

## Revelation Ch. 10

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**INTRODUCTION:** A big angel with a little book.

- This is a short pause between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgements, similar to the short break in the action at chapter 7 which stood between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seals.
  - This is still all part of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal.
  - Here at this break in the midst of terrible things we are given reassurance of who's in control and His sure victory.
  - The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet will contain the longest message of them all thus far covering the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation.
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V: 1 (First person, "I saw") The question: is this "angel" another angel as the text seems to state or is this actually Jesus?

- I have gone back and forth on this issue and there are good and reasonable arguments for both sides. We'll discuss both, then you can be the judge.

Angel:

- The verse says "another" angel, as in another of the same kind. Intended to be read and taken literally.
- Jesus doesn't come back until the end, and He brings us with Him.
- The description states that this angel is clothed in a cloud, with a rainbow on his head, that he had a face shining like the sun and that he had feet like pillars of fire.
- As much as this sounds like the description given to Jesus in the first chapter of Revelation we've seen similar descriptions given to other men and angels in the Bible.

**Exodus 34:29-35** "Moses' face shone" so much that the children of Israel couldn't take it and had to cover him up, all this because Moses had been in the presence of God, presumably as an angel would have been.

**Daniel 10:6-13** Daniel offers a similar description of an angel who needed help to overcome "the Prince of Persia" and deliver this message to Daniel.

- Jesus will come in the clouds, not clothed in them. **Revelation 1:7, Matthew 26:64, Mark 13:26.**
- This angel wears a rainbow on his head as a reminder that even in these terrible judgments God will abide by His word and not use a flood in judgement as before.

**Genesis 9:11-16** "My bow in the cloud."

- Shining like the sun, this messenger is from God, reflecting His glory.
- Feet like pillars of fire, this is a message of judgment. Not good news.

**Romans 10:15** "... How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

- These feet aren't beautiful, they're an indication of fiery judgement to come.
- "Angel" means messenger. (Aggelos)

- Angels are created beings themselves, Jesus has already been the suffering servant, it doesn't seem likely that he would assume a lesser role in the midst of being revealed in glory.
- Jesus appears numerous times in the Old Testament as "The Angel of the Lord", but not so in the New Testament.
- Christ doesn't appear in Revelation as an angel, but as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, as the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
- In verse 7 the voice in Heaven - Jesus - then gives John further instructions.
- John's reaction is telling. In Rev. chapter 1, John fell down and worshipped Jesus and would again have done so if he'd again been in His presence.
- In verses 5 & 6 this Angel makes an oath or swears that there will be no more delay. This can be viewed two ways.
  1. As a subordinate to his Lord.
  2. As Jesus could swear by no greater, he swears by Himself.

**Hebrews 6:13** "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,"

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## Jesus:

- The description given to this angel is the very similar as the one given to Jesus in Revelation chapter 1.

<u>Rev. Ch. 10:</u>	<u>Rev. Ch. 1</u>
Clothed with a cloud	1:7 He cometh with clouds.
Rainbow upon his head	4:3 a rainbow about the throne.
Face as it were the sun	1:16 countenance like the sun.
Feet as pillars of fire.	1:15 feet like red hot brass.
Loud voice like a lion roaring.	1:15 voice like many waters.

- Isaiah 42:13, Jeremiah 25:30, Hosea 11:10, Joel 3:16 all speak of the Messiah's return, and speaking loudly, boldly, specifically as a lion roars.
  - While the term "angel" does mean messenger, it does not necessarily signify a class of beings. Jesus is coming now as God's messenger.
  - The phrase "and another angel" appears 3 times thus far in the book of Revelation.
1. **Revelation 7:2** "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,"
    - Acting as a **PROPHET** (from God to man) holding back judgment while God performs a work of grace.
  2. **Revelation 8:3** "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne."
    - Acting as a **PRIEST** (from man to God) offering up the prayers of the saints to God.
  3. **Revelation 10:1-3** Acting as a **KING** in His sovereignty, described unlike any other "created being".
    - Only Jesus is worthy to act in all 3 high offices of Prophet - Priest - King.

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- Looking ahead, and in context;

**Revelation 11:1** "... and the angel stood saying..."

**Revelation 11:3** "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and..."

- I've gone back and forth on this, but I've landed on the side of the angel being Jesus.

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

**Isaiah 55:8-9** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- We're not called to understand God, we're called to faith.
- There are probably more indicators for both sides, but now that I think I've figured out where I stand I don't see the need to continue.
- This may be a lot to say about nothing. This isn't a critical issue, at least as far as I understand it. Being there and seeing this actually played out with our own eyes will certainly be convincing!

**V: 2** He's holding a little book, open.

- He's a big angel!
- Some think that the little book is the title deed to the soon to be redeemed Earth.
- Others say that the scroll is already opened for us and that this is not the same book.
- Still others say that this represents the remainder of the scriptures still to be fulfilled, the tribulation period culminating in the return of Jesus. (Good possibility)

**Revelation 10:9** "... take it, and eat it up..."

- Scripture has never encouraged us to partake of anything, any book except God's word.
- The bottom line is that the identity of the little book is un-certain, I don't feel compelled to identify it specifically at this point seeing how the Bible doesn't.
- One foot on land, and one in the sea, laying claim to both.
  - Sea refers to the gentiles.
  - Land refers to Israel.

**Psalm 95:5** "The sea is His, and He made it: and His hands formed the dry land."

**Psalm 24:1** "The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

- This all belongs to Jesus not only by right of creation but by the right of redemption.

Ephesians 1:13-14

**Ephesians 1:13-14** "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word

of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory."

