

Revelation Pastor Lou DeVizia

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Introduction: In Chapter 10 (and in the first half of Chapter 11) there is a brief interlude before the sounding of the seventh trumpet, just as there was a pause before the opening of the seventh seal of the scroll previously. Just as we were introduced to some important characters during the last pause (the sealed of God), here we are too: a "mighty angel" and the "two witnesses" (Chapter 11, next study).

The point of this heavenly messenger is to announce that the end has come, that once the seventh angel sounds his trumpet the very last stages of the Great Tribulation will be speedily brought to pass culminating with the triumphant return of the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, the Lamb of God. These final stages of judgment together represent the third of three great "woes" (8:13) and will culminate in the form of one more series of seven "bowl" judgments (Chapter 16).

Perhaps the two most striking features of this chapter are 1) the aforementioned "mighty angel" and 2) the announcement by this angel to John that he must prophesy about the nations of the earth. The latter point is perhaps what many, if not most, find most intriguing about Revelation. We've seen the fate of the people of the world in a general, universal sense presented. Now the judgment will become a bit more specific, concerning nations, systems, religion, alliances, etc. The ensuing Chapters will reveal some of this information before and after the pouring out of the bowls in Chapter 16. Then we will see the glorious return of the Lord Jesus in Chapter 19.

1. Verses 1-7 - The mighty angel and his announcement that the end has come.

- v.1 - another mighty angel... The book of Revelation, up to this point, has been a tremendous look into the ministry of angels! Here is another one. He is described as mighty, and he obviously comes from the presence of the throne of the Lord (came down from heaven... had a rainbow on his head... face was like the sun... he obviously came from the presence of God, much like when Moses came from the presence of God with a shining face; NOTE: you don't get close to God without being changed!).

- v.2 - The little book is likely the same scroll that only the Lamb had been able to open (note that it is open now). The angel having this open book and standing on both land and water (that is one immense angel!) is indicative of laying claim to rightful possession of the entire world.

- v.3 - The angel makes a loud announcement which is then confirmed by heaven (the seven thunders).

NOTE: In Psalm 29, though it is a brief Psalm, "the voice of the LORD" occurs seven times. Israel spoke of thunder as being the voice of the Lord, the seven voices of God. J. Vernon McGee. This thunderous voice is likely the voice of the Lamb on the throne confirming what He had dispatched the angel to announce! Tremendous power!

- v.4 - The fact that John was about to write indicates the thunderous voice was understandable to him. However, he was prohibited from doing so.

- vv.5-7 - The angel makes the great announcement that all that has been prophesied through the prophets concerning the end of things, the fulfillment of the mystery of God, was about to culminate with the seventh angel's trumpet blast and what it brought (which, remember, is still great "woe" upon the earth). The angel is actually vowing this to be true, indicated by the raising of his right hand.

2. Verses 8-11 - The little book.

- vv.8-9a - John is commanded to take the little book from the angel.

- NOTE - Remember what that book is: the scroll (which had been opened by the Lamb) which brought forth great judgment on the earth. It represents the word of God, the divine decree of the judgment of the Lord (note that it is in written form, indicative of the importance of that, though an ancillary lesson).

- vv.9b-10 - John is told to eat it (see Jeremiah 15:15-16). It was sweet in his mouth but bitter in his stomach. That is to say, God's word is sweet in that it is always true, always right, always just, always good, even as the fate of the unbelieving world that it proclaims is difficult to "stomach".

- v.11 - Though the end has been announced, there is still much prophesying to do to the peoples, nations, tongues, and kings of the earth. There is still one more angel with a trumpet, and that is one of the great "woes". There are destructions of virtually every earthly system to be prophesied, and there are still the seven bowls. That will come quickly at this point. Then we will see the Lord's glorious return.