



20230621 Revelation 10 – Sweeter than Honey - Wed Night

The Angel and the Little Scroll

10 Then I saw another **mighty angel** coming down from heaven, **wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire.** **2** He had a little

scroll open in his hand. And he set **his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land,** **3** and called out with a loud voice, **like a lion roaring.** When he called out, the **seven thunders** sounded. **4** And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "**Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.**" **5** And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven **6** and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the Earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, **that there would be no more delay,** **7** but that in **the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled,** just as he announced to his servants the prophets. **8** Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is **standing on the sea and on the land.**" **9** So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "**Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be sweet as honey.**" **10** And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was **sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.** **11** And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

This is quite challenging. We studied chapters 8 and 9 on Sunday morning and reviewed the six Trumpet Judgments. We understood that the prayers of the saints of all ages came before the throne room of God and before His altar, and then they were cast down upon the Earth.

"Angel" is a messenger. In the Old Testament, Jesus was often called the "Angel of the Lord". Usually, "angel" refers to the millions of beings that God created and are present but unseen on Earth. I think this "Mighty Angel" is Jesus Himself. Jesus described this event in his conversation with the high priest. "*Again, the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"*" **62** Jesus said, "I am. And **you will see**

the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven." (Mark 14:61b-62 NKJV)



Turn to Acts chapter one, and listen to the two angels' words when Jesus ascended into heaven. ⁹ *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.* ¹⁰ *And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,* ¹¹ *who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as***

you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)

Daniel had a vision of Jesus as He was coming to the Father to receive authority to rule the Earth, and He was clothed in linen. Daniel describes Jesus in almost the same terms as here in Revelation chapter 10. ⁴ *Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,* ⁵ *I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was **girded with gold** of Uphaz!* ⁶ *His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.* (Daniel 10:4-6)

Remember that before Jesus' return, Satan is described as "god of this world/age" (2 Cor 4:4). He is described as the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31) and Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph 2:2) . But now in this passage, we see Jesus taking authority over both the land and the Earth. He has a foot on the land and a foot on the sea. That means He is now in control of this world. Jesus redeemed the Earth when He died on the cross, and He has not yet laid claim to it, but this will happen.

V. 3 **He will roar like a lion.** Back in Isaiah 31, we read

⁴ *For thus the LORD has spoken to me: "**As a lion roars, and a young lion [roaring] over his prey when a multitude of shepherds is summoned against him, He will not be afraid of their voice nor be disturbed by their noise, So **the LORD of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion and for its hill.****"* (Isaiah 31:4)

The prophet Jeremiah prophesies similarly, "³⁰ *Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The **LORD will roar from on high**, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the Earth. (Jeremiah 25:30)*

He has in His hand a little book. In chapter five, we saw a scroll that only Jesus could open. In chapters 6-8, we saw the seals broken and the judgments poured out on the Earth. Now we see this "little book."

John neither tells us who the Seven Thunders are nor does he tell us what they say. John was ordered to seal them up. God has given us all that pertains to life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3) What I mean by that is it is not necessary (or possible) for us to understand everything we read in the Bible. Remember, God told Daniel to seal up the message he was writing for the time of the end when knowledge would increase. This is similar to what is happening to John in this passage. The knowledge has increased, and now when we read the Book of Daniel, we can read it from a different perspective than when Daniel wrote it. It is filled with prophecies that have been fulfilled throughout the last couple of thousand years.

These thunders most likely are the judgments of God.

Thunder is often a mark of judgment in Scripture, as in [1 Samuel 2:10](#), [2 Samuel 22:14](#), and several more places in Revelation (8:5, 11:19, 16:18), so these seven powerful voices are crying out for God's judgment upon the sinful Earth. The thunder represents the voice of God. [Psalm 18:13](#) says, "The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded."¹

V.6 There will be no further delay in what Jesus will do. Throughout the Old Testament, there were hundreds of prophecies concerning peace on the Earth, righteousness will cover the Earth, the glory of God, deserts becoming a rose, the lame leaping for joy, the mute singing praises to God, Messiah coming and ruling and establishing God's Kingdom on the Earth.

There were also many prophecies that Messiah would be a man of grief and that he would be crucified. They read that He would be despised and rejected. How could this be if He would come to rule the Earth? The Jews spiritualized the scriptures concerning his rejection and death, taking the passages of ruling the nations literally. It is dangerous to spiritualize Scripture unless the Scripture demands that. It's best to take Scriptures as we read them at face value. We should try not to draw too many spiritual analogies or

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/seven-thunders.html>

metaphors. You can metaphor away all of the meaning in the Bible. It would be like spiritualizing "Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water ."In the Book of Hebrews, we are told that we must swear by something greater than ourselves, so when God confirms what He says, He swears by Himself. And that is what He is doing here. Jesus is swearing by the Godhead itself.

There are so many mysteries of God, and these passages we've been reading remind us that we can't understand everything about God. I don't understand why the wicked prosper. I don't understand why the righteous suffer. I don't understand why if God wants to be known, He seems to be so hidden. My dad used to comfort me by just telling me, "Son, these are just part of the mystery."

V.8-11 This mystery of the "little book" is that it was sweet in the mouth but bitter in the belly. We have an expression to "devour something ."You might be reading an exciting book and tell someone, "I got into the book, and I just devoured it ."When we see prophecies coming to pass, there will be a sweetness to it. When we see the lion lying down with a lamb, it all sounds glorious and will indeed be. But to get from here to there is going to be an awful bitter journey. There is a sweetness in knowing how it will end up, but the bitterness for the Earth will be in getting there.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;

The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,

*Yea, than much fine gold; **Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.** (Psalm 19:7-10)*

¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:103-105)

*Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.³ And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, **and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.** (Ezekiel 31-3)*

There is indeed a sweetness in God's Word. When we read it, we are refreshed. We are enlightened. We are strengthened. We are inspired. We are changed. We are

empowered. We are informed, and we are transformed! We read of His lovingkindness and His mercy (chesed).

But, there is a side of God's Word which promises Judgment. There is a side that speaks of vengeance and wrath that will be poured out on the nations. God is indeed perfect love, but He is perfect justice. One cannot stand without the other. To take one and ignore the other is to disregard half of the essence of God. It is to deny Who He is and what He desires of mankind. To see only one side of God's Word is to deny that He is Who He says that He is, and that He will do what He says He will do. What we are seeing in this passage is The bitterness of the effects of sin, but the sweetness of fellowship with Him. This moves us into the eleventh chapter which introduces us to the two mysterious witnesses, and we won't start that until Sunday morning.

Let us pray.