

## Revelation 10

Sunday, 6-7-20

Last time we were in Revelation, we covered Chapter 9.

In Chapter 9 we saw the Fifth and Sixth Trumpet sound also called "Woes".

In the Fifth seal, we saw a star (which had fallen) from heaven to earth. To him was given (limited authority) the key to the bottomless pit- the abusso.

### **Who owns the key?**

Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

Rev 1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

This fallen star uses the key he has been given to open the pit. Out of this pit will come two armies.

In the Fifth Trumpet Army 1 is a great horde of supernatural locusts that will torment the world like scorpions for 5 months but will not kill them. In fact, the torment will be so great that men will beg for death, but it will flee from them. This horde is intelligent, has a mission, and has a king! Abaddon, Apollyon.

The 6th Trumpet releases four angels (bad guys!) from the Euphrates river. They have been prepped for the hour and day and month and year.

This is Army 2: a force of 200 Million that will kill a third of mankind. Knowing that 1/4 of the population has already been killed, when this army has done its work over half of the population of the earth will be dead!

Rev 9:20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

Rev 9:21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

These **four things** are in rampant display in our world today:

**Murders- abortion**

**Sorceries - pharmakeia**

**Sexual immorality-** Do we even need to discuss the list????

**Thefts-** this isn't just personal theft! The organized theft of personal rights, property rights, and moral rights is theft just the same!

God doesn't expect judgment to cause men to repent. He expects **GRACE** to cause men to repent!

**Judgment is reserved for those who reject the GRACE of His Salvation through the Cross!**

Now to Chapter 10:

Rev 10:1 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.

There are 76 references to **angels** in Revelation. The word simply means **messenger**. Whether it's an angelic being, fallen or righteous, or a human messenger, or otherwise is depicted in the context in which the word is used.

The question as to who this angel is, is not without controversy. Many good Bible scholars disagree on this topic.

While I'm certainly not a Bible scholar, my opinion is that this is Jesus.

**Let's look at the description and the context.**

Rev 10:1 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.

OT appearances of Christ displayed Him clothed in clouds:

Ex 16:10, 19:9 & 18, 24:15

Psalms 104:3

NT references to Jesus clothed in clouds:

Matthew 17:1-5

Mat 17:1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

Mat 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Mat 17:3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

Mat 17:4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Luke 21:27

Luke 21:25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring.

Luke 21:26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21:27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Revelation 1:7

Rev 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**This mighty angel of Rev 10:1 also has a rainbow on His head:**

Rev 10:1 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.

**Reference to the rainbow surrounding the throne in Rev 4:5?**

**What is the rainbow and who does it belong to?**

God's Covenant with all living creatures that He would never again destroy the earth with water.

It's GOD's rainbow! He owns it, He created it, He administers His covenant, and He keeps the sign of the covenant before His throne at all times.

**This angel shines like the sun.**

Rev 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

(Don't forget the Transfiguration where Jesus shone like the sun!)

**He has feet like pillars of fire.**

Rev 1:15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters.

**He roars like a lion (vs 3).**

Rev 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to lose its seven seals."

Among those 76 references to angels, there are three distinct angels mentioned.

7:2

Rev 7:2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

This **angel has the seal of God and is holding back judgment** until the servants of God are sealed. We saw that these servants are the 144K Jews from the 12 Tribes of the Children of Israel.

8:5

Rev 8:1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

Rev 8:3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Rev 8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

**This angel is interceding and officiating the prayers of the saints.**

10:1-7

**This angel is exercising authority on the earth and sea.**

Rev 10:2 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,

Psalms 8:6

Psalm 8:4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

Psa 8:5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

Psa 8:6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

Psa 8:7 All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field,

Psa 8:8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

Psa 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!

Hebrews 2:8 quotes this passage specifically in reference to Jesus.

Rev 10:3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roar. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Rev 10:4 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."

**This is the ONLY portion of Revelation that is sealed! We are not to know what the 7 voices uttered; speculation is meaningless because it is sealed!**

Rev 10:5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

Rev 10:6 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,

If this angel is Jesus, he's swearing an oath by Himself, which seems problematic.

**However, has God ever sworn by Himself?**

YES!

He swore by Himself when He made His covenant with Abraham (Hebrews 6:13-20)

He swore by Himself when He declared His Son to be the high priest (Hebrews 7:20-22)

He swore by Himself to David that the Messiah would come from David's line (Acts 2:29-30)

This angel is declaring "that there should be delay no longer".

What delay?

The delay of judgment for the sake of saving as many as possible.

2Pe 3:1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),

2Pe 3:2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

2Pe 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

2Pe 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

2Pe 3:5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

2Pe 3:6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 98

### **The angel is saying "Time's up!"**

The request for vengeance by the martyred saints in Rev 6:10-11 is about to be answered!

Rev 10:7 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.

What mystery? The mystery of evil in the world appearing to go unpunished and unanswered!

The actual, physical, visual reign of God on the earth is a coming reality.

Rev 10:8 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."

Rev 10:9 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."

Rev 10:10 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.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel both had this experience.

The Word of God (prophecy in particular) can be sweet and exciting to us at face value, but the more we learn of the utter sinfulness of man, the results of our sin and failure, and the judgment that will come as a result of rebelliousness the harder it hits us.

It's exciting to think of the return of Jesus and the setting up of His kingdom, but at the same time it's heartbreaking because we all have friends, family, and loved ones who are on the wrong side and will suffer.

Eze 2:8 But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

Eze 2:9 Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.

Eze 2:10 Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe.

**What was the little scroll in the angel's hand?**

I believe it was the Book of the Revelation!

Rev 10:11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

John was to prophesy again (we're at the midway point of the 7-year period here) but first he had to digest it!

It's not enough to know the Word with our head. It's not enough just to feel with our heart.

**We MUST know the truth (understanding) for the truth to make us free (new heart in Christ).**

We, like John, must eat the Word of God and let it do its work of converting our minds and hearts into the image and likeness of Christ.

Sometimes it's sweet, sometimes it's bitter, but ALWAYS it's good!