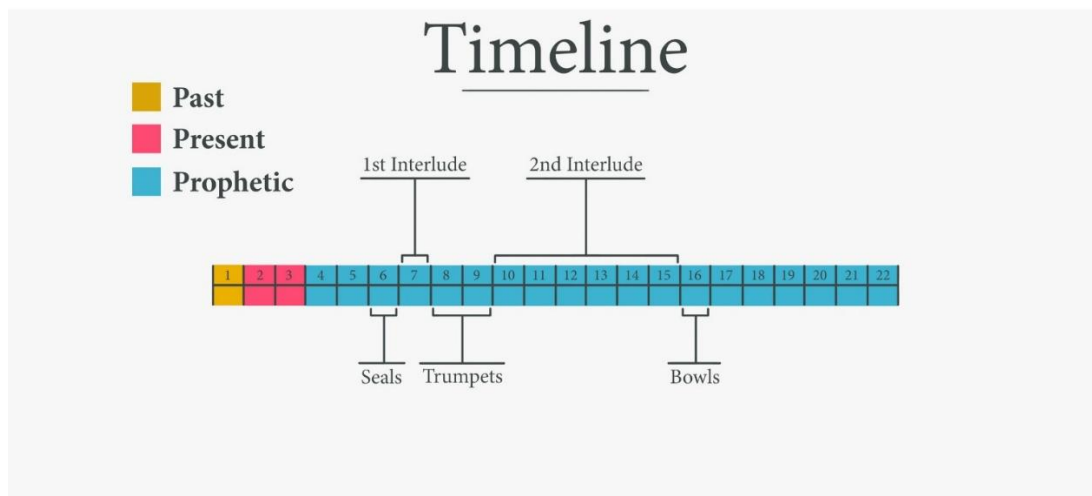


WEEK 15: CHAPTER 10

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 10

- In Revelation 9:13 the 6th angel sounded with their trumpet.
- After 1/3 of mankind was killed by the three plagues, the rest of mankind, who were not killed, responded by worshipping the demons, idols they had created, and continuing in sin.
- As we now come to chapter 10, it is again another interlude. This time between the 6th and 7th trumpet.
- Taking the chapters in Revelation as sequential (progression) rather than simultaneous (recapitulation), we understand that the 7 seal, the 7 trumpet, and the 7 bowl judgments move the action forward in a chronological fashion, while the intervening chapters (chaps. 7 and 10-15) form interludes which describe things happening during those judgments but not necessarily in a chronological way.



- “Beginning with chapter 10 a parenthetical section is introduced which continues through 11:14. Like chapter 7 it does not advance the narrative but presents other facts which contribute to the total prophetic scene.” (Walvoord)
- This interlude between chapter 10-15 is intended to provide comfort and assurance before the final and most severe bowl judgments of God’s wrath.
- Not only comfort, but these interludes allow the readers of Revelation to know certain things which are taking place during the tribulation.
- “These parenthetical passages, simply, contain explanatory matters about things that will transpire, but were not contained in the revealing of the seal, trumpet and vial judgments. However, understanding the reason

for these parenthesis-interruptions is necessary in order to bring the reader up to date on what else is taking place during the revealing of these judgments in the Revelation.”¹

- “During the interludes God comforts His people with the knowledge that He has not forgotten them, and that they will ultimately be victorious. That is especially true in the longest...of the three interludes, this one between the sixth and seventh trumpets...Believers alive during that time will endure the unimaginable horrors of a demon-assaulted, sin-mad world...they will fear being swept away by the divine judgments that are ravaging the earth. God will comfort and reassure them that He has not forgotten them and that He still controls events and protects His own.”²

CHAPTER 10:1-4 ~ THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND HIS BOOK

Revelation 10:1-4 “I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; {2} and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; {3} and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. {4} When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.”



- We have the introduction of “another” angel. This is not one of the angels who sounded a trumpet nor one of the angels around the throne.

¹ http://www.netbiblestudy.com/00_cartimages/Revelation-lesson%206.pdf

² John MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11*, 278.

