

## What Must Take Place After This

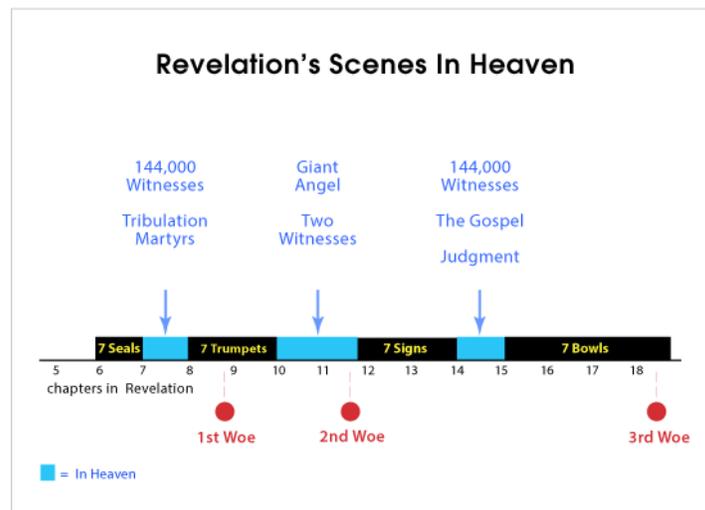
(The Mighty Angel & the Little Book)

**Text:** Revelation 10

**Main Idea:** A mighty angel announces midway through the Tribulation that the time for the consummation of the ages has arrived!

**Introduction:** Chapter 10-15 is an \_\_\_\_\_ **interlude** \_\_\_\_\_.

Sequence of Events in Revelation 6-20
Main Action: Revelation 6 (6 seals)
Intermission between the 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> seals – Revelation 7
Main action Returns: Revelation 8-9 (7 <sup>th</sup> seal which contains the 7 Trumpets)
Intermission between the 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Trumpets – Revelation 10-15
Main Action Resumes: Revelation 16 (seven bowls)
Intermission describing the destruction of Babylon the Great – Revelation 17-18
Main Action Restarts: Revelation 19-20 (Second Coming & Millennial Kingdom)



### 1. Who is the Mighty Angel? (v. 1)

- He is mighty and \_\_\_\_\_ **distinct** \_\_\_\_\_ from the 7 angels who sound the 7 trumpets.
- Since his description has similarities of Christ in Rev 1:12-17, some have identified this angel as Jesus Christ appearing to Israel like He did in the Old Testament (Gen 16:7). The fact that this angel is clothed with a cloud reveals the “well-known badge of Jehovah’s presence.” (Rev 1:7)
- However, there are 3 clues that seem to indicate that this is \_\_\_\_\_ **NOT** \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

1) The use of the Greek word (**allos** which means another of the **same** kind, as opposed to **heteros** which means another of a **different** kind) identifies this angel as one exactly like the previously mentioned trumpet angels in Revelation 9.

## Another *allos or heteros*

*def* allos: different but same sort  
heteros: of a different sort

2) Jesus is never referred to as an **angel** in the book of Revelation. He is given many names and titles but angel is not one of them. When Jesus appears in the book of Revelation there is never any doubt about who He is.

Furthermore, while the pre-incarnate Christ appeared in the OT as an angel of the Lord, there is no example of Christ being referred to as an angel in the NT.

3) This angel “swore by Him who lives forever and ever.” God has sworn by Himself in Heb 6:13-14 and makes it clear that He was doing so. But in this passage, it doesn’t make sense that Jesus would swear in this way. Since He is God, it seems as though the risen glorified Lord Jesus would swear by Himself as well.

4) Other strong angels who are clearly not identified with Christ appear in Revelation 5:2, 18:21. Since other angels are designated in this fashion, there is no reason to identify this angel as Jesus.

5) This angel came down out of heaven to the earth. If this were Jesus, this would be a **second** coming of Christ to the earth unforeseen elsewhere in Scripture, and inconsistent with the clear biblical descriptions of the second coming of Christ (Matt 24:30, 25:31, 2 Thess 1:7-8).

6) Since Scripture describes other angels having the same splendor, it appears that this is simply a mighty angel (Ez 28:11-15, Dan 10:5-6).