V: 3 Just like the Angel's proclamation in Revelation Ch. 5, this Angel sounds off loud and clear. Like the Lion of the tribe of Judah! Nothing done in secret.

- The 7 thunders respond to the Angel's statement from Heaven above.

**Rev. 4:5** "out of the throne proceeded lightnings, and thunderings, and voices:"

**John 12:28-29** <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from Heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. <sup>29</sup>The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said an angel spake to him."

**Job 37:5** "God thundereth marvelously with His voice; great things doeth He, which we cannot comprehend."

**Psalms 29** Describes "the voice of the Lord" as it thunders - 7 times! ([Turn to](#))

V: 4 When the "seven thunders" spoke, John understood because he was about to write it down.

**John 10:27** "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

- John is directed not to record what the 7 thunders said, just as Daniel had similarly been instructed.

**Daniel 8:26** "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut though up the vision; for it shall be for many days."

**Daniel 12:4** "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

- God's timing is perfect, His will is perfect, and He'll let us know in His will, in His time.
- So don't try to speculate what was said!
- Apparently God wanted us to know the fact that the 7 thunders did speak, but not the content of the message.

- This means that the Word of God, and the Revelation of Jesus is not yet complete.
- I have more questions than this anyway!

**Deuteronomy 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."

- Both Daniel and John are told of the terrible final judgement to come, worse than what we've seen thus far, and both are told to seal it up. It must really be bad!
- Deut. 4 / Rev. 22 – don't add to or take away from the word of God.

**1 Corinthians 13:11-12** "11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 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."

V: 5-6 The angel raises his hand.

- The angel takes, makes and oath by his creator / Himself, when God makes an oath he swears by himself.

**Hebrews 6:13** "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself."

- This doesn't necessarily preclude either view Jesus / angel.
- The angel declares - swears - that there will be no more delay.
- Note that "no more time" means bring on eternity.
- All things are done on God's schedule, not ours.

**Matthew 24:22** "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

- Things may have been very bad on Earth, lots of people dying (1/2 of the earth's population). Jesus said that this portion of history would need to be shortened or all would be lost.
- This is part of the prayer that Jesus taught us, that many have prayed since that time.

**Matthew 6:10** "... Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven."

V: 7 The seventh trumpet, when sounded (Rev. 11:15), starts to draw the tribulation period to a close.

- Actually is marks the midpoint, the end is in sight, but this trumpet will last until the end.
- In Daniel we see a similar angel who describing the end times, raised his hand in an oath to God, then declared that it would be 3 1/2 years.

**Daniel 12:7** "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

- The mystery of God being finished, we have a lot to learn - God has a lot to show His servants.
- "If God were small enough to understand He wouldn't be big enough to handle our problems."

**Isaiah 55:8-9** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

V: 7b *"As he hath declared to his servants the prophets."*

**Amos 3:7** "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."

- The mystery spoken of here would seem to be the whole purpose and plan of God.
- Seemingly, just as the martyred saints in Rev. 6:9-11 are told to wait a little longer, so are we.
- This last trumpet (about to sound) lasts or takes us to the end of the tribulation period, lasting a final 3 1/2 years.
- The end of the tribulation period is seen in Revelation 16:17 with the phrase "it is done."

V: 8 The voice which was in Heaven spoke to me again, meaning God the Father speaking to John, says to take the book from Jesus who apparently has a wet foot.

- John goes or is moved from Heaven to Earth to the place where the Angel is.

V: 9 John obediently goes to the Angel, and asks Him for the book.

- The Angel replies that John is to take the book and eat it. Consume it, make it part of him.
- The Angel explains that the book will at first taste sweet in John's mouth, but will turn bitter in his stomach.
- John is not just recording the events, he's participating in them.
- John is not the first servant of God directed to eat a book or scroll, and had pretty much the same effect.

**Jeremiah 15:16** "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

**Ezekiel 3:1-3** <sup>1</sup>Moreover He said unto me, son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this scroll, go speak unto the house of Israel. <sup>2</sup>So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that scroll. <sup>3</sup>And He said unto me, son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this scroll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness."

- Jesus also drew a correlation between food and the Word of God.

**Matthew 4:4** "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

**John 6:35** "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (assumption: eat & drink)

- In some ways the Word of God is "bitter sweet". It tells of God's love for us, and blesses us, it also talks about the fall of man, the consequences there of, and judgment for those who don't accept salvation, and everlasting life in the presence of God for those who do!
- To us the word is sweeter than honey, but it's a bitter pill for the rest of the world.

**Luke 12:48** "... for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

- God gave us His only begotten Son.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

V: 10 Good example – he ate up God’s Word!

**Proverbs 16:24** "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."

**Psalm 119:103** "How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth."

- It would seem that we must first partake, eat of this spiritual food before we're able to share it with someone else.
- We are told to try the Lord out.

**Psalm 34:8** "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

**Psalm 19:7-10** <sup>7</sup>"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."

- The portion of the Word that John is getting is bittersweet, bitter judgement and wrath. Sweet because God's will and word will be fulfilled, He will be glorified.
- Easy to speak, not so easy to do...

V: 11 The Angel tells John that he will prophesy again to all the world of the coming wrath and judgment, and the need to get right with Jesus.

- This could be a reference to the book of Revelation in general. It might as some think, mean that John will be one of the two witnesses in Ch. 11, we'll find out sooner or later.
- It could just mean that John must carry on, in spite of the bitter trials ahead.
- The bottom line is that there must be no compromising of God's Word in a compromising world, the dividing line is the Word of God.

**Hebrews 4:12** "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thought and intents of the heart."