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As we reach Revelation 10, it might be useful to review the events thus far as to the Trumpet Judgements and get a sense of where the earth and its occupants are in the Tribulation. We are at the end of the trumpet judgements; the last trumpet judgement introduces the bowl or vial judgements. But just prior to that we have this Chapter 10.

### Trumpet Judgements

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|--|----------------------|
| 1. Hail and fire destroying much plant life  | Revelation 8:7       |
| 2. Death of much of the world's aquatic life | Revelation 8:8-9     |
| 3. Great star falls on earth                 | Revelation 8:10-11   |
| 4. Darkening of sun and moon                 | Revelation 8:12      |
| 5. Demonic locusts that torture unsaved      | Revelation 9:1-11    |
| 6. Demonic Army that kills 1/3 of humanity   | Revelation 9:9-12-21 |
| 7. Calls forth the seven bowl judgements     | Revelation 11:15-19  |

## Revelation 10

### The Angel and the Small Scroll

**1And 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:**

“Another mighty angel; most likely not Christ as in Revelation Christ’s identity is usually quite clear. Revelation 1:13 and 5:6.

This angel is seen from John perspective to be coming down, so John's position has moved from being in heaven to instantly being on the earth.

This angel is clothed in what appeared to be a cloud which denotes this angel's preeminence and proximity to the power of God within the heavenly sanctuary. The same used for "cloud" here is the same word used in Exodus when referring to the "cloud" or God's divine protection moving and sheltering Israel when it left Egypt;

***Exodus 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:***

We are not told who this angel is only that he appears as a mighty to John.

**2And 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,***

The term "little" most likely contrasts the size of the angel in comparison to the size of the book. We are not told what was in the book, so it is useless to speculate. The only thing we know is that it is unknown to man and that in vs 11 John is told that after consuming "eating" the book he must prophesy to many nations.

The angel stood with his feet both on land and in the sea. We have studied prophecies before that revealed the sea referenced “people or nations” and land represented earthly power. So, if this part of the verse is a simile, then it represents this mighty angel intruding into people’s lives or the lives of nations and into the social, political and economic powers of the earth at this time.

**3**And cried with a loud voice, as *when a lion roareth*: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

The sound of a lion roaring is symbolic of the extreme volume that was used by the angel. The loud angel’s voice is accompanied by seven peals of thunder. Seven of course meaning completeness so in some sense what John sees is the bringing to a close some aspect of relationship between God and unsaved humanity. Even though loud, there was a message that was spoken in John’s hearing.

**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.

The context of this verse seems to indicate multiple personages when it says; “....the seven thunders had uttered their voices...” It then goes from plural voices to singular voice; likely Jesus commanding John to seal up what the thundering voices said.

The only reason I can think of to have John NOT write what was said would be for maybe 2 reasons.

1. It revealed a truth that God was not ready to allow mankind on earth to see at this time.
2. This Word from God was of such a nature that it would alter the course of events that were set out to occur.

Whatever the reason God had it is His Will and we need to accept that.

**5**And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, **6**And swore 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:

Another indication that angels as envoys of God are given special latitude by God contrary to what God has told man. This angel lifts up his hands in recognition of the Mighty God of Creation, fully recognizing God's absolute preeminence in all that we know and see and in all that we do not know and cannot see. This angel then swears by all that God has created and by the very essence and throne of God Almighty.

You and I on the other hand are cautioned about such boldness;

**Matthew 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:**

Jesus Himself addressed the notion of swearing on something that belongs to God;

**Matthew 23: [16](#)Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! [17](#)Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? [18](#)And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. [19](#)Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? [20](#)Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. [21](#)And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. [22](#)And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.**

So, in a declarative sentence Jesus validates that what this angel did was with full authority and allowance by God to swear that what was to come is generated by none other than God Himself.

But what was it that this angel had revealed to John?

We don't know exactly yet but we have an inkling of an idea in the previous and following sentence.

From vs 6 the Angel declares:

***“....that there should be time no longer:”***

Time to God is of little value; He is eternal, in other words there is no point in God's existence that is closer to the beginning than to the end.

However, God set up time at the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. God determined in His Creation the ability to calculate time by the rising and setting of the sun, the changes in seasons, all culminating in the value of time to mankind. God is now declaring that ***"...there should be time no longer."***

I think what God is saying is that the importance to mankind and one of the divisions between God and man has been time. Those left on earth at this time are now at the end of the essence of the meaning of time. They have run out of it.

**7But 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.**

We often think highly of our knowledge of God's Word, believing that we have this immense knowledge of God and His Kingdom. In reality we know so little of God and His Power and Might. I think it is like looking into space, deep space and realizing in that instant how infinitesimal we are in comparative size to all that God has created; not in importance to God but in physical size.

I think the same can be said of our knowledge and understanding and I think it is why Paul said;

***1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.***

There is a lot I would like to know but suffice it to say the most important thing for mankind to know this Day is; Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified. With that knowledge and love that comes from it we have all eternity to learn the other stuff.

**8And 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.**

The voice from Heaven likely God or Jesus John tells us what he is told, unlike what the Angel says in peals of thunder.

This image is of John relatively small like the book in comparison to the size or eminence of this “mighty” angel. John is told to go and take the little book.

**9And 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.**

In dealing with God and those that serve Him there is very little ambiguity and obedience is critical. John was told to go to this

mighty angel, tell him to give you the book and John did exactly that.

John told the angel to give him the book which the angel immediately did. The angel then tells him to eat the book. Undoubtedly that is what happened but metaphorically John was to consume what was within the pages of the book. And he will shortly be told to prophesy about that. However, the illustrative nature of what John was told to do is satisfactory for us to understand. He was to study this book with diligence and take the knowledge he would gain from it and reveal things of God to mankind.

The idea of John eating the book would reveal that John was not given permission to hand the book to others but to consume its contents and reveal the contents in what one might call the Book of Revelation or any other Title God ordained.

**10And 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. 11And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.**

This then is John's commission that he was to eat or in reality consume the contents of the book. The contents would on its face seem pleasing to John and mankind but as John and mankind

would get into the details they would seem bitter to them. It is likely that this book contains the history again of mankind and specifically Israeli Nation. There is a sweetness that cannot be matched in an obedient relationship with God; however, being outside of obedience is a bitter experience and if not resolved and repented of will lead to eternal death and separation from God and Christ.

John was to consume and understand the implications of whatever God had written in this little book and he was to take it to the world. My sense is that it resulted in either the book of Revelation or as yet some unknown revelation that God has planned for mankind.

One reason I believe it is referring at least in part to Revelation is;

***Revelation 1: [1](#)The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: [2](#)Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. [3](#)Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.***

The Book of Revelation along with Daniel are identified in a survey as the two most interesting books of the Bible.

## #1 – Revelation & Daniel

*What is more interesting than our past than our future? The whole reason we learn about the past is so that we can understand the future. The book of Daniel mainly follows Daniel and the supernatural events that surrounded his life, such as his 3 friends who were thrown into a furnace and were miraculously unharmed, Daniel in the lion's den, interpreting dreams and heavenly messages, and angelic visitations. The book of Daniel ends with an angel telling him about the future when the messiah and the man who we call antichrist comes.*

*The book of Revelation is the most interesting and probably the most debated book of the bible. It mainly focuses on the futuristic events of what will happen in Heaven and Earth, sometimes by being literal and sometimes by being symbolic. It focuses on the church and their tribulation, the Anti-Christ ruling the world, plagues on the world, the messiah taking the world back, the resurrection, hell, and eternity. The book of Daniel and Revelation are very closely related in topic.*

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