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REVELATION 10

THE TRUE REFORMATION WOE

10:1. And I saw another angel.—"The Messenger of the Covenant," the Lord Jesus.—Mal. 3:1.
Come down from Heaven.—At the time of the Second Advent, Oct. 1874.—Rev. 3:20.

Clothed with a cloud.—"He cometh with clouds;" and while the clouds of trouble are heavy and dark, when the mountains (kingdoms of this world) are trembling and falling, and the earth (organized society) is being shaken, disintegrated, melted, some will begin to realize what we now proclaim as already at hand—that Jehovah's Anointed is taking to Himself His great power and beginning His work of laying justice to the line and righteousness to the plummet. (Isa. 28:17.)"—B138.

And [a rainbow was] THE HAIR upon His head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of fire.—See Rev. 1:14-16; 7:2; 18:1.

10:2. And [He had] HAVING in His hand.—In His power, given to Him by the Father.—Rev. 5:7, 5.

A little book open.—The Present Truth message.—C89.

And He set His right foot.—Exerted the strongest power of restraint.

Upon the sea.—The masses not under religious control, who, without the Lord's control of the situation, would have long since swallowed up the present order of things.—Rev. 7:1-3; Luke 21:25; Psa. 46:2, 3.

And His left foot on the earth.—"Throughout the Scriptures, earth, when used symbolically, represents society; seas, the restless, turbulent, dissatisfied masses of the world."—A318.

10:3. And cried with a loud voice.—Pastor Russell was the voice used.—Rev. 7:2.

As when a lion roareth.—Symbolical of Justice.—Rev. 4:7; Amos 3:8.

And when.—In 1881 A. D.

He had cried.—With the first great cry, "*Food for Thinking Christians*," 1,400,000 copies given away, free.

Seven thunders.—Seven volumes of "STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES."—Rev. 8:5.

Uttered their voices.—Were foreseen as necessary to the complete statement of the Plan, and the fulfillment of this and other Scriptures.

10:4. And [when] WHATSOEVER the seven thunders had uttered [their voices], I.—Pastor Russell as a representative of the John class.

Was about to write.—Intended to put on paper at once. And I heard a voice from Heaven.—The guidance of the Heavenly Father, directing and overruling, knowing that the results would be better if the interest of His little ones were sustained by expectancy throughout the whole time of Harvest, rather than to give them all the light at once.—John 16:12.

Saying [unto me], Seal up [those] WHAT things [which] SOEVER the seven thunders uttered.—Do not immediately disclose their full contents.—Dan. 8:26; 12:4, 9.

And write them not.—Observe how the Lord retarded the publications: Vol. I was published in 1886. "In sending forth this first volume of the MILLENNIAL DAWN, it is but proper that we apologize to the many friends who have waited for it so patiently since promised." (A3.) Volume II was published in 1889, and III in 1891. "Some have urged greater haste in the writing and publishing of the several volumes of this series, and, to a large extent, I have shared the same feelings of impatience; but my observations of the Lord's dealings and leadings and unfoldings of His Plan are gradually convincing me that He has not shared our impatience. Indeed, I can clearly trace His hand in some of the hindrances encountered and can realize by the delay I have been enabled to grasp the subjects more thoroughly, and to present them more fully, than if the work had been hastened more. Not only has this delay worked for my good and yours, but in another way also. It has afforded time for a more thorough digestion of the truths of each volume, and thereby has given to the faithful student the very necessary preparation for that which was to follow. And not only so, but it has also given opportunity for practicing the lessons learned, and for exercising the talents of each in spreading the advancing light before others of God's saints." (C12.) Volume IV was published in 1897, V in 1899, VI in 1904 and VII in 1917. This makes a total lapse of 36 years from the publication of *FOOD FOR THINKING CHRISTIANS* to the last volume of the *SCRIPTURE STUDIES*. Meantime the Harvest work grew to a movement of vast proportions; and Volume VII was delayed.

10:5. And the angel which I saw.—The Lord Jesus, since 1874.—Rev. 10:1.

Stand upon the sea and upon the earth.—In control of the masses not under religious restraint as well as order-loving society.

Lifted up His RIGHT hand to Heaven.—The seventh angel was in that hand when He did so.—Rev. 1:16, 20. 10:6. And sware by Him that liveth for ever and ever.—By Jehovah, His Father and our Father, His God and our God.—John 20:17.