- In biblical Greek there are two words for *another*.
 - Allos (ἄλλος) which means another of the same kind.
 - John 14:16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you *another* Helper, that He may be with you forever...”
 - By using *allos*, Jesus indicates the Spirit is a separate person but of the same essence and quality as Himself.
 - Heteros (ἕτερος) which means another of a different kind.
 - Galatians 1:6-7 “I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a *different (heteros)* gospel; {7} which is really not *another (allos)*; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.”
 - Heteros: The false gospel was of a different kind.
 - Allos: It was not a similar or legitimate version of the true gospel.
- Why is this important to understand in this passage?
- There are some who would say this is Jesus because of the similar description that is used in Revelation 1:12-17.
- But, the word for *another* in 10:1 is *allos*, therefore we know that it is an angel, like the rest of the angels mentioned, but different in person.
- Since Jesus is never referred to as an angel in the NT (He is the Angel of the Lord in the OT), we know that this cannot be Jesus.
- Furthermore, the entire Bible never teaches that Jesus is present on Earth during the Tribulation period.
- This strong angel comes down out of heaven to complete the task before it.
- “There are many instances of this in Revelation where angels are made the ministers of God for both the punishment of the wicked and the protection of the righteous. In chapter 12 Michael the archangel is mentioned by name as contending against Satan and the wicked angels and casting them out of heaven. Some have concluded that the description given in chapter 10 must be a reference to Michael as the chief of all the holy angels. Though the angel is presented as one having great majesty and power, there is no clear evidence that his function or his person is more than that of a created angel to whom has been entrusted great authority.” (Walvoord)
- “The description of the angel...is in very graphic terms. He is declared to be “clothed with a cloud” and has “a rainbow upon his head.” His face is described as glorious as the sun and his feet compared to pillars of fire. All of this, however, is introductory to the point of primary importance that in his hand is a little book which is opened.” (Walvoord)

- The angel would have been glorious in appearance and most likely something that John had never seen before.
- Saying “clothed with a cloud”, clouds are often associated with the appearance of someone from heaven (Dan 7:13; 1 Thess 4:17) and the judgment associated with Christ’s return (Matt 24:30)
- The “rainbow upon his head” represents God’s covenant mercy in the midst of judgment
- His “face like the sun” brilliant, radiant glory
- His “feet like pillars of fire” perhaps unmoved, firm resolve to stamp out His judgment on the earth
- “John sees him in a most dramatic pose, with his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot upon the earth, implying a position of power and authority over the entire earth.” (Walvoord)
- “This seems to present an image of conquest and to relate the angel and his ministry to God’s purpose of taking possession of the entire world (land and sea), which will be worked out in the tribulation period.”³
- Verse 2, the strong angel has a little book.
- We don’t know for sure what this little book is, but there are plenty of suggestions.
- From a covenantal view (which is incorrect), the book is the gospel message.
 - John represents the church and the church must “internalize” and “digest” God’s truth before they are to go out and share it with others.
 - The sweet and bitter is the joy of the gospel and the judgment for those who are lost.
 - The importance of this interpretation for their system is that in chapter 11 God appoints two witnesses to prophesy for 1260 days.
 - From the covenantal view, these are not real people but the church, right now, sharing the gospel in the world.
- From the dispensational view (correct), this little scroll is not the gospel nor is it the entire Bible.
 - John does not represent the church then or now; he is merely a witness to what is going to take place.
 - Personally, I believe this little book is the same as the 7-sealed scroll from chapter 5.
 - Now, as 10:2 says, it is fully open.
 - The reason it is now (in John’s day) fully open is because the time for the final act of judgment from God upon unrepentant humanity has come. (in vv. 5-7)
- “The contents of the little book are nowhere revealed in Revelation, but they seem to represent in this vision the written authority given to the angel to fulfill his mission. As John beholds the vision with the angel standing upon the sea and the earth, the angel cries with a loud voice like a lion’s roar. In answer to this cry of the angel, seven thunders are heard.” (Walvoord)

³ Charles Ryrie, *Revelation*, 94.

- After hearing the thunder and the loud voice, John was going to keep writing down the things that he had heard but was stopped (v. 4).
 - There are mysteries which God chooses not to reveal to us.
 - Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”
 - 2 Corinthians 12:3-4 “And I know how such a man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows-- {4} was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.”

CHAPTER 10:5-7 ~ THE END IS NEAR

Revelation 10:5-7 “Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, {6} and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer, {7} but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.”

- “One of the indications that the angel portrayed in this vision is not Christ Himself is the fact that he swears by God, implying that God is greater than the angel.” (Walvoord)
- As the angel takes this oath, listen to the description of God:
 - Lives forever and ever: Eternality and Authority
 - Created heaven, earth, the sea, and all things in them: Sovereignty and Power
 - These descriptions of God may be pointing to the fact that the scroll which John saw in the right hand of the angel in verse 2 was the deed to the earth. Now, as the angel makes his oath to the one who rightly owns the earth, the final consummation of the age is coming.
- “Thus, abruptly, is brushed aside the foolishness of men who try to create a universe out of resident forces apart from God. As the Creator, God is also the sovereign Ruler who can declare that there shall be no more time, that is, no more delay.” (Walvoord)
- What did the angel swear to...*that there will be delay no longer.*
- “This expression (Gr., *chronos*) has sometimes been misunderstood to mean that time will cease. The expression here, however, does not refer to time as a succession of chronological events; rather it means that time has run out, that is, that there will be no further delay. The end is now to be consummated. Even in eternity, there will be a time relationship in that one event will follow another.” (Walvoord)
- This is the core of the angelic announcement...*time is up.*

