of the heaven.” The point is this angel is coming straight from the Throne of God. The judgments about to hit, which are major things against Israel, will come directly from heaven. This includes the terror of the Antichrist and all of his evil against Israel.

Observation #3 - This angel is clothed with a cloud. **10:1c**

Heavenly beings often descend with a cloud and often when they do it is connected to judgment (Matt. 24:30-31).

Clouds that you can see are not small, which would indicate that this angel would have a huge appearance. Also often in Scripture, a heavenly “cloud” represents the glory of God, specifically in regard to Israel (i.e. Ex. 13:21-22).

So this angel will be a majestic, visible display and reflection of the glory of God and will have a specific connection to Israel. As we will see, this angel has a key role to play in the ferocious judgment of God and this judgment glorifies God just as this angel glorifies God.

Observation #4 - This angel has a rainbow upon his head. **10:1d**

It is important to observe the masculine pronoun “his” is used and not “her.” Just as the angels Michael and Gabriel are masculine in gender, so this pronoun indicates the same for this high ranking angel.

Biblically speaking, the rainbow represents God’s faithfulness to keep His word in a promise He made that He would never again destroy the world by a flood (Gen. 9:13-16). **The rainbow is a sign that God will always keep His word and not destroy the world by flood.**

However, God has promised that He will destroy the world by fire (II Pet. 3:10). This will not happen until after the Millennium (Rev. 21:1). **This angel with a rainbow is a visible reminder that God is faithful to His word even in ferocious judgments.**

Observation #5 - This angel had a face like the sun. **10:1e**

More than likely, this angel has a very unusual heavenly glory to him. All angels will reflect God’s glory but this apparently is a very unique feature. Jesus Christ has already been seen in Revelation by John with a face similar to this (Rev. 1:16). We know that when Jesus Christ was transfigured, “His face shone like the sun” (Matt. 17:2).

What that said to Israel was that this Person on earth was actually your King from Heaven. Israel is about to experience some very negative judgment things and this angel will reflect that by his look.

This angel will be part of the process of judgment that will actually communicate by his look that this nation needs to turn to Jesus Christ for help. He will be the key to her survival.

Observation #6 - This angel has feet like pillars of fire. **10:1f**

The pillar of fire imagery clearly connects to Israel being led by God (Exodus 13:21-22; 14:19, 24). This angel will be used by God in judgments that pertain to Israel. He will reflect the glory and power of God in pouring out judgment and stamping out sin.

Observation #7 - This angel has a little book in his hand. **10:2a**

There is a lot of controversy that surrounds this little book. Frankly we don't exactly know what is in this scroll. We suspect that it has to do with the prophetic things about to happen to National Israel. This is like the play book or rule book of things that are about to hit Israel. These things are coming from the word of God.

The fact that the scroll is open suggests that this angel is completely authorized to do that which the Word of God predicts. He will obviously obey all that is in the word of God. Everything pertaining to the future and everything pertaining to Israel comes straight out of heaven and straight out of the word of God. This is true for the nations, the Church and National Israel.

Observation #8 - This angel is standing with one foot on the sea and one foot on the land.
10:2b

The fact that this angel is standing with one foot on the sea and one foot on the land is a fact stressed three times in this section: **10:2, 5, 8**. There are three things this means:

- 1) This angel is about to pour out the finale of the wrath of God on the sea and on the land.
- 2) This angel is about to take charge of the remainder of the world both sea and land.
- 3) This angel is about to pour out the final judgments of God that will be focused on people of the land, Israel and people of the sea, the Gentile world (Rev. 14:6/17:15).

This final judgment will include all Gentile nations in connection to Israel.

Observation #9 - This angel cries out with a loud voice and heaven responds. **10:3-4**

This angel will cry out with a loud, thunderous voice like the roar of a lion. We may assume that this will be heard all over the earth. The repetition of the "seven peals of thunder" (**10:3-4**) represent the fact that the full and complete judgment of God will be terrible and powerful. The voices are communicating in clear, understandable language.