Who created Heaven, and the things that therein are.—"The heavens declare the glory of God."—Psa. 13:14; Neh. 9:6; Rev. 4:11; 14:7.

And the earth, and the things that therein are, [and the sea, and the things which are therein].—"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."—Job 38, 39, 40 and 41 chapters.

That there [should be] IS time no longer.—"There shall be no further delay."—Weym.

10:7. But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel.—Pastor Russell was the seventh angel.—Rev. 3:14.

When he shall begin to sound.—In the autumn of 1881, at which time *FOOD FOR THINKING CHRISTIANS* was circulated, and the General Call ceased.—Rev. 11:15.

The mystery of God [should be] WAS finished.—"The great unfolding of the Divine mystery we are expressly told was reserved until the close of the Gospel Age." (Z'97-255.) "The Plan ceases to be a mystery, because there is no further object in perpetuating its secrecy. The greatness of the mystery, so long kept secret, and the wonderful grace bestowed on those called to fellowship in this mystery (Eph. 3:9), suggest to us that the work to follow its completion must be an immense work, worthy of such great preparations. What may we not expect in blessings upon the world, when the veil of mystery is withdrawn and the showers of blessing descend! It is this for which the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now, waiting for the completion of this mystery, for the manifestation of the Sons of God, the promised 'Seed' in whom they shall all be blessed.—Rom. 8:19, 21, 22." (A37.) "While the door stands open, it indicates that any believer who is anxious to enter and ready to comply with the conditions may yet do so, even though the general 'call' or invitation to enter is no longer sent out. The opportunity to labor and sacrifice has not yet closed though the general call ceased in 1881."—C213.

As He hath declared to His servants.—The Harvest Workers.

AND the Prophets.—Daniel (12:4-12) and Habakkuk (2:1-3).—Rev. 1:1.

10:8. And the Voice which I heard from Heaven.—The Heavenly Father's voice.—Rev. 10:4.

Spake unto me again.—By His Holy Spirit.

And said.—Through the Bible, His Word, His Voice.
Go take the little book.—“Study to show thyself approved
unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.”—
2 Tim. 2:15.

Which is open in the hand of the angel.—The Lord Jesus.
Rev. 10:1, 5.

Which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.—See
Rev. 10:2, 5.

10:9. And I went unto the angel.—“In coming out of
bondage to human traditions, creeds, systems and errors,
we are coming directly to our Lord, to be taught and fed
by Him, to be strengthened and perfected to do His pleas-
ure, and to stand, and not fall with Babylon.”—C167.

And said unto Him.—By my act in obeying His com-
mand.—Rev. 18:4.

Give me the little book.—Take me into Your confidence;
give me Your Holy Spirit; show me, as promised, the
“things to come.”—John 16:13.

And He said unto me, Take it, and eat it up.—“It is
absolutely useless for us to pray Lord, Lord, give us the
Spirit, if we neglect the Word of Truth which that Spirit
has supplied for our filling.”—E245, 225; Ezek. 2:8.

And it shall make thy belly bitter.—Lead to self-sacrifice,
with its attendant sufferings, but create an appetite for
more. “The after effects are always more or less blending
of the bitterness of persecution with the sweetness.”—
C89; Ezek. 2:10; 3:14; Dan. 8:27.

But it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.—“O the
blessedness.”—Dan. 12:12; Psa. 19:10; 119:103.

10:10. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand
and ate it up.—“Thy words were found and I did eat them;
and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine
heart.”—Jer. 15:16.

And it was in my mouth sweet as honey.—“So I opened
my mouth, and He caused me to eat that roll. And it was
in my mouth as honey for sweetness.”—Ezek. 3:2, 3.