- The fulfillment of God’s mighty and righteous judgment will occur “in the days of the voice of the seventh angel.” This is a reference to the sounding of the 7th trumpet.
 - When the 7th trumpet is heard, it will unleash the final series of bowl judgments.
 - Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’”
- John then says in verse 7 “...the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.”
- I believe there are two parts to this mystery that culminate into one act from God.
- I believe this is pointing towards the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom *and* at the same time, God’s answer to the question, *how long O Lord?*
- When the judgments are complete, the 1000-year reign of Christ is going to begin.
 - This is what all Christ’s servants look forward to:
 - **Matthew 6:10** “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”
 - **Acts 1:6-8** “So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ {7} He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; {8} but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.’”
 - This will also answer the question, *how long O Lord?*
 - **Job 21:7** “Why do the wicked still live, Continue on, also become very powerful?”
 - Probably the 1st question regarding perceived injustice. This question may have paved the way for later biblical understanding that justice is not always met this side of eternity; but nothing will slip past God’s righteous gaze.
 - **Psalms 94:3-5** “How long shall the wicked, O LORD, How long shall the wicked exult? {4} They pour forth words, they speak arrogantly; All who do wickedness vaunt themselves. {5} They crush Your people, O LORD, And afflict Your heritage.”
 - **Jeremiah 12:1** “Righteous are You, O LORD, that I would plead my case with You; Indeed I would discuss matters of justice with You: Why has the way of the wicked prospered? Why are all those who deal in treachery at ease?”
- **Where was this preached to His servants, the prophets?**
- “It is often overlooked, however, that the mystery is said to have been “declared to his servants the prophets” (v. 7). The mystery of God which is declared as subject to fulfillment is unfolded therefore in the Old Testament in the many passages which speak of the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. The

prediction is related to the full manifestation of the divine power, majesty, and holiness of God which will be evident in the glorious return of Christ, the establishment of His millennial kingdom, and the creation of the eternal state which will follow. (Walvoord)

- **Micah 4:1-4** “And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. {2} Many nations will come and say, ‘Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.’ For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. {3} And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. {4} Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.”
- **Isaiah 65:20** “No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed.”
- **Amos 9:13-15** “Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved. {14} "Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. {15} "I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them," Says the LORD your God.”
- **Zechariah 12:10** “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”
- **Zechariah 14:16-17** “Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them.”
- These all have common components that make the timing to be the Millennial Kingdom.

- There is still something happening that can't take place in heaven (mourning, death, punishment, etc.), but, there is also a component which has not happened yet (youth dying at 100 y/o, no more training for war, great mourning in Jerusalem, etc.)
- This points to a time that has not happened, but is not heaven...therefore, it is the 1000-year reign (Rev. 19).
- “To believers living at that time in a world overrun by demons, murder, sexual immorality, drug abuse, thefts, and unparalleled natural disasters, the realization that God’s glorious plan is on schedule, the promised kingdom is near.... will bring great comfort and hope in the midst of judgment.”⁴

CHAPTER 10:8-11

- Revelation 10:8-11 “Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, ‘Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.’ {9} So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, ‘Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey’ {10} I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. {11} And they said to me, ‘You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.’”
- For the 3rd time, we are reminded that the angel is on both the sea and the earth...complete authority.
- John hears the heavenly voice and it tells him to go and get the book. He is then directed to eat it.
- It is both sweet and bitter...John is both delighted and distressed.
- “This experience of John naturally raises a question concerning the meaning of his eating the little book. No interpretation of the experience of John is given in the Scriptures, but it is obvious that the symbolism is supposed to convey meaning without necessary comment. John by eating the book partakes of its content, and in his act of obedience appropriates the statements, promises, and affirmations contained in the book.” (Walvoord)
- This points to God’s Word, **Psalm 19:9-10** “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. {10} They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.”
- “All who love Jesus Christ can relate to John’s ambivalence. Believers long for Christ to return in glory, for Satan to be destroyed, and the glorious kingdom of our Lord to be set up on earth, in which He will rule in universal sovereignty and glory while establishing in the world righteousness, truth, and peace. But they, like Paul (Rom. 9:1-3), mourn bitterly over the judgment of the ungodly.”⁵

⁴ MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11*, 286-287

⁵ *Ibid.*, 288.