• The angel’s description is spectacular.

1) He is first mighty.

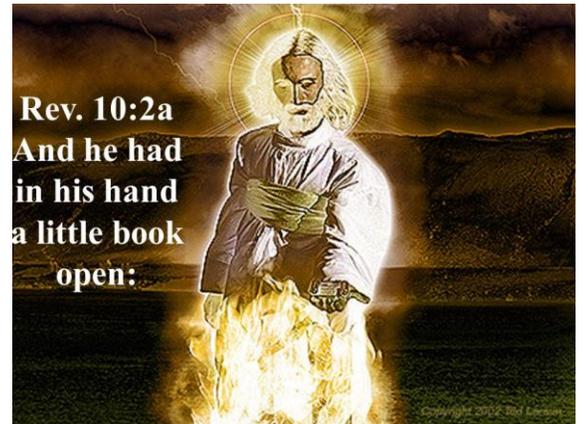
2) He comes down out of heaven: He is sent by God! He has come to fulfill the administration of God in the affairs of men.

3) He is clothed with a **cloud**, wearing the drapery of the sky over his mighty shoulders symbolizing power, majesty, glory and the fact that he comes bringing judgment.



4) He also has a rainbow on his head. This multicolored spectrum surrounded the head of the angel (like the throne of God in Rev 4:3) as a sign of God's mercy to God's people in the midst of judgment much like the rainbow God promised to put in the sky after the flood (Gen 9:12-16).

5) His face was like the sun. He was brilliant, far more so than Moses in Ex 34:29-35, but not near as brilliant as the Shekinah glory of God who "dwells in unapproachable light whom no man has seen or can see" (1 Tim 6:16, Ex 33:20).



6) His feet & legs were like pillars of fire: This symbolizes his unbending holiness in stamping out judgment on the earth, pictured here as fire that consumes the ungodly. (Mal 4:1)

## 2. What is the little book? (v. 2)

- One strong option is that the little book is simply the same book or scroll of chapter 5:1. The word used here is the word **biblaridion** (little book). The derivative of this word is used of the scroll in 5:1, **biblion**. **Biblion** is also used to refer to the little book in 10:8. The idea is that the book was simply made smaller since a large portion of the prophecy had already been disclosed & also that John was going to eat it. Furthermore, the book was "open." John uses a perfect participle, (*heneogmenon*, "which was open") implying that the scroll had already been opened, and remains open. The only other book that had been open was the scroll of 5:1.



- The other weaker option is that this little book contains the revelation from God about the remainder of the contents of revelation in chapters 11-22. In other words, this book contains the rest of the prophetic message John will record. 10:11 supports this view because John eats the book and then prophesies again. It is these prophecies that are the content of this little book and the following chapters of Revelation.

### 3. What was the angel doing? (v. 2b-3)

- He is a massive angel being able to put one foot on the sea and the other on the land. This angel had no limitations and was given God's sovereign authority to judge the **entire** earth.
- This act also symbolically anticipates the coming **judgments** of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet and the seven bowls about to be poured out on the entire earth.
- He cried out with a loud clear voice as when a lion roars, with great **volume** to capture attention and cause fear. This reveals his power and majesty and the authority which has been given to him by God. (see Jer 25:30, Hos 11:10, Joel 3:16, Amos 1:2, 3:8)

### 4. What are the seven peals of thunder? (v. 3-4)

- Thunder is often a **forerunner** of judgment in Scripture. (1 Sam 2:10, 2 Sam 22:14, Ps 18:13, Jn 12:28-30, Ex 9:23, 1 Sam 7:10, Is 29:6)

- George Eldon Ladd – “The only hint we have as to the message of the seven thunders is to be found in the fact that in all the other passages in the Revelation where thunders occur, they form a premonition of coming judgments of divine wrath (8:5, 11:19; 16:18). This fits the present context, for the angel announces that the consummation of divine judgments is about to take place.”

1 Samuel 7:10 – “As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel.”

Ex 9:23 – “Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.”