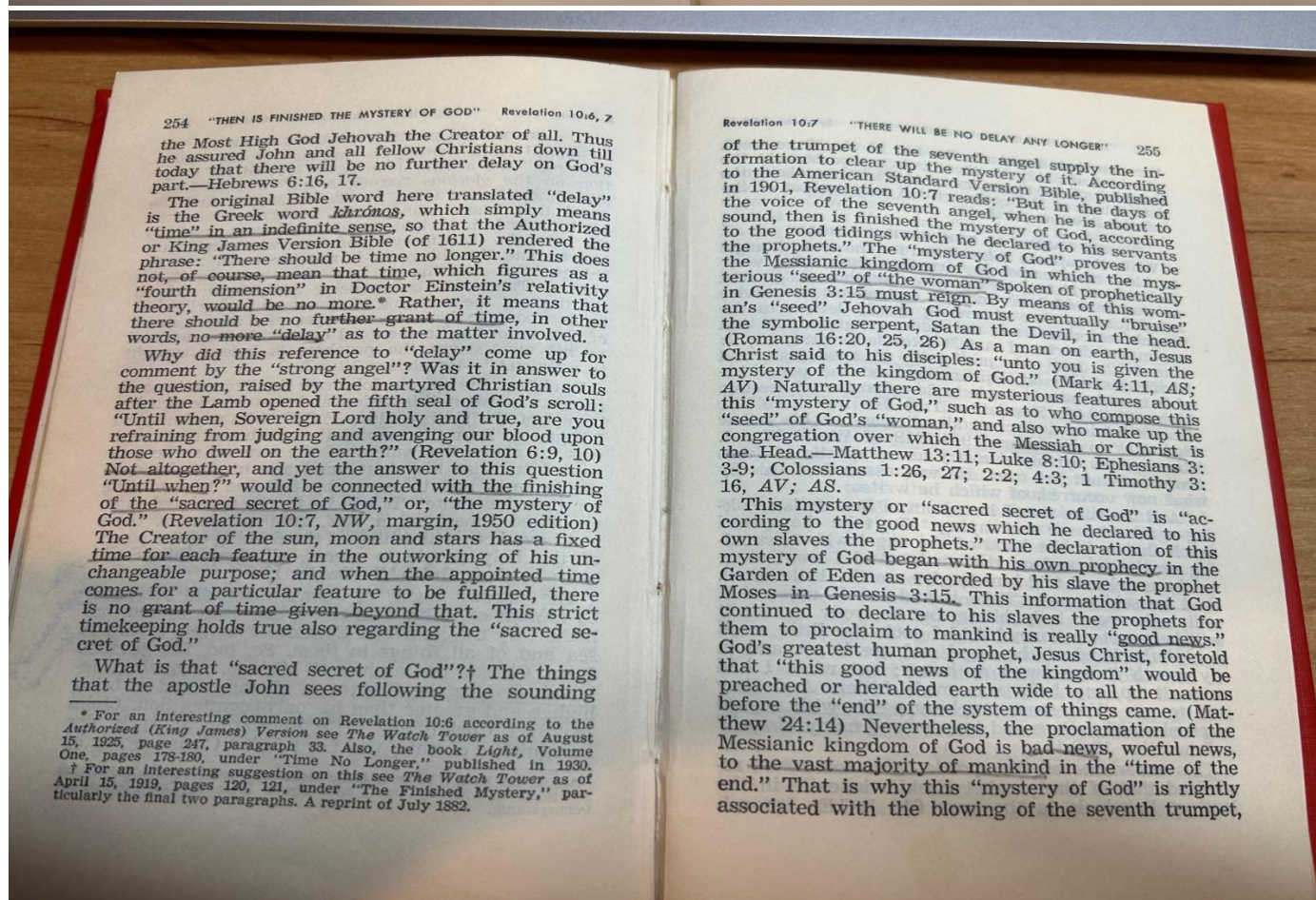
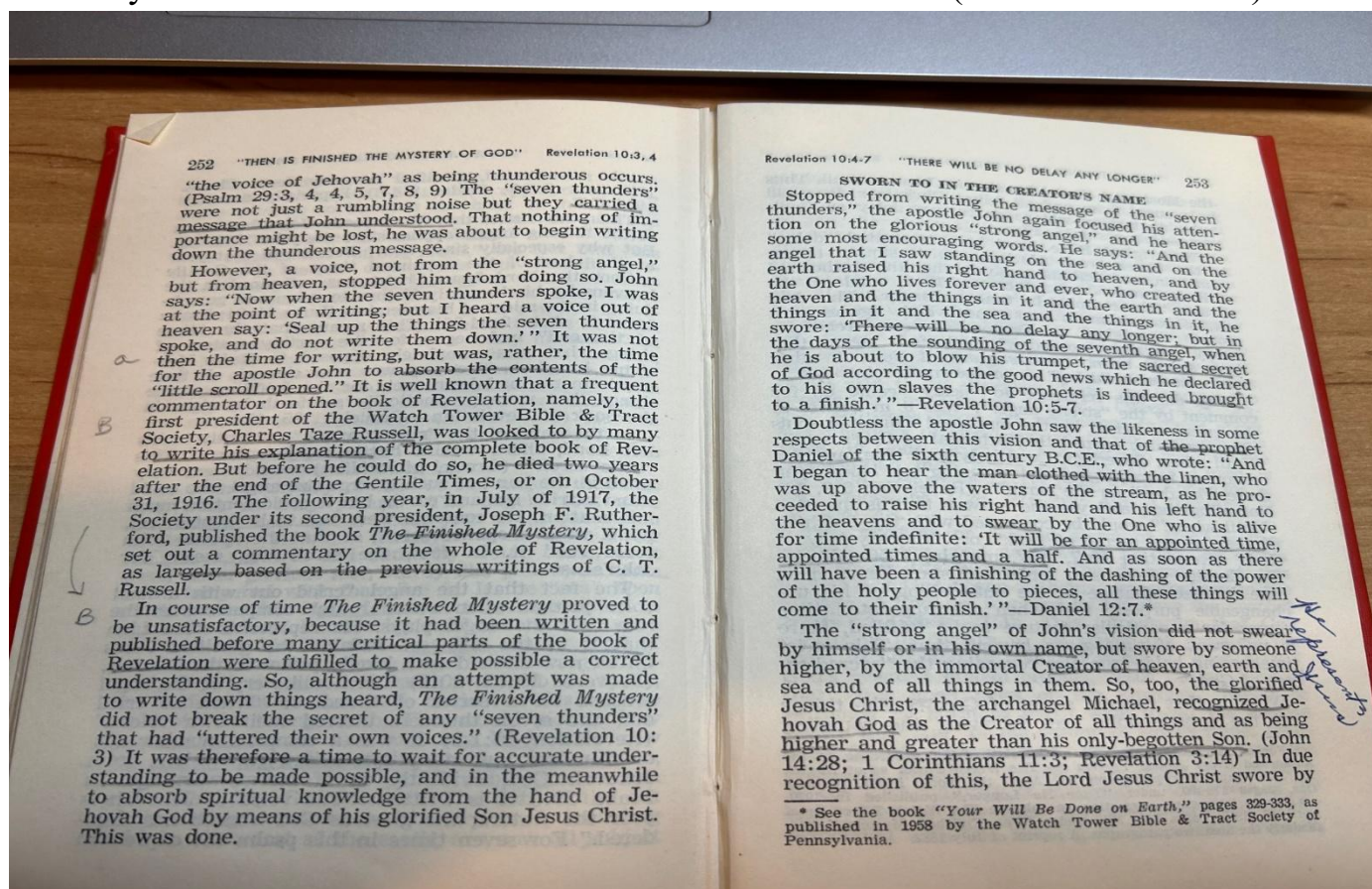
And as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was [bitter]
FILLED.—“It satisfies my longings as nothing else could
do.”


