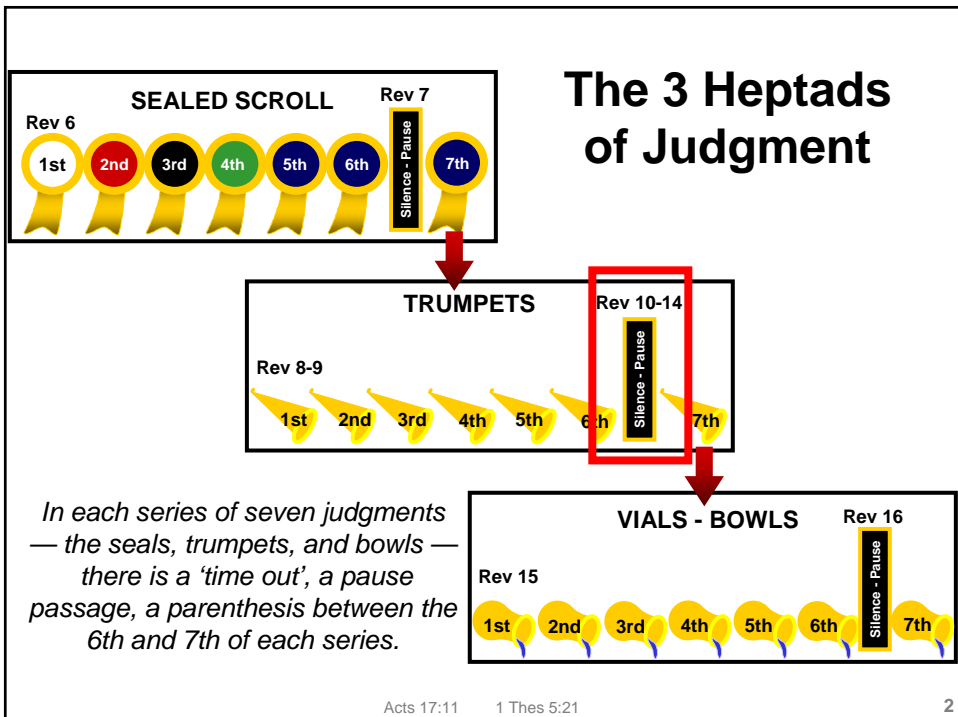


BEWARE THE LAMB

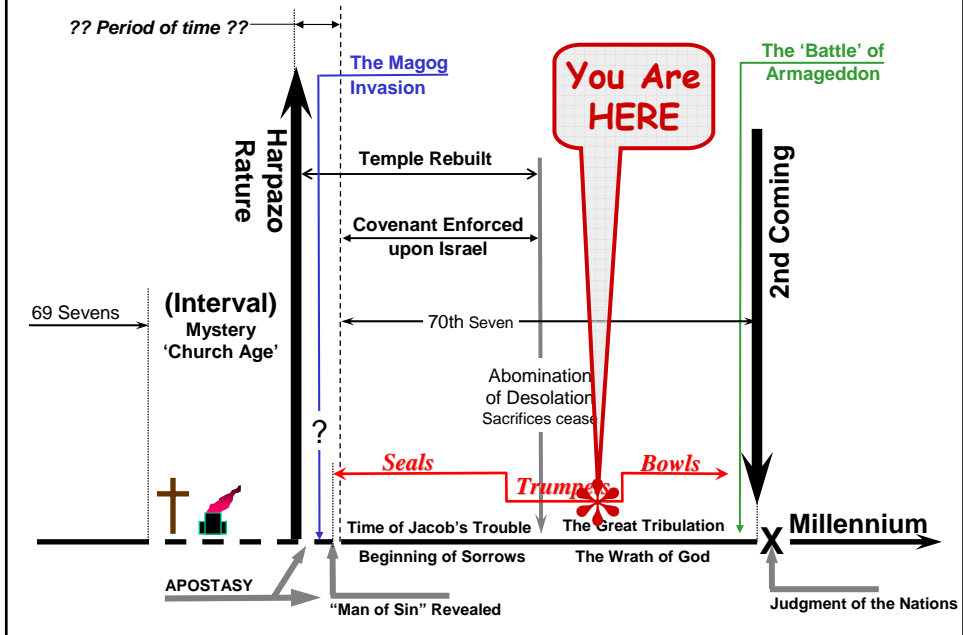


THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Rev 10:1-11



“THE DAY OF THE LORD”



