

Revelation Chapter 10

Another “interlude” following the first six Trumpet Judgments...

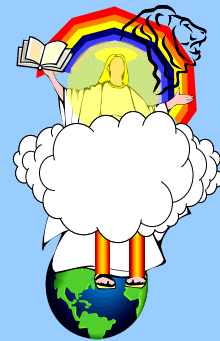


Revelation 10

- Just completed the horrors of the first 6 trumpet judgments, chapters 8 and 9
- Another “interlude” before the 7th trumpet.
- 7th Trumpet holds last set, the 7 Bowls (vials)
- End of chapter 9, some of **saddest verses in scripture...** “[yet, therefore, still] they did not repent.”
- **No time advanced in this chapter.** 7th trumpet sounds in 11:15, but Bowl judgments don’t begin until chapter 16.
- Some very interesting events between then and now.

Revelation 10:1

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.



Revelation 10:1

- Spirited debate about identity of this “angel.”
- “Angels” (Gr. *aggelos* = messenger) mentioned 76 times in Revelation
- Another “angel” or someone else?
- Some see this messenger as the Messiah
- *“coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud”* is one clue used to identify this messenger as Jesus.

Why do some think this angel is Jesus?

God is seen clothed in a cloud from Exodus through Revelation....

Exodus 16:10;
19:9; 24:15; 34:5;
Psalm 104:3
Matthew 17
Luke 21:27
Acts 1:9
Revelation 1:7



Revelation 10:1

More reasons...

- Reference to a “rainbow” could be allusion to rainbow around throne in 4:3.
- “face like the sun” seems reference to radiance of Jesus in 1:16 and Matthew 17 (*transfiguration*)
- “feel like pillars of fire,” as seen in 1:15
- “voice, as when a lion roars” (v. 3) – Lion of the Tribe of Judah?
- Appeared often in OT as “Angel of the LORD”
- Angel seems to have **great authority, power.**
- For these reasons, and others, **many identify this angel as Yeshua.**

The “Angel of the LORD [Yahweh]”

- There are many incidents in the Old Testament that cite an appearance of a heavenly being called “The Angel of the Lord...”
- **Judges 2** - When the Israelites camped before entering the Promised Land. God had a few things to say to them before they conquered Jericho.
- **Genesis 16:4-13** - An appearance to Hagar when Sarai cast her out into the desert. The angel made reference to “His” promises, identifying Himself with God. Hagar identified this “angel” with God Himself.
- **Genesis 22:11** - When Isaac was spared on Mt. Moriah. The Angel of the Lord called from heaven.

The “Angel of the LORD [Yahweh]”

- **Exodus 3:2** - When God spoke from a burning bush to Moses, an Angel of the LORD appeared to him.
- **Numbers 22:22-35** – Balaam and his talking donkey encountered the Angel of the LORD on the way to curse Israel for Moab’s king.
- **Judges 2:1-4** – The Angel of the LORD addressed Israel’s disobedience in the desert.
- **Judges 5:23** - A curse pronounced on a city (Meroz) for their disobedience, during Deborah’s judgeship by the Angel of the LORD.
- **Judges 6:11-22** - Appearance to and calling of Gideon to battle. Gideon acknowledged that He was God Himself. He feared that he had seen Elohim “face to face.”

The “Angel of the LORD [Yahweh]”

- **Judges 13:3-21** - Appearance to Manoah and his wife promised the birth of Samson. Both acknowledged this was God. Manoah declared that he had seen God.
- **2 Samuel 24:16** - When David sinned by taking a census of his military men, God sent this “angel of Yahweh” to bring a plague on Israel, but then spared the city from destruction. (also seen in 1 Chronicles 21:12, same incident)
- **1 Kings 19:7** - When Elijah was fleeing from Jezebel (who promised to kill him) in the wilderness, and God sustained him.
- **2 Kings 1** - When Elijah was told to confront evil King Ahaziah (northern Kingdom of Israel)

The “Angel of the LORD [Yahweh]”