The language of angels is an understandable language that communicates God's truth. It is not a bunch of babbling nonsense.

We learn from **verse 4** that John actually heard what the seven thunderous voices said. In fact, he was about to write down what they said and a voice from heaven told him not to write it down.

Although we don't know for sure what he heard, it is very possible that he actually heard the name and identity of the Antichrist. There are a couple of points worth noting on this:

- 1) God reveals certain things to some that He does not reveal to others. Some people have a much deeper grasp of the things of God than others have.
- 2) God reveals specific details concerning His prophetic program but we do not know everything. No one knows everything as God does. We can know what His word reveals. But there are things we don't know such as the name of the Antichrist.

Observation #10 - This angel lifts his hand and announces the end. **10:5-6**

Notice that this angel lifts his right hand toward heaven and swore an oath by the authority of God, who created all things that the time had come for God to judge all things. The finale has arrived.

We take the position that this will be visible and audible. We may remember when Belshazzar was holding a feast and suddenly a man's hand appeared and wrote on a wall (Dan. 5:5) people saw it. We assume during the Tribulation things will be actually seen by people on this earth. So when this angel lifts his right hand, people on earth will see it and hear what he has to say.

The God who made all things has the right to judge all things and the angel announces we are now about to pour out the finale of God's wrath for the next 3 ½ years.

One would logically ask why has there been a delay. The answer Peter gives is because of God's grace. God's grace in saving people is the reason for the delay right now (II Pet. 3:1-9).

Observation #11 - This angel reminds all that this program is in the prophetic Scriptures. **10:7**

This angel announces that what is about to take place is exactly what the prophets predicted in the spoken and written word of God. The critical point the prophets stressed in their predictions was that which pertained to Israel.

What this angel is saying is all those prophecies pertaining to Israel that have to do with horrible judgment are about to hit. This will finish the program of God.

PERSON #2 – The action of John. **10:8-11**

As John was watching this and listening to this, he was given three commands:

Command #1 - Take the open book from the hand of the angel. **10:8**

This proves this angel is not Jesus Christ because no one would be worthy to take the book out of His hand. John is commanded to go take that book from the hand of the angel.

What we clearly see here is that during the Great Tribulation, the great emphasis will be on the fulfillment of the written word of God. The Tribulation will be a precise fulfillment of God's written word.

Command #2 - Eat the book that you get from the angel. **10:9-10**

This is a very important point. No matter what is happening in the world, it is imperative that God's people feed on the word of God. It is critical that people have an appetite for the word of God and God's ministers have a responsibility to digest a book like Revelation and feed it to the people.

By virtue of the fact that John is ordered to take God's word and eat it, we see that there must be a personal feeding and ingestion of the word of God at all times, even times of judgment. God's word will always taste good to God's people even though it contains bitter things.

Now the chronology of this is that as John ate the word of God, it was sweet, but became bitter. Before things become sweet for Israel and the world, there will be some very bitter things that will hit. This is especially true here for Israel. Judgment is bitter but it may also be sweet. If one is in a right relationship with God, there is sweetness to the judgment theme. But if one is not in a right relationship with God, the same theme is very bitter.

At this point in the Great Tribulation things are about to become very bitter for Israel. John was not only an apostle, but he was also a Jew. As he saw what was going to happen to Israel, it would have been bitter. But he also would come to realize that this bitter time would ultimately become a sweet time when Israel was in her land and Kingdom experiencing all the blessings of God.

Command #3 - Proclaim Biblical prophecy to the nations. **10:11**

This verse is critical. This is a Biblical mandate to communicate the prophetic plan of God to the entire Gentile world. It was the responsibility of John to write down and communicate and warn of all the horrible things that would hit in the Great Tribulation.

It is interesting that Biblical prophecy pertaining to Israel is to be communicated to peoples, nations, tongues and kings. Political leaders need to know the importance of Israel in the plan of God. Prophetic truth needs to be proclaimed to all nations of the world.

This is not just truth about an evangelistic message to believe on Jesus Christ and be saved. This has to do with the entire word of God and the entire prophetic plan of God.