Revelation 10:1-11

The “Little Book” - The 7 Thunders

[1] And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: [2] And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, [3] And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. [4] And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. [5] And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, [6] And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: [7] But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. [8] And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. [9] And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. [10] And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. [11] And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Revelation 10:1-7 Free Translation

'And I saw another mighty messenger coming down out of Heaven, arrayed with a cloud; and the rainbow upon his head, and his face as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire; land having in his hand a little scroll open; he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left upon the earth; 'and he cried with a great voice, even as when a lion roars. And when he cried, the seven thunders spake their voices.

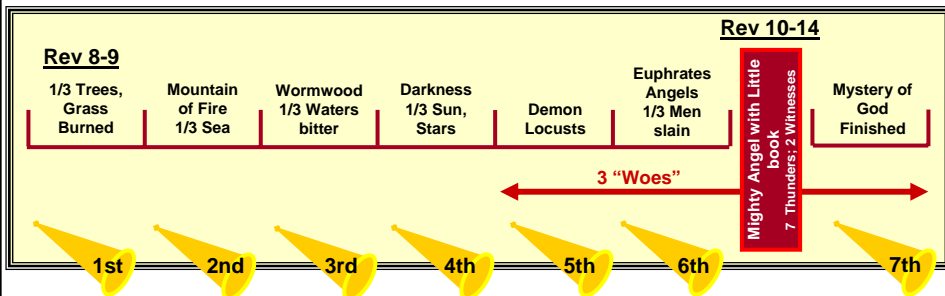
4 And when the seven thunders had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from out of Heaven saying, Seal up at once those things which the seven thunders spake and write them not.

'And the messenger which I saw standing upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his right hand toward Heaven, band sware by Him that liveth to the ages of the ages, Who created the Heaven and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things that therein are, that there shall be no more delay. 'But in the days of the voice of the seventh messenger, when he is about to sound, then is finished the mystery of God, according to the good tidings which he declared to his bondservants, the prophets.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

5

The Little Book



- Parenthetical
 - Chapter 10 occurs between the 6th and 7th Trumpet
 - 7th trumpet ushers in the Bowls of Wrath.
- Mighty Angel with the “Little Book”:
 - Book is now unsealed: digest it.
 - Written “within and on the backside.”
 - “Thou must prophesy again...”
- The Seven Thunders utter their voices:
 - John was about to write, but forbidden to.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

6

Revelation 10:1

[1] And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

This is the third appearance of a distinctive messenger: *Rev 7:2, 8:5, 10:1*

"angel" is the ordinary Greek word for messenger.

Angels as we typically think of them are created beings.

Jesus is the creator of the angelic beings.

He certainly can act as a messenger just as He has acted as a servant, prophet, priest and king...

Based on his description, this angel is probably the Lord coming directly from the presence of God, the Father.

He is clad in a cloud. Clouds are described as the chariots of God.

Psalm 104:3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

The mighty messenger comes forth from Heaven clothed with a cloud. This cloud is not like a rain cloud. This cloud is the Lord's dwelling place in judgment.

"Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne" (Ps. 97:2).

Revelation 10:1

[1] And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

He has a rainbow on his head.

A rainbow surrounds the throne of God; representative of God's glory

God's glory seems to 'rub off' on those who encounter it personally as it did for Moses on Mount Sinai. *Ezek 1:28*

The Greek definite article is used – it is 'the rainbow' - not 'a rainbow'.

This is the rainbow associated with God and God's presence *Gen 9.13*

The Old Testament uses the same Hebrew word translated rainbow, the symbol of grace, and bow as in a bow and arrow, a symbol of judgment

His face is as the sun.

The same description used to describe Jesus at the transfiguration.

Rainbow caused by the light of his face shining through the cloud??? *Matt 17:2*

Revelation 10:1

[1] And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

Voice as the roar of a lion.

Simile used to describe the voice of God.

Because he's carrying God's message – or – because it is God himself ???

Given these descriptions many believe this is Jesus himself.

