

Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School
Revelation Bible Study
Chapter 10

Introduction (1:1 - 3:22)

(Including Seven Letters to the Seven Churches - preparation / call for repentance)

The Inaugural Vision of Heaven, Introducing the Message (4:1 - 5:14)

The Prophecy (6:1 - 16:21)

1. First Sevenfold Vision of History from the Cross to the End - Seven Seals (6:1 - 8:5)
2. Second Sevenfold Vision of History from the Cross to the End - Disorders in nature accompanied by sufferings of evil afflict humanity - Seven Trumpets (8:6 - 11:19)
 - A. Trumpets One through Four - upheavals in nature (8:6 - 13)
 - B. Trumpets Five and Six - Demons from the Abyss and the Last Bible (9:1-21)
 - C. First Scene of the Interlude - The Mighty Angel from Heaven Commissions John (10:1-11)
 - D. Second Scene of the Interlude - The Temple measured and the Two Witnesses (11:1-14)
 - E. Seventh Trumpet - The End and its Joy (11:15-19)
3. Interlude - The Cosmic War between Christ and Satan, between God's saints and the forces of evil (12:1 - 14:20)
4. Third Sevenfold Vision of History from the Cross to the End: Plagues of God's Wrath as God's Judgment is poured out on the human race (15:1 - 16:21)

The Conclusion: The End and the New Heaven and New Earth (17:1 - 22:5)

Epilogue (22:6-21)

Introduction to Chapter 10

- Just as there was an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal in the first prophetic vision (Revelation 7) so there is also an interlude in the second prophetic vision between the sixth and seventh scene (trumpet)
- In the first prophetic vision the interlude brought comfort to Christ's people by reminding them they were sealed by God's grace action through His Spirit, and that no one would be left behind (symbolic purpose of 144,000).
- This interlude in the second prophetic vision consists of two scenes: a might angel commissioning John (Revelation 10) and the Temple measured and information about the two witnesses (Revelation 11). This interlude gives us the picture of the Church in mission. No matter the season, no matter the political or religious climate the Church has work to do!

"Another mighty angel" (10:1)

- This is a different angel than the identified seven angels with their trumpets.
- Some commentators have thought this might be Gabriel (in Hebrew "Gabriel" means "mighty one of God") but since the angel is not specifically named (as Michael will be in Revelation 12) it is best understood as another angel besides Gabriel.

- While unnamed this angel comes to act with God's power. What difference does it make that the person who speaks this commission to John speaks with God's power? What kind of implications does that have on us today?

Descriptions of "mighty angel's" clothing:

- "robed in a cloud" - descriptive of God's glory and protection (Exodus 13:21; 14:19-20; 40:34-35 - see also in the NT: Matthew 17:5; 24:30 and Acts 1:9)
- "rainbow above his head" - reminiscent of God's covenant of grace with Noah (and, subsequently, His grace) - Genesis 8:22; 9:13-17
- "face like the sun" - a visible way to connect this angel with Jesus (see Revelation 1:16 - also Matthew 17:2)
- "legs like fiery pillars" - no one else in Scripture is described this way. The OT does contain some references in visions to bronze feet being fashioned by fire (Daniel 10:4-6, Zephaniah 6:13. Others suggest the legs like fiery pillars reminds John of the Pillar of Fire and Pillar of Cloud with the Israelites and the exodus.

"Little scroll" (10:2)

- Later John is commanded to eat this scroll - it tasted sweet to his mouth but bitter to his stomach (10:9). John is then commanded to proclaim the message this scroll contained (10:11).
- What message did the scroll contain? Not specifically known but could very likely be part / similar to the ongoing revelation.
- Command to eat the scroll (10:9-10). Ezekiel was also commanded to do this (Ezekiel 2:9 - 3:14). John physically portrays what must happen spiritually to each of us - to "inwardly digest" the Word of God. How is this done? Why is this so important? What will be different for us and for our faith / witness because of this? What did it first taste sweet but then taste bitter?

Seven thunders / John commanded not to write (10:3-4)

- Was there something secret here in what the seven thunders spoke? Or - could it be that what the seven thunders said is not as important that they spoke? The lion-like voice of the angel reminds John of the importance of the commission he is giving John.

The angel's oath (10:5-7)

- No more delay!
- Mystery connected with the sounding of the seventh trumpet. "Mystery" - see Romans 11:25 and Ephesians 3:3-9. The mystery of Jew and Gentile together united by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone!
- What impact does this angel's oath have on us?

The angel's commission (10:11)

- “You must prophesy...” What impact does the word “must” have upon you?
- Some other important “must” passages from the New Testament:
 - Matthew 16:21
 - 1 Corinthians 15:25, 53
 - Ephesians 6:20
- What will be different in our lives, in our witness, with this commissioning in mind?

Reminder:

- 1) Email your questions to Pastor Bill: billm@deeplyrootedtogrow.org
- 2) You can access these study guides on the church website. Navigate under “Ministries” to “Bible Studies” to the download page for the Revelation study.