

### 23. The Message of the Little Book

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain how the demons showed that their goal is the same as the goal of Satan – to steal, to kill, and to destroy. In this topic, we will see that John was told to review the judgments that have happened up to this point in Revelation before writing about the judgments that will come after those about which he had already written.

Revelation 10:1-4 says, “I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow *was* on his head, his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and *his* left *foot* on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.’” Instead, we see that John saw another mighty angel. This angel came to tell John about the seven thunders judgments.

First, we are given a description of this mighty angel. We see that he is clothed with a cloud. This means that a cloud covered the main part of his body. However, his head could be clearly seen. We see that a rainbow was on his head. Genesis 9:16 says, “The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* on the earth.” This angel is bringing judgment to the earth but the rainbow is a reminder that God had made an everlasting covenant that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. We have seen that demons were released and allowed to carry out the previous judgments. Now, as God prepares to judge directly, He gives this reminder that He will keep His covenant.

We also see that the face of this angel is as bright as the sun. In addition, his feet are like pillars of fire. Nehemiah 9:19 explains the purpose of the pillar of fire in the Old Testament, when that verse says, “Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, to lead them on the road; nor the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way they should go.” Then, Exodus 14:24 says, “Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.” These pillars of fire may have been an indication of the fact that God will bring judgment on the rebellious, while, at the same time, remembering His mercy to the tribulation saints.

In Revelation 5:2, we saw that a strong angel asked, “Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” Later in that chapter, we saw that Christ opened the scroll. Now, we see that this mighty angel has a little book open in his hand. This is the scroll that Christ opened and we saw, in Revelation 5, that this is the title or deed to the earth. The mighty angel places his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land because after the judgments that are coming Satan and his followers will be judged and the creation that God created will then be ruled only by Christ. This mighty angel will speak with a loud voice that

is like the roaring of a lion and there will be seven thunders. These seven thunders are a set of seven judgments that God will bring on the earth. John was about to write about these seven judgments when he heard a voice from heaven telling him not to write what will happen in these judgments. God will reveal these judgments when they happen.

Revelation 10:5-7 says, “The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.” Here, we see that as the mighty angel stands with one foot on the sea and the other on the land that he will raise his hand toward heaven to make an oath. Daniel 12:7-9 shows us that this is the way that a person or angel makes an oath before God. That verse says, “Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these *things* shall be finished. Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, ‘My lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?’ And he said, ‘Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.’” Daniel heard about these same events but was not given understanding of them.

However, in these verses, in Revelation, we see that the mighty angel said there should be delay no longer. This means that the rest of the judgments in the book of Revelation are going to come quickly. The mighty angel said that the seventh angel is ready to sound his trumpet. Once the first six trumpet judgments are complete there will no longer be any delay. We see that once the seventh trumpet begins to sound that the mystery of God will be finished. These things were a mystery to Daniel and the other Old Testament writers because they were not revealed to them. However, John is told that there will no longer be any delay so that all of the judgments of God against Satan and those who follow Him can be completed. Every judgment mentioned in the Old Testament will be completed by the end of Revelation 20. This means that the final plagues of the Day of the Lord will be fulfilled and the prayers of the saints will be answered.

Revelation 10:8-11 says, “Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, ‘Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.’ So I went to the angel and said to him, ‘Give me the little book.’ And he said to me, ‘Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.’ Then I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, ‘You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.’” Here, we see that John was instructed to eat the little book.

John was instructed, by the voice that spoke from heaven, to go and take the little book that was open in the hand of the angel. As mentioned earlier, the little book was the scroll with the seven seals that John was told Christ was worthy to open in Revelation 5. John went to the angel and asked the angel to give him the little book. The angel then told John that he was to take the little

book and eat it. The angel also told him that the little book would make his stomach bitter. However, when he first ate the little book it would be as sweet as honey to his mouth. John took the little book and ate it. Just as the angel had said, it was as sweet as honey in his mouth. However, after he had eaten it, the little book became bitter in his stomach.

Two of the Old Testament prophets help us to understand what happened when John ate the little book. Jeremiah was suffering persecution for speaking the Word of the Lord to the people. Jeremiah 15:15-16 says, “O LORD, You know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your enduring patience, do not take me away. Know that for Your sake I have suffered rebuke. Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.” Jeremiah was being persecuted for speaking for God. He wanted God to judge those who were persecuting him. Then, Jeremiah says that he ate the Word of God and the Word brought rejoicing to his heart because he was reminded that He was called by the name of the Lord. That Word will always bring joy.

Ezekiel was also told to eat a scroll. Ezekiel 3:1-4 says, “Moreover He said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.’ So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.’ So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. Then He said to me: ‘Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.’” The message that Ezekiel was given was as sweet as honey when he first ate it. However, later in the chapter, God said that his own people, Israel, would refuse to listen and make their hearts hard. John was also given a message that he was to write. This message gave hope to the tribulation saints. However, it warned of judgment for those who would reject. The scroll contained the seal, the trumpet, the thunder and the bowl judgments. That part made his stomach bitter as he thought about what would happen to those who rejected the Lord.

The voice from heaven also told John, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.” Here, we see that John was to prophesy again. This was to give mankind one final warning and opportunity to repent. In Revelation 7:9, we see that there will be a great multitude that have never heard that will repent during the tribulation. That verse says, “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.” We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand and explain that God will continue to offer mercy until the last moment. Even though many will choose to reject that message, many will also repent. May the Lord richly bless you as you encourage your children to continue to invite people living now to repent.