

Revelation Chapter 10

Bible verses are from the New American Standard Bible and are highlighted in blue and italics.

John is seeing his series of visions from the throne room of Heaven. He sees Jesus Christ take a 7-sealed scroll from the hand of God the Father, seated on the throne. He was the only one in all realms of creation, both physical and spiritual realm, who has been found worthy to take the scroll and break its seals. He is worthy because he purchased for God his blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

We discussed that the scroll is a legal document. It's a title deed to the earth. On it are written the ordinations of God to take back the creation from its twisted, fallen state and to judge rebellious man.

The scroll was sealed at 7 different places on its end. To break a seal was to allow the scroll to be unrolled until it was stopped but the next unbroken seal. To break a seal and unroll the scroll was not just to read what was written on it, but it is also to execute the judgments written. Only the lamb that was slain the lion from the tribe of Judah is worthy to possess this title deed and to execute its ordinations by breaking the seals.

In chapter 6, our Savior breaks the 1st 6 seals one after another. We studied that, and we saw that chapter 6 is a brief overview a sketch of events of the last 7 year period leading to the 2nd coming.

Between the breaking of the 6th and 7th seals of the scroll, there as an interlude. So, in chapter 7 during this interlude, we saw 144,000 men from the 12 tribes of Israel, and we saw an unnumbered multitude from all nations who had come to Christ during this awful 7 year period as a result of the witness of the 144,000.

The lamb breaks the 7th seal in chapter 8. There was a silence in Heaven for half an hour as all angels stand back in reverence and awe as God Almighty prepares to do his strange and alien work and judging His own creation with destructive wrath. And there is silence as the prayers of the relentlessly persecuted saints on earth come up as a sweet aroma in the nostrils of the Lord. Those prayers motivate God's wrath.

The 7th seal issues into the 7 Shofar trumpet judgments. The 1st four are upon the physical world. The last three are also called the 3 woes, this time directly upon rebellious man himself in Chapter 9. The 5th trumpet sounds and the 1st woe falls. Demons are released from their incarceration in a spiritual place called the Abyss, or the bottomless pit, which coexists with the physical earth and sea and bodies of water. They torment fallen men on earth with physical stings like a scorpion for a period of 5 months. The pain is so great that men want to die, but are not allowed to. These demons are described and are said to have a king over them, namely the fallen angel of the abyss, whose name is 'Destroyer'.

The 6th trumpet is sounded and the 2nd woe falls. Four demonic angels are released from their incarceration in the Abyss that coexists with the great river Euphrates. A 200 million member army of demons or demon inspired men results, and 1/3 of all rebellious mankind is killed. The survivors don't repent of their demon worship (which is the ultimate goal of Lucifer – to be worshiped ad God). They don't repent of their murders, sorceries (getting in touch with the spirit world, usually with drugs), immortality and thefts.

All these judgments are designed to turn warn them to repent, or else worse judgment will come. But they remain resolute in wicked rebellion even though they know they're being judged by God. *"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)*

Verse 1

¹I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;

A Very powerful angel; he's described in the very same terms used to describe the Glorified Jesus Christ in chapter 1. Just as there is a rainbow around (the scripture says of God in chapter 4, so there is a rainbow (the scripture says "the rainbow" probably is in reference to the one around the throne upon the angels head. This person is not Christ; however, John describes him as a very strong angel. His is emissary from the throne of God.

Verses 2 and 3a

²and he had in his hand a little book which was open He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land;

³and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. .

This is a gigantic angel, clothed with the clouds. He has a particular stance. Why does he stand with one foot on the sea, one on the earth, with height reaching up into the atmosphere.

Because the judgments from God written in the little scroll he carries have to do with the entire world and everyone in it. Not only the physical world, but the real spiritual place called the Abyss, and we saw that in chapter 9.