- **2 Kings 19:35** - When the Assyrians threatened Jerusalem, Hezekiah prayed, and God sent this “angel” to kill the entire Assyrian army (185,000). (also seen in Isaiah 37:36, same incident)
- **GENERAL REFERENCES IN PSALMS**
- **Psalm 34:7** - *The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.*
- **Psalm 35:5**
- *Let them be like chaff before the wind, And let the angel of the LORD chase them.*
- **Psalm 35:6**
- *Let their way be dark and slippery, And let the angel of the LORD pursue them.*

The “Angel of the LORD [Yahweh]”

- **Zechariah 1** - In Zechariah’s vision of the Rider on the Red Horse and the 4 carpenters.
- **Zechariah 3** - Another of Zechariah’s visions, this time of the High Priest and the Accuser before God.
- **NOTE: Interesting change between old and new testaments. It was always THE angel of the LORD in the Old Testament. Now, it is AN angel of the LORD. We don’t know if these New Testament “appearances” or voices are Yeshua, or another angel.**
- **Matthew 1:20** - When God spoke to Joseph about Mary.
- **Matthew 2:13** - Another appearance to Joseph in a dream warning him to take his little family away from Bethlehem into Egypt.

The “Angel of the LORD [Yahweh]”

- **Matthew 2:19** - Another dream appearance to call Joseph to come out of Egypt and home to Nazareth.
- **Matthew 28:2** - At Jesus’ resurrection. This would probably NOT be Yeshua Himself.
- **Luke 1:11** - Before John the Baptist’s birth, an appearance to his father Zechariah promising his birth.
- **Luke 2:9** - Appearance to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem at Yeshua’s birth.
- **Acts 5:19** - When the disciples were imprisoned for preaching the Gospel.
- **Acts 8:26** - When Philip was called to minister to the Ethiopian eunuch.

The “Angel of the LORD [Yahweh]”

- **Acts 12:7** - When Peter was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel.
- **Acts 12:23** - When God killed Herod for his pride and arrogance.
- Jesus is the **only member of the “Godhead” to appear incarnate** (in the flesh).
- There is **one solid test** as to whether these appearances (each individually) are a THEOPHANY, an appearance by God Himself, in the person of Jesus: if the person/people the angel appears to wish to worship him and He allows it – it is Jesus. If he forbids it, it is merely another created heavenly being, an angel. **We’re not always given opportunity to apply this test.**

Revelation 10:1

Others believe this is NOT Jesus...why?

- Merely a very powerful angel, not Jesus:
- Gr. word **“another”** is specific, means “another like the others.” Indicates this angel is just like the other angels already seen.
- **“Rainbows”** are a sign of God’s covenants, don’t have to refer to the throne of God.
- Angels in the Presence of God (like those in chapters 8 and 9), **may also radiate the light of His Presence** (“face like the sun”)

Revelation 10:1

Others believe this is NOT Jesus...why?

- We know **angels are very powerful** – they are given varying powers and authorities by God. There is an angelic “hierarchy”
- **“Voice like lion”** may merely indicate loud and commanding, not that he IS a “lion.”
- Seems to be clear evidence when Jesus appears in this book (chapter 1, 19, etc.) No question. There IS question here.
- One other very important clue later in text that seems strong evidence that this is NOT Jesus (later!)



Huge debate about the identity of this angel

COMMENTARY: “The identity of this strong angel is debated by Bible teachers. Some contend that this is Christ. Since Christ appeared as the angel of God in the Old Testament, this would be another occasion in which He appears to the nation of Israel. Others say it is not Christ but an unidentified angel. The Lord Jesus Christ does not appear in the book of Revelation as an angel. In fact, we will look in vain for a presentation of him as an angel after the incarnation. Ever since Jesus took on flesh, died for the sins of men, was crucified, was resurrected, and ascended into heaven, He has always appeared as the Son of God in His essential deity. Although this angel possesses some Godlike characteristics, he is not God...Although far beneath the character of God, they [angels] are created beings of an unusually high order. It is rather interesting to see that angels play a prominent part in the book of Revelation...they are always in a position of service. They do not create things, but fulfill the administration of God in the affairs of men. This is not the first time we have been introduced to a mighty angel, for in chapter 5:2 we find the same word used, though there it is translated “strong.” Don’t be deceived by the glorious description of this angel...Actually, in 18:1 we find another angel, pronouncing doom on Babylon, having great power and so much glory that “the earth was made bright with his glory.” No one seems pressed to identify this angel as the Lord Jesus Christ: consequently we should not think it strange that God could have other mighty angels that could easily fit the description of the one in our text.” (*“Revelation Unveiled,” LaHaye*)