Joel 3:16 Hosea 11:10 Amos 3:8

This description parallels descriptive statements about the Lord Jesus elsewhere in scripture

Rev 1.7 Acts 1.9-11 Rev 1.15-16

This could be a more detailed account of the rider on the white horse going forth as a conqueror to conquer - the Lord reclaiming his inheritance - the earth

Rev 19:11

Jesus Himself ?

10:1] And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

- Clouds *Ex 16:10; 19:9; 24:15ff; 34:5; Ps 104:3; Mt 17; Luke 21:27; Acts 1:9; Rev 1:7*
- Rainbow *Ps 89:1,8,33-37; Rev 4:3*
- Sun *Rev 1:16; Mt 17*
- Feet *Rev 1:15*
- Lion (v.3) *Job 4:9-10; Isa 31:4-5; Hos 5:14; 11:10; Amos 3:8; Rev 5:5*

Jesus often appeared in the OT as “the Angel of the Lord”

Ex 3:2; Judg 2:4; 6:11-12, 21-22; 2 Sam 24:16

In any case, he appears to have the authority of God's throne.

“Another mighty angel”: allos, not heteros.

allos = G243 another, other; [of a similar kind but a different one]

heteros = G2087 another: i.e. one not of the same nature, form, class, kind, different

Gabriel = “strength of God” ?

Michael = “who is like God”? only arch-angel; *Dan 10:13; 12:1; Jud 1:9*

Revelation 10:2

[2] And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

He placed one foot on the sea, the other on the land.

Symbolic of his authority and power over all creation ???

Ps 95:5 The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

Col. 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Scripture symbols:

Sea: symbolic to the Gentile nations

Land: symbolic of the Israelities

His feet as pillars of fire, the symbol in scripture of judgment, now comes on Jew and Gentile alike.

Revelation 10:2

[2] And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

He has a small book in his hand. It is opened and unrolled.

To give John a revelation concerning a brief period of time. ???

Probably not the scroll with it's 7 seals broken has now authenticated Christ's ownership of creation

Book => gk: biblion

Little book => gk; bibliaridion => booklet

This booklet or little book may represent John's inheritance being in Christ and the Lord's joint heir

Rom 8.17 Heb 9.15 2 Tim 2.12 Rev 1.6 Rev 2.27

Christ's inheritance authenticated by the book - the scroll is being subdivided to the righteous to inherit their part authenticated by the little book ???

The little books are not sealed

- the verification process is complete, the price is paid and recognized

Of course it may be that the little book contains something we will not know until we need to know it.

Revelation 10:2

[2] And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 2:8-9

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, [9] Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

The little scroll may contain the record of that which God is going to perform against those who have been contentious and have treasured up unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the 'righteous judgment of God

Romans 2:5

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Revelation 10:3

[3] And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

“Lion's roar”:

Proverbs 19:12 The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.

Joel 3:16 The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Revelation 10:3

[3] And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

These could be 7 pronouncement from the throne of God.

Again descriptive of God and the Lord Jesus [Rev 1.10](#) [Rev 1.15](#)

This is not just thunder as in a storm for voices are heard speaking a message [Rev 5.5](#)

Thunder was probably heard the first time on the earth at the flood [Gen 2.5](#)

When God the Father spoke to the Lord Jesus on the earth,

[John 12:28-30](#) Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. [29] The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. [30] Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

When the voice speaks, seven thunders sound.

Revelation 10:3

[3] And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

[Psalm 29](#) describes the 7 fold voice of God heard at the flood

"The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters" ([Ps. 29:3](#)).

"The voice of the Lord is powerful:
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars . . .
The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness . . .
The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to calve, and
[the voice of the Lord] discovereth the forests . . ." ([Ps. 29:4-9](#)).

There may be a connection between the [Psalm 29](#) and the 7 thunders of John's vision.

Both reveal:

God's power and majesty.
Trees are broken,
Flames of Judgment appear,
The wilderness shaken,
Fear comes on even the animal world in the forest, and
The forests are stripped bare.

Revelation 10:4

[4] And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

John was about to write down what he saw and heard when a voice from Heaven tells him to Seal them up and to not write them.

The grammar indicates a sense of urgency, literally: "Seal them up at once."