- While the 7 thunders may be connected to the seven times God spoke in Psalm 29, and may but unlikely comprise of a separate set of seven judgments that God has chosen not to reveal, the thunders most likely represent the judgments of the **bowls** yet to come.
- The seven loud shattering powerful voices cry out for vengeance and judgment upon the sinful earth. This thunder is separate from the voice of the angel and may represent the voice of **God** (1 Sam 7:10, Ps 18:13). We don't know what the peals of thunder said, but hearing it certainly would have added to the terror of the scene of judgment.

- The seven thunders were not simply a loud noise but a **message** that John was about to write as Jesus had commanded (1:10-11, 19). But before John could record the message, he heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.”
- We don’t know who the voice was (the Father, Jesus, or an angel), nor do we know the content of the message of the seven peals of thunder. It is possible that the judgment that they uttered was simply too terrifying to be revealed. It is **pointless** to speculate what the content was. Had God wanted us to know, it would have been revealed (see also 2 Cor 12:4, Dan 12:9, Deut 29:29, Job 37:5).

## 5. What did the angel say? The **announcement** of the end of the Age! (v. 5-7)

- The angel made a vow in the name of the **eternal** one who is also the creator of all things. (v. 5-6a)
- The content of the vow is that there will be no more **delay**, but the seventh trumpet is about to be blown which includes the 7 bowl judgments. (v. 6b-7, 16:1-21)
- The 7<sup>th</sup> angel is going to blow His trumpet and bring the bowl judgments on the earth over a period of **days**, for the purpose of making the kingdom of the world, the kingdom of Christ so that He can reign forever and ever. (11:15)
- At that time the mystery of God would be fulfilled just as was announced to the prophets. And that mystery is the “summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth” (Eph 1:10). This mystery is the **consummation** of God’s plan in bringing His glorious Kingdom in Christ to fulfillment. It involves the salvation of the elect and their place in His glorious kingdom. It also includes the judgment of men and demons. (v. 7b)

### **Ephesians 1:10**

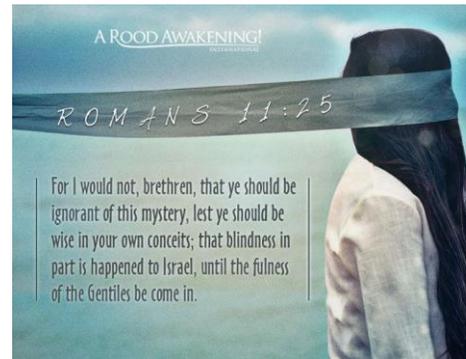
That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in Him:

**Mystery** refers to truths God has \_\_\_**hidden**\_\_\_ and will reveal in His timing.

Rom 16:25-26 – “Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.”

The New Testament reveals many mysteries that have been hidden in the past. The Apostle Paul considered himself a steward or guardian of these great mysteries (1 Cor 4:1) to “bring to light” these mysteries “which for ages have been hidden in God” (Eph 3:9). Some of the mysteries include:

- 1) The mysteries of the Kingdom. (Matt 13:11)
- 2) The mystery of Israel’s blindness. (Romans 11:25)
- 3) The mystery of the rapture. (1 Cor 15:51)
- 4) The mystery of lawlessness. (2 Thess 2:7)
- 5) The mystery of Christ. (Eph 3:4)
- 6) The mystery of Christ and the church. (Eph 5:32)
- 7) The mystery of Christ in the believer. (Col 1:26-27)
- 8) The mystery of the incarnation. (Tim 3:16)



## 6. What was the angel asked to do? (v. 8-11)

- The \_\_\_**eating**\_\_\_ of the scroll means that John was to absorb its message into his life. We also should emulate him by absorbing the Word of God into our lives. (Ezekiel 2:9-3:3)

Wiersbe – “The directions that the angel gave John should remind us of our responsibility to assimilate the Word of God and make it a part of the inner man. It was not enough for John to see the book or even know its contents and purpose. He had to receive it into his inner being.”

- The fact that it was “sweet” and then “bitter” refers to the fact that the prophecies were ultimately sweet because they result in the coming of the \_\_\_**Kingdom**\_\_\_ of Christ, but they also contained a series of bitter judgments that must come forth before the kingdom could be realized.

### Eat a scroll

- **Ezekiel 3:1-3** 1 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. 3 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.