COMMENTARY: "Three angelic beings are identified as "strong" in the Revelation. The first occurrence appears in Revelation 5:2. The second is in Revelation 10:1 and the final occurrence is in Revelation 18:21. What is the significance of the "strong angels?" The characteristics associated with "another strong angel" in Revelation 10:1-7 are closely parallel to an angelic being described in Daniel 10:5-6 and 12:5-7. These similarities have given some interpreters the basis to see a connection between these two texts. Based on Revelation 5:2, 10:1 and 18:21, strong angels are **revelatory** angels. That is, they specifically communicate to man information from God. In Revelation 5:2, the strong angel communicates the identity of the person worthy to open the sealed scroll. In Revelation 10:1, he communicates a significant transition in the program of God. In Revelation 18:21, he communicates the destiny of the capital city of the beast empire. Similarly, an angelic being in Daniel 10 communicates the destiny of the Jews and Jerusalem. (RevelationCommentary.org)



- Also a lot of artwork depicting this "angel!"
- As the debate rages, we need to ask, **"Does it really matter?"**
- The bottom line... what this angel does and says is of most importance
- May not be possible to concretely, without question, identify him
- Always avoid speculation, avoid man's opinions, and especially any one man's "unique, private and supposedly divine" interpretation!

Revelation 10:2-3a

He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars...

Revelation 10:3b-4a

When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me..."

"Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

Revelation 10:4a

Revelation 10:2-4

- Notice we are not told WHAT the angel cried in a loud voice. We just hear that at the same time he speaks, 7 thunders “uttered” their voices. What did the angel say? Like the answer to so many questions in this book, the best answer is....**WE DON’T KNOW!**
- The fact the angel has one foot on the land and one on the sea indicates he **has authority** (or speaks for one in authority) **over both**. (*more on this in a bit...*)
- (we’ll get to the “little book” in a moment...!)

Revelation 10:2-4

*About the 7 thunders...*In Psalm 29, the phrase “**the voice of the LORD**” is likened to thunder, and is used 7 times:

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, “Glory!”

Revelation 10:2-4

- For this reason, Jews (by Rabbinic interpretation) consider God to **have 7 voices**, like thunder. When they hear the words “7 thunders” they would immediately consider that to be the voice of God.
- Are these “utterances” the voice of God? We don’t know. Perhaps!
- Either way, this Psalm is a **great reminder of the majesty and power** of the One who controls everything – the One who ordained and will perfectly execute the entire contents of the book of Revelation!

Revelation 10:2-4

- Like the identity of the angel, there is a **lot of differing speculation** about what (or who) these voices are, and about what they said.
- **UNFOUNDED SPECULATION IS DANGEROUS!!** *Not to mention just a bit stupid!* When the voice said they were to be sealed, that’s what was meant. They are sealed, beyond our knowing.
- **Be skeptical** of anyone who claims to know what was spoken by the thunders. John only human to actually hear them.
- We are reminded that God has not revealed *everything* to us, yet.

Revelation 10:2-4

- Initially John was instructed to write down everything he saw and heard. But here, he is given specific instructions NOT to write them.
- Notice the voice that gives instruction is NOT the angel, but a **voice from heaven**. Is this God? Once again, we don’t know. Maybe!
- These are the **ONLY** things sealed in Revelation. Daniel told to seal up his book (total), but John given opposite instructions in 22:10 – *“Do not seal the words of prophecy of this book...”* Seems Daniel is becoming “unsealed” in this day.

Revelation 10:5-6

The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer.