Paul is caught up to the third heaven saw glory that was not lawful to utter
2 Cor 12:4

Perhaps these same things had been revealed to Daniel who was also told to seal them up until the end *Dan 12:9*

In Daniels vision he is told these things are to be sealed for time, times and half a time - 3.5 years

An indication that there are yet 3.5 years to go before God's terrible, final judgment (if that is what was spoken) is carried out in it's fullness

This is the only "sealed" thing in this unsealed book. (cf. *Dan 12:9; Rev 22:10*).

Revelation 10:5-6

[5] And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, [6] And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

The Lord is laying claim to land and sea and all the peoples of the earth

This is clearly the same 'man' Daniel saw in his vision *Dan 12.7*

Compare *Dan 10:5-6* with *Rev 1:13-16*

At the sight of him both Daniel and John fell without strength - fell as dead before him

The angel affirms that God's plan is complete and that there is no time left.

- * This could be announcing the end of time
Probably not yet, there are a 1,000+ years to go yet.
- * This could be announcing the end of God's plan of redemption.
No man can or will be saved beyond this time. There is no more time left to choose God.
- * It may mean that there is no more time left to restrain the anti-christ
He will now rise to his zenith of power on earth. *Heb 10:37 2 Thes 2:3*
- * This could be announcing the end of God's grace and mercy.
He is about to pour out His wrath on the earth in full fury

Revelation 10:6

[6] And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

Some say the oath taken in verse 6 proves that this angel is not Christ.

But...God swore an oath when He:

- Made a promise to Abraham, "because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself" ([Heb. 6:13-20](#)).
- Declared His son to be High Priest ([Heb 7:20-22](#))
- Promised David that Messiah, the Christ would come from his family and line ([Acts 2:29-30](#))

"There should be time no longer"

- the actualization of his eternal kingdom is beginning

The Time for Repentance has now past...

- there will be no more delay in the fulfillment of the seventh trumpet which ushers in the 7 Bowls (Vials) of God's Wrath on the earth and earth dwellers...

He has been delaying His judgments so that lost sinners will have time to repent ([2 Pet 3:1-9](#)).

The prayers of the martyred saints ([Rev 6:10-11](#)) are about to be answered.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

19

Revelation 10:7-11 Free Translation

'But in the days of the voice of the seventh messenger, when he is about to sound, then is finished the mystery of God, according to the good tidings which He declared to His bond servants, the prophets.

"And the voice which I heard from out of Heaven, I heard again speaking with me and saying, Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the messenger which standeth upon the sea and the earth.

'And I went to the messenger, saying to him that he should give me the little scroll. And he sayeth to me, Take it and eat it up; it shall make thy belly bitter, but in thy mouth it shall be sweet as honey. 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the messenger and ate it up and it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

"And they say to me, Thou must prophesy again concerning many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

(Rev. 10:7-11, Free Translation)

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

20

Revelation 10:7

[7] But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

When the 7th trumpet sounds, the mystery of God's plan is about to be finished; completed. It is the beginning of the end for many on earth...

This is not just a point in time but an extended period of time as pointed out by the use of the word "days of the voice" and "when he begins to sound"

The 2nd woe is not yet finished at this point

Mystery => gk: musterion

Secret to outsiders but things revealed to the initiated

This mystery is likely referring to the entire plan and purposes of God in doing things the way He has done them. God dealing once and for all with evil...

The end is not yet - the Lord announces his claim on the earth but does not exercise it just yet

Mysteries of ...

- The Kingdom of Heaven Mt 13:11
- The Kingdom Mark 4:11
- Israel's blindness Rom 11:25
- The Rapture 1 Cor 15:51
- His Will Eph 1:9
- Christ and the Church Eph 5:32
- The Gospel Eph 3:4; Col 1:26-27; 4:3
- Iniquity 2 Thess 2:7
- God and Christ Col 2:2
- The Faith 1 Tim 3:9
- Godliness 1 Tim 3:16
- The Seven Stars & Golden Lampstands Rev 1:20
- Babylon the Great Rev 17:5
- The Harlot Rev 17:7

Revelation 10:7

[7] But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Which mystery?

The problem of evil in the world.

Evil has been permitted to increase until the world was ripe for judgment (2 Thess 2:7>; Rev 14:14-20).

