

The Seven Thunders

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Rv10:1-4 is a vision, but John is not allowed to record the message – this is the only part of the Book of Revelation which is NOT a “revelation” - it is a “concealing”; **Actors:** “**Another mighty angel**” holds the scroll, calls with a loud voice; “**Seven thunders**” sound something that can be written down – understandable messages; therefore, not actually “thunder” but something resembling thunder which speaks; “**a voice**” – tells John NOT to record the messages of the “seven thunders”

Why the “Concealing”? Consider the **context**: Rv9:13 “Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet ...”; and, Rv11:14 “The second woe has passed ...”; **contextually**, the Seven Thunders are **part of the “second woe”**. Similar materials in the Bible: Ez2:8-10 and 3:1-3 also discuss eating a scroll; Jr15:16 discusses eating God’s words; Dn12:9 discusses “sealing prophetic words”; Dt29:29 discusses the “secret things of God”; Ps29 comprises Seven Thunders.

The Context: See “The Apocalyptic Sweep of Revelation” (in the handout document); The “**second woe**”, “the sixth trumpet”, is deep into the Tribulation; the Seven Thunders serve as a harbinger of the **Seventh Trumpet** (Rv10:5-7). The work of the **Two Witnesses** is also contextually part of the “second woe” (Rv11:3, 6); but their work was started before the “second woe” – chapter eleven is clearly an “inset chapter”.

Is Chapter Ten an Inset? The “second woe” is about the actions of Satan. The message of the angel of chapter ten is about the actions of God: **a harbinger of the Seventh Trumpet** – this suggests that **the chapter should also be taken as an inset**, i.e., the contents of the chapter are not restricted to the point of their inclusion in the apocalyptic flow. John is told to eat the little scroll (Rv10:8-11) This is clearly a metaphor for inculcating God’s message and being prepared to present it (Ez2:7-10, 3:1-3, Jr15:16)

The Secret Things of God: God reserves the right to reveal what he will reveal at a time and in a manner of his choosing: his desire for all human beings is to choose life – eternal life (Dt29:29, 30:19). **That is the purpose of all revelation from God** to human beings; so, it is extremely unlikely that the concealing of the message of the Seven Thunders would serve any other purpose – **God promises to provide understanding** (Dn12:9-10).

An Analogous Scripture Ps29: The Psalm starts with an invocation to recognize and proclaim, “ascribe”, the Glory of God, his strength and holiness (vs1-2); the “**voice of the LORD**” is repeated **seven times in thunder** (vs3-9); the message of the seven thunders is the majesty, strength, and glory of God; the Psalm then looks to the second advent when the King of kings will assume his throne (v10); finally, the palmist then pleads for **strength and peace on God’s people** (v11)

Analysis of Symbols: “**waters**” can stand for “**peoples and multitudes and nations and languages**” (Ps29:3, Rv17:1,15); the messages to the churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are specially to the “angel” of each church; before the Seventh Trumpet, an angel appears to **proclaim the gospel** “to every nation and tribe and language and people” (Rv14:16); **this angel may be the specific angel for the Church at the end-time** ...

Who is “To Prophecy”? In Rv10:11, the direct antecedent of “you” is John the Apostle; but, he is very old and nearing the end of his life, so clearly “you” must apply to John as the final living apostle, **representing the Church**. **Preaching the gospel to all nations as a witness** is the end-time work of the Church; but why does God bring this out in this way in this context? Psalm 29 verse 11 may provide the answer: in the end-time there seems to be **two groups of Christians: one group who is protected**, whom God “**will bless with peace**”; **the other group** is left to face the Beast Power and **preach the Gospel until the end** – **this group will require enormous “strength from God”**.

The End-time Church: The **Book of Revelation is specifically given to the Church** (Rv1:1, 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22). The seven churches of Asia being exemplary of the Church through all ages but **especially at the end-time**. The concealing of the message of the Seven Thunders may be God’s way of drawing our attention to the message. We may never know exactly what the Seven Thunders said, but **the message to the Church, to us, is abundantly clear to “preach the gospel”, oppose the Beast Power to the end** (Mt24:46).

The Power Point slides of the presentation, “**The Seven Thunders**”, are available at: <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>

The document “**Structure of the Book of Revelation**” is available at: <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/>