

The Book Of Revelation - Chapters Ten & Eleven

CHAPTER TEN

The Mighty Angel

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow [was] upon his head, and his face [was] as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and [his] left [foot] on the earth, 3 And cried with a loud voice, as [when] a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. 5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

John Eats the Little Book

8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go [and] take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take [it], and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. 11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

- Revelation 10-14 describes events occurring in the middle of the Tribulation period; this explains John's repeated mention of 3.5 years (Rev. 11:2-3, 12:6, 12:14, 13:5) - Jewish months have exactly 30 days
- this is the time when Satan will begin to unleash his power through the tyranny of Antichrist (ch. 12-13)
- even in this period of turmoil, God has witnesses!
- Revelation has more than 60 references to angels; they are God's army sent to accomplish His will

- this mighty angel has several characteristics that could identify Him as Jesus Christ Himself:
 - (1) the rainbow first seen around God's throne in Rev. 4:3 now sits like a crown on His head
 - (2) He is clothed with a cloud, often identified with God (Ex. 16:10, Ex. 19:9, Acts 1:9, Rev. 1:7)
 - (3) His face is as the sun, like Jesus in Rev. 1:16
 - (4) His feet are like those of Jesus in Rev. 1:15
 - (5) His voice is like a lion roaring, as in Rev. 5:5 -- God's voice is powerful (Joh. 12:28-29, Psa. 29)
 - (6) God often appeared in the Old Testament as "the angel of the Lord" (Ex. 3:2, Jud. 6:11-12)
 - (7) He holds the book containing the remaining judgments; since Jesus was the only one worthy to open the scroll (Rev. 5:5), it is probable that He is the only one worthy to present this book
 - (8) His posture is that of a conqueror taking possession of the world, a victorious Saviour!

- "seven thunders" - another complete cycle of judgments that are hidden from us at present
- "write them not" - secret things of God (Deut. 29:29)
- the seven thunders are the only sealed thing in an otherwise unsealed book (Rev. 22:9)
- "lifted up his hand" - solemn oath (Dan. 12:7)
- God has placed Himself under oath before:
 - (1) covenant with Abraham (Heb. 6:13-20)
 - (2) Son of God declared High Priest (Heb. 7:20-22)
 - (3) messianic promise to David (Acts 2:29-30)
- "time no longer" - delay no longer
- eternal life - not absence of time but ever-continuing time; time had a beginning but has no end
- "mystery of God" - His purpose for Israel (Dan. 9:24)
- the last stage (3.5 years) of the Tribulation begins when the seventh trumpet sounds
- John is told to "eat" this book; the messenger must receive the message before he can preach it!
- God's Word often compared to food:
 - (1) bread (Matthew 4:4)
 - (2) milk (1 Peter 2:2)
 - (3) meat (1 Corinthians 3:1-2)
 - (4) honey (Psalm 119:103)
- "bitter / sweet" - God's judgment and His mercy
- this is similar to Ezekiel's experience (Eze. 2:8 - 3:3) and that of Jeremiah (Jer. 15:16)
- Word must "become flesh" to be shared (John 1:14)
- "before" = "concerning" (doesn't mean "appearing before them" - John is not one of the two witnesses)
- this vision is in the past (John's day), not the future!

CHAPTER ELEVEN

The Two Witnesses

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty [and] two months. 3 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

The Witnesses Killed

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

The Witnesses Resurrected

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand; and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; [and], behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

The Seventh Trumpet Sounded

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth. 19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

- to measure something is to claim it for yourself; the Lord is saying "this city and temple are mine!" (see Ezekiel 40-41 and Zechariah 2:1-3)
- Jerusalem will be overrun by the Gentiles for the last half of the Tribulation period (42 months), immediately after Antichrist desecrates the Temple
- **A third temple will be built in Jerusalem** according to 2 Thess. 2:3-4, Matt. 24:15 & Dan. 9:27
- the two witnesses prophesy during the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation, then are killed by Antichrist at the same time he breaks his covenant with Israel
- two witnesses were the minimum number acceptable under OT law (Deut. 17:6, 19:15)
- the two witnesses are clothed in sackcloth because they call mankind to repentance (2 Kings 19:1)
- **Who are the two witnesses?**
 - (1) "the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks" - this parallels Zerubbabel the Governor and Joshua the High Priest in Zechariah 4, two anointed men who built the second Temple
 - (2) they have power to call forth fire and to shut Heaven so it will not rain - this parallels the ministry of Elijah (1 Kings 18:38, 1 Kings 17:1)
 - (3) they have power to turn water to blood and to smite the earth with plagues - this parallels the ministry of Moses (Ex. 7:20, Ex. 9:14-15)
 - (4) the Jews expect a new **Moses and Elijah** (Deuteronomy 18:15-18, Malachi 4:5); it was these two who stood with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3)
 - (5) it was **Elijah and Enoch** who were taken to Heaven supernaturally (2 Kings 2:11, Genesis 5:24) and "it is appointed unto man once to die" (Hebrews 9:27) - they haven't died yet! (Moses body was taken after his death - Jude 9)
- the two witnesses can only be killed when they have finished their ministry - God's obedient servants are immortal until their work on earth is done!
- they are killed by the beast from the bottomless pit, yet his origin is not described until chapter 13; hence, these visions are not chronological
- the world will celebrate a "Satanic Christmas" (this is the world's reaction to TRUE PROPHETS OF GOD)
- "Sodom and Egypt" - immorality and persecution
- their bodies will be left in the streets of Jerusalem for 3.5 days; the entire world will watch (via satellite TV) their miraculous resurrection and ascension
- the terror will be magnified by an earthquake which kills 7000 and destroys one-tenth of Jerusalem
- "gave glory" - in awe without being converted
- "third woe" (seventh trumpet) - see Rev. 8:13
- the seventh trumpet unveils the temple of God in Heaven, from which the later vial judgments come
- verses 15-19 are **PROLEPTIC** (regarding future events as so certain that they are spoken of as having already been accomplished) - Rom. 8:30
- the seventh trumpet signals the last half (3.5 years) of the Tribulation, the beginning of the period of wrath Jesus described in Matthew 24:15-21, also called the time of Jacob's trouble in Jeremiah 30:7
- the ark is seen in Heaven at this time - God will never break His covenant with His people!