Scripture says that *"we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forced of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)*

Not Heaven, but spiritual places, like the Abyss, that coexist with the physical realms of earth, sea and atmosphere. In chapter 13, we'll see a spiritual, demonic being called a "Beast from the Earth." In the same chapter, we'll see a demonic being called A Beast from the Sea". Satan himself is called the Prince of the Power of the Air." Real spiritual realms that coexist with the physical.

This angel has authority to announce judgment on the physical earth, sea and sky and also upon the realms that coexist with them. That's why he deliberately places one foot on the sea, one on the land and had height reaching into the atmosphere. His stance is not a matter of happenstance.

Probably a person would think that the modern rationalist mind would consider the idea of such spiritual places as medieval. That's not as true today as it used to be. It's fascinating to me that modern physics and mathematics are very seriously examining the idea that parallel dimensions coexist withy our own universe and must exist in order to explain the physics we observe pointing that way. It's fascinating to me that mathematics have that much power.

This powerful angel cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When a lion roars, he does not verbally articulate words. He roars to strike into your heart the certain knowledge that this creature can and will charge upon you and tear you into pieces if he do decides. This angel is an emissary from God Almighty, who has decided. The lion roars, and now let's read the form the lion's charge takes.

Verses 3b and 4

"When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."

You don't understand scriptures like this by pulling clever opinions out of the air. You can understand scriptures like this because you are a disciple of the word of the Lord and you have not been casual about it. You have studied and thought and meditated upon it and upon all His word.

We've seen 7 judgments. We've seen 7 trumpet judgments.

What are these 7 peals of thunder that occur in this interlude between 6th and 7th trumpets? From time to time in scripture, God is pictures as a God of storm and thunder. Job 37:2 refers to the "thunder of His voice" Job 40:9 "Can you thunder with a voice like His?" 1 Samuel 7:10 "The Lord thundered with a great voice" "Against the Philistines".

There are many such scriptures. It's interesting to me that James and John were given the name "The sons of thunder" by Jesus Christ. It's John the son of thunder who's writing these very words we're reading here. A son of thunder is a son of the voice of the Lord.

Psalms 29 says, "The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of the glory thunders". Then Psalm 28 gives exactly 7 attributes of the voice of the Lord.

It then says, "The Lord sits as King Forever".

By comparing scripture with scripture, we can see that the 7 peals of thunder are the voice of the Lord spoken 7 times in judgment, as a lion charges upon its prey and tears it into pieces.

Amos 3:8 says these words:
A lion roared! Who will not fear?
The Lord God has spoken!

Another couple of obvious questions arise. Who are these seven thunder judgments upon? Why is John not allowed to write what the 7 thunders said, i.e. what are the judgments? I'd suggest there's a single explanation that answers both questions.

Remember when the Lord said to Jeremiah "call on Me and I will answer you and I will show you great and mighty things you do not know."

That's a promise to Jeremiah, and a promise to faithful people. Demons, however, do not call on the Lord. The Lord is not in the business of being called on many times or revealing anything as an answer to them.

The first four trumpet judgments were upon the physical world. The last 3 trumpet judgments are directly upon rebellious man.

All 7 of these voice-of-the-Lord thunder judgments are upon the fallen angels and the realms they may inhabit that coexist with our earth, sea and sky.

Haggai 2:6

"Thus says the Lord of Hosts (C-in-C host of combat soldiers), "once more in a little while (in the future) I am going to shake the Heavens (atmosphere, space, spiritual Heavenly realm) and the earth, the sea and the dry land".

Isaiah 24:21

So it will happen in that day, that the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, and the kings of the earth on earth.

Isaiah 34:4, 5

*⁴And all the host of heaven will wear away,
And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll;
All their hosts will also wither away
As a leaf withers from the vine,
Or as one withers from the fig tree.*

*⁵For My sword is satiated in heaven,
Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom
And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.*

These 7 voice-of-the-Lord thunders are upon fallen angels and all the realms they inhabit that coexist with the physical creation.