Revelation 10:5-6

Revelation 10:5-6

- There is a **clue** in these verses that perhaps this mighty angel is not the Messiah.
- This angel **takes an oath**, swearing on *“Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it...”* Who is the One this angels swears on? No question, it is Jesus. He is swearing on the Name of Yeshua.
- Some interpret this to mean that this angel is swearing on “Himself,” just as God took an oath when he entered into the covenant with Abraham. Hebrews 6:13 tells us: *“For when God made a promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.”*

Revelation 10:5-6

- Many believe, however, that if this angel was Jesus, **we would have been told** that he swore on himself, as the writer of Hebrews indicates. We aren’t told this.
- It would seem this mighty angel is swearing by a Name higher than himself – the Name of the Creator of all things, Jesus.
- This debate about the identity of this “angel” continues, but what is really important is what he declares and facilitates, not who he is.
- **We must be content with not knowing a lot of things in this book.**

Revelation 10:5-6

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Revelation 10:5-6

- *“There should be delay no longer...”* Up until this time in God’s plan, He has been very gracious, longsuffering and patient with mankind. He has seemingly delayed the final outpouring of His judgments. Why? So all who would come to Him, do and will. Remember, He desires that NONE perish, and extends His grace period.
- **However, grace ends as well. Not for believers (where there is always an abundance of grace) but for unbelievers. TIME IS UP for the unbelieving world.**

Revelation 10:5-6

- The word **“delay”** in the KJV is translated as “time.” In other words, there is no more time.
- The Greek word is *chronos*, which implies an interval, season or opportunity. The interval of grace, the time of salvation, **is almost over**.
- Apparently **we are near the end** of the tribulation period because when the 7th trumpet sounds the last set of judgments will be poured out one after the other in quick succession.

Revelation 10:5-6

- A good reminder that God’s grace is not without its time limitation for unbelievers. Paul says *“today is the day of salvation.”* (2 Corinthians 6:2). For those who don’t have a relationship with God...don’t wait!
- Even more sobering... *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Revelation 10:7



...but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

No more delays!

Mystery of God completed

Revelation 10:7

- This mighty angel says that when the 7th trumpet sounds (11:15) the **“mystery of God”** would be finished.
- The Greek word for “finished” is *teleo*, which implies **the completion of a plan**. When this last trumpet sounds, the scroll is fully open and all the judgments literally come tumbling out one right after the other, completing the plan of God.
- **What is the “mystery” of God?** Several mysteries in scripture, *musterion* literally means a secret until its revelation or completion.

Revelation 10:7

- All the “mysteries” in scripture are **in the New Testament**. There are none in the Old Testament, except a reference that there ARE mysteries of God: **“Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?”** (Job 11:7)
- There are a total of 22 singular references (mystery) and 5 plural references (mysteries).
- **The “mysteries” of God are NOT hidden.** Scripture itself reveals their meaning with the help of the Holy Spirit. However, they cannot be discerned by unbelievers who don’t know the Word of God and are not seeking the Truth.

“Mysteries” in Scripture

Reference	Scripture cited:(in part, KJV)	Subject
Mark 4:11	... <u>Mystery of the kingdom of God:</u>	Revelation of God’s plan through Jesus, for earth at this time
Romans 11:25	... <u>that ye should be ignorant of this mystery,</u>	The restoration of the houses of Israel
Romans 16:25	... <u>to the revelation of the mystery</u>	Gospel hidden in OT, revealed in NT
1Corinthians 2:7	... <u>speak the wisdom of God in a mystery,</u>	God’s plan of redemption, formed before world began
1Corinthians 15:51	... <u>I shew you a mystery...</u>	Incorruption and restoration of the physical body
Ephesians 1:9	... <u>having made known unto us the mystery of his will,</u>	God’s plan to redeem all mankind
Ephesians 3:3	... <u>he made known unto me the mystery;</u>	The Church, “one new man” (2 houses of Israel, neither Jew nor Gentile, but one new man), not found in OT, revealed in NT
Ephesians 3:4	... <u>my knowledge in the mystery of Christ</u>	
Ephesians 3:9	... <u>what is the fellowship of the mystery,</u>	