10:11. And [He said] THEY SAY unto me.—The Scrip-
tures do the saying.

Thou must prophesy again.—Continue to proclaim the
Message of Truth Divine.

Before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and
kings.—Until it has been fully testified to all.—1 Tim. 2:6.
The concluding word of this Scripture suggests that the
last witness of the church in the flesh is, like their Lord's,
as alleged malefactors, before earth's rulers.

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foot upon the sea, but his left one upon the earth." (Revelation 10:2) Another scroll? Yes, but this time it is not sealed. With John, we can expect soon to see further thrilling disclosures. First, though, we are given the setting for what is to follow.

⁶ Let us return to the description of Jesus. His fiery feet are upon the earth and the sea, over which he now exercises full authority. It is just as stated in the prophetic psalm: "You [Jehovah] also proceeded to make him [Jesus] a little less than godlike ones, and with glory and splendor you then crowned him. You make him dominate over the works of your hands; everything you have put under his feet: small cattle and oxen, all of them, and also the beasts of the open field, the birds of heaven and the fish of the sea, anything passing through the paths of the seas." (Psalm 85:8; see also Hebrews 2:5-9) This psalm was completely fulfilled in 1914, when Jesus was installed as King of God's Kingdom and the time of the end began. Thus, what John sees here in vision applies since that year.—Psalm 110:1-6; Acts 2:34-36; Daniel 12:4.