Verses 5, 6a

⁵Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven,

⁶and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer,

The custom in taking an oath was to praise your hand, which meant you were pointing to Heaven, and solemnly swear that what you are about to say is true. We have a reflection of that in our day when someone takes an oath to tell the truth.

This angel lifts his hand, pointing Heavenward, and swears an oath by "Him who lives forever and ever". He is solemnly stating that what he is about to say is as certain as God himself is certain.

Verses 5-7

⁷but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

He who lives forever and ever, God Almighty is the maker and possessor of all creation and everything in it; He is in control of it.

His patient waiting, giving time for people to repent is over, in fact, his fury comes up in his face and there will be delay no longer.

As the 7th angel sounds the 7th trumpet, the 3rd woe upon rebellious man, “then the mystery of God is finished”.

The “mystery of God” is not a riddle we have to be clever enough to figure out; the scriptures tell us what that is.

A mystery in general is a part of the overall plan of God that he held in his mind and heart, but did not reveal until its proper time. There are a lot of mysteries in scripture: Mystery of the Righteousness, Mystery of Iniquity, Mystery Babylon the Great, Church was a mystery in the Old Testament.

Here’s the Mystery of God:

God is calling out a people from bondage in Egypt. i.e., from this present evil age. This dark world, and from this present evil age, this dark world, and from the twistedness of their own sin. He’s turning the creation back into what it was intended to be, away from its warped state caused by the rebellion, and he’s judging that wicked rebellion. Paul writes of the crowning feature of the mystery of God.

He has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his kind intention which he purposed in Him. Ephesians 1:9

In the fullness of time (there’ll be) the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the Heavens and things on the earth.

And He put all things in subjection under Christ’s feet, and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22

God raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the Heavenly places, far above rule and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that on the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 1:20, 21 2:6, 7

That is the “Mystery of God” finished at the sounding of the 7th trumpet. When we see the 7th angel sound in Revelation 11:15, we see the 2nd coming of Christ in power and judgment.

Well, if all 7 seals of the 7-sealed scroll have now been broken open, and the mystery of God is finished and Christ returns in chapter 11 and the sounding of the 7th trumpet, why are we not even ½ through the book of Revelation?

That’s where the little scroll that this might angel carries comes in. We saw that chapter 6 was an outline sketch of the last 7 year period and we saw the 2nd coming at the end of chapter 6. In chapters 7 thru 11, we see more prophetic knowledge given to fill in that outline, and we again see that the 7-sealed scroll has been completely broken open.

In chapter 12 – the end of the book, we have even greater filling in of prophetic knowledge of that last 7 years, and beyond into the eternal age. In chapter 19, we’ll see a clear detailed picture of the 2nd coming.

The 7-sealed scroll is finished by chapter 11, and I understand this small scroll John is about to receive from this angel as the still fuller revealing and expanding what we have through chapter 11.

This little scroll is not the 7 sealed scroll Jesus receives from the hand of the Father and then sequentially breaks open. This scroll is little, it's open, and is not describes as a legal document, the title deed to creation, as the 7-sealed scroll was. This one is prophecy for John to "eat" – to absorb and "prophecy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

Verses 8-11

⁸Then he voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land."

The same voice that told John not to write what the 7 thunders had spoken.

⁹So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

Sweet as Honey

We love His appearing. We want Him to return and govern and renew His fallen creation and dispense with the rebellion.

We love His word. It's fascinating and even fun to study these things in His prophetic word. When the time comes, it won't be those things though.

"Then there will be great tribulation, such as has never occurred since the beginning of the world until now, not ever will." (Matthew 24:21)

Sweet as honey in John's mouth, but making his stomach bitter.

¹⁰I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

¹¹And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

Any teacher, before he presumes to give the Lord's word to people, must study on it, and meditate on it and absorb it them self. He must be educated by the Holy Spirit. I see myself as a little boy with 5 loaves and 2 small fish. It's the master who feeds people.