“Mysteries” in Scripture

Reference	Scripture cited:(in part, KJV)	Subject
Ephesians 5:32	... <u>This is a great mystery: but I speak</u>	Through marriage two become one flesh
Ephesians 6:19	... <u>make known the mystery of the gospel,</u>	The good news of Yeshua, and what we have as a result of our belief in Him
Colossians 1:26	... <u>even the mystery which hath been hid</u>	The “deep things” of God hidden from unbelievers
Colossians 1:27	... <u>glory of this mystery among the Gentiles;</u>	How God includes the Gentiles in the plan of redemption
Colossians 2:2	... <u>acknowledgement of the mystery of God,</u>	The entire plan of redemption
Colossians 4:3	... <u>to speak the mystery of Christ, for which</u>	The “deep things” and plans of the Messiah
2Thessalonians 2:7	... <u>the mystery of iniquity doth already work:</u>	How sin works and separates us from God
1Timothy 3:9	... <u>holding the mystery of the faith in a</u>	How faith saves
1Timothy 3:16	... <u>great is the mystery of godliness:</u>	Godliness, only achieved by belief and love of Messiah

“Mysteries” in Scripture

Reference	Scripture cited:(in part, KJV)	Subject
Revelation 1:20	... <u>the mystery of the seven stars which</u>	The heads of the 7 assembled bodies of believers (Churches) [or guardian angels]
Revelation 10:7	... <u>the mystery of God should be finished,</u>	The entire plan of redemption and judgment
Revelation 17:5	... <u>written, Mystery, Babylon The Great,</u>	The enemy’s plan of opposition
Revelation 17:7	... <u>will tell thee the mystery of the woman</u>	Women portrayed as “seductresses” in scripture. This woman is Babylon, the world, and the religious system in opposition to God.

"Mysteries" in Scripture

Reference	Scripture cited:(in part, KJV)	Subject
Mysteries (Plural):		
Matthew 13:11	... <i>the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,</i>	The inner workings of the kingdom of heaven (<i>some believe this is the literal coming kingdom on earth</i>) (<i>debate about difference between kingdom of heaven, and kingdom of God</i>)
Luke 8:10	... <i>the mysteries of the kingdom of God:</i>	Inner workings of the kingdom of God (<i>some believe this is the spiritual kingdom within all believers</i>)
1Corinthians 4:1	... <i>and stewards of the mysteries of God.</i>	"Deep things" of God not discerned without the Holy Spirit, more than what lies on the surface
1Corinthians 13:2	... <i>understand all mysteries, and all knowledge</i>	
1Corinthians 14:2	... <i>in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.</i>	

Revelation 10:7

- The entire redemptive plan of God, from first verses of Genesis to final verses of Revelation... and beyond...can be known by those seeking the Truth. These are formal "mysteries" to us until the Holy Spirit reveals them and our hearts are prepared to receive them.
- The "**mystery of God**" in this verse involves all of this – the whole plan, as He revealed it to His prophets. These are the "deep things" of God.
- This plan was **formulated before the beginning of the world**, and with this final round of judgments man's dominion will end, and God's will begin and last through eternity.

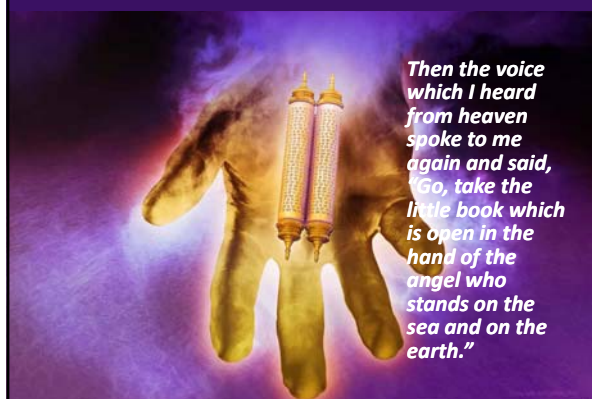
Revelation 10:7

- **Many things are still a "mystery" to us.** Each of us learns and is tutored by the Holy Spirit in different ways, and at different paces. And, not everything is revealed yet. We all have plenty of questions. Faith is believing what we can't see yet, *and* without knowing all the answers.
- When all judgments are complete, and evil has been completely eliminated, **we will see the full manifestation of His divine power and majesty**, and our questions will have divine answers, not human speculation.