6. (a) Why is it appropriate that Jesus' feet are upon the earth and the sea? (b) When was Psalm 85:8 completely fulfilled?



The Seven Thunders

⁷ John's contemplation of this strong angel is interrupted by the angel himself: "And he [the angel] cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars. And when he cried out, the seven thunders uttered their own voices." (Revelation 10:3) Such a powerful shout would catch John's attention, confirming that Jesus is truly "the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah." (Revelation 5:5) John would also be aware that Jehovah, too, is sometimes said to "roar." Jehovah's roaring prophetically heralds the regathering of spiritual Israel and the coming of the destructive "day of Jehovah." (Hosea 11:10; Joel 3:14, 16; Amos 1:2, 3:7, 8) Clearly, then, the lionlike cry of this strong angel forebodes similar great events for the sea and the earth. It calls on the seven thunders to speak.

⁸ John has previously heard thunders proceeding from the very throne of Jehovah. (Revelation 4:5) Back in David's day, literal thunder was at times spoken of as "the voice of Jehovah." (Psalm 29:3) When Jehovah audibly proclaimed his purpose to glorify his own name in the days of Jesus' earthly

7. In what manner does the strong angel cry out, and what is the significance of his cry?

8. What are the "voices of the seven thunders"?

ministry, to many it sounded like thunder. (John 12:28, 29) Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the "voices of the seven thunders" are Jehovah's own expression of his purposes. The fact that there were "seven" thunders suggests the completeness of what John heard.

⁹ But listen! Another voice sounds forth. It brings a command that must seem strange to John: "Now when the seven thunders spoke, I was at the point of writing; but I heard a voice out of heaven say: 'Seal up the things the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them down.'" (Revelation 10:4) John must have been anxious to hear and record those thunderous messages, just as the John class today has waited eagerly for Jehovah to disclose his divine purposes for publication. Such revelations come only at Jehovah's appointed time.—Luke 12:42; see also Daniel 12:8, 9.

The Finish of the Sacred Secret

¹⁰ Meantime, Jehovah has another commission for John. After the seven thunders have sounded, the strong angel speaks again: "And the angel that I saw standing on the sea and on the earth raised his right hand to heaven, and by the One who lives forever and ever, who created the heaven and the things in it and the earth and the things in it and the sea and the things in it, he swore: 'There will be no delay any longer.'" (Revelation 10:5, 6) By whom does the strong angel swear? The glorified Jesus swears, not by himself, but by the highest Authority of all, Jehovah, the immortal Creator of the heavens and the earth. (Isaiah 45:12, 18) With this oath, the angel assures John that there will be no further delay on God's part.

¹¹ The Greek word here translated "delay" is *kheiro's*, which literally means "time."

9. What does a voice out of heaven command?

10. By whom does the strong angel swear, and to what pronouncement?

11, 12. (a) What is meant by there being "no delay any longer"? (b) What is brought to a finish?

Some have thus felt that this declaration of the angel should be translated: 'There will be no more time,' as though time as we know it will end. But the word *kheiro's* here is used without a definite article. So it does not mean time in general but, rather, "a time" or "a period of time." In other words, there will be no further period of time (or, delay) by Jehovah. A Greek verb derived from *kheiro's* was used also at Hebrews 10:37, where Paul, quoting from Habakkuk 2:3, 4, writes that "he who is coming . . . will not delay."

¹² No delay any longer!—how those words appeal to the aging John class today! In what respect is there no delay? John informs us: "But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to blow his trumpet, the sacred secret of God according to the good news which he declared to his own slaves the prophets is indeed brought to a finish." (Revelation 10:7) Jehovah's time is here for bringing his sacred secret to its happy climax, with glorious success!

¹³ What is this sacred secret? It involves the

13. What is the sacred secret of God?

REVELATION CLIMAX

A SWEET-AND-BITTER MESSAGE

Please also refer to the Watchtower Articles on the subject of Revelation 10, and Jayne Austin's personal rebuttal statement of the Jehovah's Witness Cult on the website www.jayneaustin-artist.com