

The Power of God's Word

Revelation 10:1-11

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Introduction: Chapter 10 is part of another parenthesis that extends to 11:14, separating the 6th & 7th trumpets. The 7th trumpet will bring to consummation redemptive history. But before the 7th trumpet is sounded, John's attention is drawn to a little book. Someone has suggested that this is to set Biblical prophecy in proper perspective & teach us several lessons about its nature: (1) Prophecy has divine origin (:1-2); (2) Prophecy is limited (:3-4); (3) Prophecy is certain (:5-7); & (4) Prophecy has human transmission (Terry Rude). Note here, the power of God's Word, seen in its presentation, its prophecy, & its proclamation.

I. The **Presenting** of God's Book (:1-2) [Prophecy has Divine origin]

A. Its **author** - from God in heaven

1. Is it a mighty angel? (Michael, the archangel?).
 - a. "Another" – "allos", 'another of the same kind' (this angel is not worshipped).
 - b. Same as "the *strong angel*" of Revelation 5:2 (cf. 7 & 8).
 - c. No evidence that Christ comes down from heaven midway in the tribulation.
 - d. A representative from the throne-room of God.
 2. Is it Christ or "The Angel of the Lord."?
 - a. Clothed with a cloud - cf. Dan. 7:13; Ex. 13:21; Acts 1:9-11 & I Thess. 4:17.
 - b. Rainbow on His head - as a crown (God as covenant-maker, Gen. 9:16-17).
 - c. His face as brilliant as the sun - cf. Rev. 1:16.
 - d. His feet as pillars of fire - cf. Rev. 1:15.
 - (1) His right foot upon the sea?
 - (2) His left foot upon the earth?
- "Speaks of absolute dominion over the entire earth" (Rude) & a universal message.

B. Its **authority** - "a little book"

1. Its character:
 - a. A little book (not *biblion* - 'book', but *bibliaridion* - 'little book' -- cf. our English words 'book' & 'booklet').
 - b. Different than the seven-sealed scroll.
2. Its contents:
 - a. Written authority given to the angel to fulfill his mission??
 - b. Divine revelation, therefore representing all of God's Word.

"It is incontestably clear that in verses 1 & 2 the Lord is emphasizing to John that the prophecy he is receiving has divine origin & divine authority" (Rude).

II. The **Prophesying** of God's Book (:3-7)

A. The **principles** of prophecy (:3-4). [Prophecy is limited]

1. Its lessons (:3) >
 - a. Divine majesty- cry as of a lion's roar (cf. Rev. 5:5; Joel 3:16; & Amos 3:8).
 - b. Divine message - 7 thunders (number of perfection or completion - God's judgment is thorough, leaving nothing undone).
2. Its limitations (:4) > (lesson of Divine mystery).
 - a. God doesn't want man to know everything (cf. date-setting)
 - b. "...while God has revealed much, there are secrets which God has not seen fit to reveal to man at this time." (Walvoord) - cf. Deuteronomy 29:29. [This is the only place in Revelation where John is told not to write; yet there is much speculation as to what they are – though nobody knows!]

- B. The **purpose** of prophecy (:5-7) [Prophecy is certain]
1. To **reveal** God's Sovereignty (:5-6) >
 - a. The angel swears by heaven, earth, & sea: God is Lord & Master over all creation.
 - b. Christ (this angel) is claiming ownership of earth & sea, having purchased it with His own blood (cf. Rev. 5:9).
 2. To **reassure** of God's plan & purpose (to the believer) (:6-7) >
 - a. "*Time no longer*" - "there is nothing more to unfold; there will be no more delay."
 - (1) The events following the 7th trumpet will unfold quickly.
 - (2) The end of God's longsuffering, judgment is culminated & consummated.
 - b. "*To His servants the prophets.*"
 - (1) Reminds them of His kingdom ("*mystery of God*" - His millennial kingdom).
 - (2) "The prediction relates to the full manifestation of the divine power, majesty & holiness of God which will be evident in the glorious return of Christ, the establishments of His millennial kingdom, & the creation of the eternal state which will follow" (Walvoord).
 3. To **rebuke** (reprove) - God's warning & invitation to the unsaved (:6-7) >
 - a. "Knowing the certainty & imminency of judgment, the ungodly ought to repent & turn to the Lord" (Rude).
 - b. God continually demonstrates His love & longsuffering (cf. Rom. 2:4 & II Pet. 3:9).

III. The **Proclaiming** of God's Book (:8-11) [Prophecy has human transmission]

- A. There is a **personal experience** (:8-10).
1. Sweetness of the Word - "*sweet as honey*" (Ezk.3:1-3; Ps. 19:9-10 & 119:103).
 - a. Partaking of the Word at salvation - Rom. 10:17 & I Pet. 1:23.
 - b. Partaking of the Word for sanctification - I Pet. 2:2 & Jer. 15:16.

One must first appropriate the Word for himself before being able to share it with others.
Is the Word of God considered 'sweet as honey' by you?
 2. Bitterness of the Word - (Ezk. 3:1-4 & :14).
 - a. "...its digestion (is) uncomfortable... reflection on the content often focuses on man's rebellion & doom or some other distressing concept" (Rude).
 - b. The Word of God reveals divine judgment upon a wicked & Christ-rejecting world.
- B. There is a **public exhortation** (:11).
1. "*Thou must..*"
 - a. John is commissioned to prophecy again - writing what he has seen even though 'bitter.'
 - b. Every preacher must "faithfully proclaim the Word regardless of its content. The unpleasant declaration of wrath & condemnation is just as necessary as the Gospel & promises of blessing. (Rude).
 2. "*Before many*"
 - a. It is a universal message - for all to hear.
 - b. The Book of Revelation & all of the Bible is not just for one people or nation, but all.

Conclusion: Have you had a personal experience with God's Book? Have you been born again by its power as Romans 1:16 & I Peter 1:23 declare? If so, the Word of God will be sweet to your taste. You will desire it, digest it, & then go out to declare it. As a Christian, when was the last time you shared your faith with an unsaved person? We are **commanded** to be witnesses (Acts 1:8); we are **constrained** to be witnesses (II Corinthians 5:14); & we are **compelled** as witnesses by the Spirit (II Corinthians 5:20). All the prophecies of this Book are true & certain & will come to pass. God used John as His instrument to transmit this Book of Revelation. God desires to use us to give forth His Gospel message today!