Revelation 10:7

- The prophets wrote the plan as we could understand it, but not in its full revelation. The **reference to the prophets may be a clue** as to what is in this "little book."
- The basic plan, the outline, of God's redemptive work has been revealed through the prophets. Perhaps that is what is in this little book.
- As the saying goes, "**soon, all will be revealed!**"

Revelation 10:8



Revelation 10:8

- The *angel is not speaking here*. Notice it is the voice from heaven doing the talking. This is a voice of authority. **Is it God?**
- **WE DON'T KNOW!**
- The **study of Revelation requires that we do not leap to conclusions**, or be too ready to believe a "popular" idea about something. There is so much we simply do NOT know. We can have a basic understanding, and knowledge of content and cause, but complete identification of every person, event, timetable and detail is impossible....until it happens.

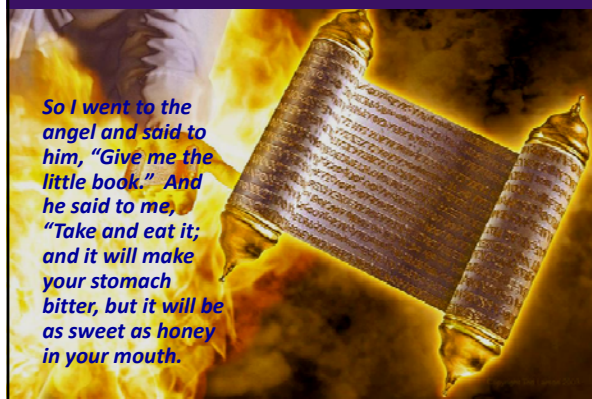
Revelation 10:8

- **“...take the little book...”** What is this book? It is not a “book” like we understand it. It is a scroll. Everything at that time was written on scrolls.
- Some have postulated that this is the original 7-sealed scroll of judgment that is now fully open. But we don’t see this actually happen until chapter 11, and the judgments don’t begin until chapter 16.
- This is a **bibliaridion**, literally a “little” scroll. The original is a *biblion*, a larger scroll or writing. There is a distinction between the two. They don’t seem to be one and the same.

Revelation 10:8

- It is thought this is a short, limited revelation, perhaps about the remaining time of judgment.
- Some place the last 3 ½ years (Jesus’ “Great Tribulation”) of the 7-year period of judgment beginning at the 7th trumpet blast in chapter 11. It is difficult (*virtually impossible!*) to determine the exact timeline.
- Precisely what is in this little book is **not known**. It *could be* all prophecies (from OT) that pertain to this period. Could even be new prophecies.
- What John is told to do with this book will further identify it as the Word of God.

Revelation 10:9



Revelation 10:9

- John is supposed to **“eat” this little book?**
- If this book is the Word of God, the concept of “eating” the Word is not new in scripture.
- Jeremiah said, **“Your words were found, and I ate them, and your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your Name, O LORD God of Hosts.”** (15:16)
- Ezekiel tells us **“Moreover He said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.’ So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. 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.”** (3:1-3)

Revelation 10:9

- Jeremiah and Ezekiel were called to prophesy to Israel, as well as speak of end times prophetically. John has now been added to a select group that were told to “eat” the Word of God.
- Prophecies were to be given AFTER ingesting the scroll, the Word of God. The prophets had to be full of God’s Word in order to speak it.
- Eating is a **necessary function of survival** for the body. The body will die without nourishment. In the same way, the soul will die without spiritual nourishment.

Revelation 10:9

- God’s Word is **likened to food** throughout scripture (bread in Matthew 4:4, milk in 1 Peter 2:2, 1 Corinthians 3:2; meat in the same verse, and honey in the Psalms).
- David wrote **“How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”** (Psalm 119:103) and **“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”** (Psalm 19:9-10)
- It is important to note here that even the JUDGMENT of God is true and righteous, and SWEET. It is pure and right.

Revelation 10:9

- To those who love God, **His Word is delightful, sweet and nourishing.** It gives life and vitality to our souls.
- **To those who reject Him it is bitter,** and makes them sick.
- Understanding that God is right in His judgment is sweet, but realizing that many are lost is bitter.



