

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #9
Revelation 10 – The Angel and the Book
(9/6/09 PM)

Revelation is not necessarily in chronological order. The judgments appear to advance the narrative. (Refer to overview handout)

Last week we saw the opening of the 7th Seal in chapter 8. The trumpets do not follow the seventh seal they are the seventh seal. This seal contains all of the trumpet and bowl judgments. It seems best to see them as telescoping out in consecutive order. The seventh seal contains all of God's final judgments to be visited upon earth in the Tribulation Period. These judgments will most likely occur in the 2nd half of the Tribulation. (Outline Map of the Tribulation).

(10:1-11:14) is parenthetical. "I saw" marks again the beginning of a new vision. Earlier we saw that there was an interlude between the 6th and 7th Seal Judgments. (8:1) "When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." Here there is another interlude between the 6th and 7th Trumpet Judgments. Bruce Metzger, "The purpose of the interlude in each of the seven cycles is largely dramatic. With the completion of the sixth in each series we hold our breath in anticipation of the end. But this dramatic writer does not allow the end to come with such rapidity. Each time he makes us wait before we see the seventh of the series."

There Will Be No Interlude between the 6th and 7th Bowl Judgments

When the 7th Trumpet sounds the Bowl Judgments will occur in rapid succession which precede the coming the Christ.

1. The Identity of the Mighty Angel (1)

Not One of the Seven Trumpet Angels

This angel John had apparently not seen before. Some identify this angel as Jesus but that is not likely.

• **The obvious comparison**

The word "another" means of the same kind. Jesus would not be described this way. He did appear in the O.T. as the angel of Jehovah. After the incarnation that title is never ascribed to Him. The N.T. never refers to Jesus as an angel.

• **The absence of a title**

Every appearance of Jesus in Revelation is accompanied by an identifying title. (1:5)

"Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead."

(5:5) "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David"

(19:11) "Faithful and true"

(19:13) "The Word of God"

(19:16) "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"

• **The oath of the angel**

The angel swears by "Him who lives forever and ever" (6). Jesus being God would swear by Himself.

• **The coming from heaven**

This angel comes from heaven to earth. The second coming of Christ prophesied in scripture occurs in chapter 19.

John first notes about his appearance that he is “clothed with a cloud”. The word can also be translated “wrapped”. Like a royal robe this angel is draped with a cloud. This could symbolize his power. He has “a rainbow on his head”. We saw in the vision of God’s throne that the rainbow is an emblem of God’s mercy. This would be an encouragement to the saved remnant still alive during the tribulation. He reflects God’s glory and holiness as “his face was like the sun and his feet like pillars of fire”.
This Angel Is the Herald of God’s Consummating Judgments

2. The Cry of the Mighty Angel (2-4)

A Dramatic Announcement

- **The opened scroll**

He has in his hand, “a little book open” (2). The scroll could be a smaller version of the seven sealed scroll. It could be a different scroll. The scroll was open and would remain open. That fact indicates it in some way unveils the terrible judgments yet to come.

The Judgments Coming Upon the World Are Decreed By God and Cannot Be Altered

- **His majestic stance**

(2) “And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land”

To John this angel would have appeared to be gigantic. This symbolizes that God is about to judge the entire world. He is sovereign over all and is about to reclaim what is rightfully His.

Psalm 24:1, “The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.”

The Final Trumpet Containing the Bowl Judgments Will Encompass the Entire World

- **The hidden judgments** (3-4)

What the angel said is most likely recorded in verse 6. His cry was either answered by or occurred along with the seven thunders. Thunder in scripture is often a herald of judgment. These are apparently seven voices so loud they sound like thunder. John understood exactly what they said and was about to write it down. As in [Daniel 12:9](#) no explanation is given.

These Are the Only Sealed Words in Revelation

- **The angel’s oath** (5-7)

The angel swears by the creator. Though men deny His creative work they will be forced one day to acknowledge it. Since God is the Creator He is sovereign over all His creation. Now God sovereignly declares through His angel “there should be delay no longer”. The final judgments of the “seventh angel” sounding the seventh trumpet is about to occur. “The mystery of God” is God’s complete plan of redemption and judgment. This will include the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom. [Habakkuk 2:14](#), “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

His Longsuffering with Sinners Has Come to An End

3. The Command of the Mighty Angel (8-11)

John’s First Command Is from Heaven

(8) “Go take the little book which is open”

This is most likely the voice of God. This is the same voice that commanded John not to write, “the voice which I heard from heaven”. The angel’s stance is now referred to again for the third time, “who stands on the sea and on the earth” (8).

- **John’s symbolic action** (9)

“Take and eat it”. This symbolizes internalizing and absorbing God’s Word. Jeremiah was given a similar command. [Jeremiah 15:16](#), “Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” We also need to understand that this is God’s Word and it will come to pass.

This Should Be the Response of Every Believer to the Book of Revelation

- **John’s symbolic reaction (10)**

“...sweet as honey in my mouth...my stomach became bitter”

Like John as believers we are excited to see the return and vindication of Jesus before an unbelieving world. At the same time we see the horrific judgments God will pour upon the world.

We See Both the New Jerusalem and the Lake of Fire

- **The angel’s final command (11)**

John is being commissioned a second time to write the vision of Revelation. He will be given further visions concerning the events, nations, and characters of the tribulation period.

What John Is About to See Will Be More Terrible and Glorious than What Has Gone Before