Revelation 10:9

- John had to **ingest a little more of God's Word** in order to complete what God had for him to write and prophesy.
- It would be like honey, sweet and nourishing, as is ALL of God's Word, regardless of its content.
- But once John "digested" this, it would be bitter, because judgment is indeed bitter. In some way, we can say this Word of God is "bittersweet." It is always pleasing to feast on His Word, but sometimes the content is hard to take. John would experience this bitterness, especially with what remained in this vision.

Revelation 10:9

- The earlier reference to the prophets ("*...the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*" v. 7) may indicate the Word to be "eaten" was what the prophets had originally spoken about this time.
- What is contained in Revelation is not really new, it is scattered throughout the Bible, but brought here into one place of culmination of God's plan.
- Perhaps the sweet predictions of Jesus' soon return were in **contrast to the bitter pronouncement** of the remaining terrible judgments.

COMMENTARY: "It is sweet to know what God is going to do, but when you find out that judgment is coming, it is bitter...If you and I can take delight in reading this section of the Word of God and the judgments that are to fall upon the earth, then we need to do a great deal of praying to get the mind of God. It is sweet to know the Book of Revelation and what God intends to do, but when we find out that judgment is coming to the Christ-rejecting world around us, we cannot rejoice in that. The prophecy becomes bitter. There is another very real application of this. Many folk begin the study of prophecy with enthusiasm, but when they find that it is applicable to their life and that it makes demands on them personally, they lose interest, and it becomes a bitter thing. Many people say, "I don't want to hear about the Book of Revelation. I don't like prophecy. It frightens me!" May I say to you that it is supposed to do that, but it should be in your mouth sweet as honey. (continued...)

COMMENTARY (continued)

Unfortunately, there are a lot of people who like to study prophecy because of the natural curiosity to know the future, but they will discover that there is nothing in the Word of God that ministers more to a holy life than the thoughtful study of prophecy...To study prophecy and live a dirty life will only lead to abnormality. The reason we hear so much abnormality in the interpretation of prophecy in our day is that the Word of God is not having its way in the hearts and lives of the folk who study it. It is unfortunate that people will get interested in prophecy, but not in Christian living." (McGee)

Revelation 10:10-11



Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings.

Revelation 10:10-11

- The Greek word for “about” here is *epi*, which is variously translated as *about, among, concerning, in regard to*. However, it may also just as easily be translated as “against.” In other words, **John will be prophesying about, and most likely against**, many peoples, nations, tongues and kings.
- The angel is telling John **“it’s not over yet.”** Despite the horror John has already seen, there is more to come.
- There were **three woes**, but we have only seen two in the last two trumpet blasts. One remains.

Revelation 10:10-11

- It seems with the words of this mighty angel that the **final woe** concerns the group mentioned, many peoples, nations, tongues and kings. This group will include all on this planet who reject God’s offer of free eternal salvation.
- We know that so far only six trumpets have blasted. The 7th will not blow until chapter 11, and the 1st set of Bowl Judgments (*contained in the 7th trumpet*) will not be poured out until chapter 16.
- When they do, upon their full completion, the entire redemptive and judgmental plan of God, the **“mystery of God will be finished.”**



Personal Thoughts

- **“Interesting, but what does this have to do with me?”**
- Depends on whether or not you have received the free gift of God.
- Two groups on earth, those who believe and are saved, and those who reject and are lost.
- There are “today” messages for both groups here...

Personal Thoughts

FOR UNBELIEVERS:

- Don’t wait too long to believe and be saved!
- God’s mercy and grace is limited to a time table known only to Him.
- He will push and pull and draw you, but eventually if you resist, you will be sent a “strong delusion” to believe the lie.
- If you are studying merely out of curiosity, with no intention of believing, you are on very dangerous ground. Your eternal future is in jeopardy.
- Today, **now**, is the day of salvation.
- If you seek Him honestly, you will find Him.

Personal Thoughts

FOR BELIEVERS:

- EAT, digest and be nourished often by the Word of God. Our spirits need this nourishment. It is what allows us to know Him, and His Plan.
- Without His Word we will starve spiritually, and not be equipped to survive this life.
- God speaks to us through His Word, and the Holy Spirit within. We need to hear His voice.
- The Bible is His love letter to you.
- **If we seek Him, we will find Him.** Have questions, need answers? ASK HIM!