The price has been paid.

God has never literally reigned on the earth.

He is, indeed, the sovereign King over all of the universe—over both heaven and earth.

He has ruled, overruled, and intervened upon the earth.

He has governed in a manner that seems remote and incomplete to some.

He has never used His absolute power to bring about an end to demonic evil, human rebellion, and global injustice and suffering.

He has not received what we pray for when we pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

This reign will be inaugurated in Rev 11:17.

Matthew 13:11

When Jesus first spoke using parables, He was asked why

"Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given" (Matt. 13:11).

"that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 13:35).

The Lord is speaking of something that has not happened before in human history.

The kingdom described and prophesied throughout the Old Testament was a literal, earthly kingdom. The Messiah was to rule over it. Jerusalem was to be its capital. The Jews were to be its chief citizens and the instrument of its rule over the Gentile world.

When our Lord Jesus began to speak in parables, He spoke of "the mysteries of the kingdom" the secret aspect of the kingdom and He took the trouble to add that He was talking about something that was absolutely new, something that had been kept secret before then.

The kingdom the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of in the New Testament was either not the same kingdom of which the Old Testament prophets spoke or it was a phase or aspect of that kingdom unknown before His time.

Matthew 13:11

The Jews had their eyes so filled with their picture of the literal earthly kingdom that they rejected Jesus Christ. He did not fit into their idea of what they thought the kingdom ought to be.

To certain disciples our Lord revealed that many things would come to pass before the mystery of the kingdom would be finished and the real earthly kingdom should be set up in glory.

[Romans 11](#) speaks to us of the mystery and its application to the time of Israel's blindness.

It is revealed that a period of time would intervene during which Israel would be blind to the things of the Lord. More than 1900 years have passed and this blindness is still upon Israel.

This blindness is to have an end and that Israel shall see when "the fulness of the Gentiles be come in," at which time "all Israel [then living] shall be saved" ([Rom. 11:25, 26](#)).

To Isaiah it had been revealed that such blindness would come upon Israel ([Isa. 6:9-10](#)), but only through Paul was it revealed that God had a purpose for the Gentiles during the blindness of Israel.

It was the means to reach the Gentile world with God's gospel and righteousness

Matthew 13:11

The Corinthian Church learned that not all believers would pass through death but that there would be one generation, living at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ which would be transformed, receiving bodies like the Lord's without passing through death ([1 Cor. 15:51](#)).

Throughout this interval of Israel's blindness and the divine calling out of Gentile believers into a new body, where God would reign only in human hearts upon this earth, as He does today.

Lawlessness or iniquity would begin to work, God tells us, and that lawlessness and iniquity has been working for the last two thousand years.

Satan, the prince of this world, would begin to be revealed as the god of this age.

This lawlessness will run concurrently with the other events that were prophesied to take place during our Lord's absence from the world ([2 Thess. 2:7](#)).

The principal secret that was revealed as a New Testament "mystery," however, is in the book of Ephesians.

- this mystery had been "kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest" [Rom. 16: 25-26](#)
- there was great truth "which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men" [Eph. 3:5](#)
- "which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God" [Eph. 3:9](#)
- which "had been hid from ages and generations, but now is made manifest" [Col 1:26](#)

Matthew 13:11

God worked from the time of Abraham to Christ with the Jews, and then He opened a parenthesis.

For the last 1900 years He has been working with the Church, the Gentiles and Jews together as believers.

When He finishes with this period, He will go back once more, and will work with the Jews.

It is just as though there were a great clock running, its pendulum ticking off time, Jewish time, because in the Bible, time is only in connection with God's people the Jews.

When Christ died, God just took hold of the pendulum and stopped the clock.

Today, you and I are living in a parenthesis of grace when anybody can be saved, not merely a Jew as in the Old Testament, but we who were dogs of Gentiles by nature.

But when Jesus comes in the Second Coming, God will take us out and touch the pendulum and Jewish time will start ticking again and everything of greatness that was prophesied for that people will yet come to pass.

Revelation 10:7

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh messenger, when he is about to sound, then is finished the mystery of God, according to the good tidings which he declared to his bond servants, the prophets."

The Lord Jesus Christ is about to come from Heaven and complete all of the work which remains for Him to do, as Messiah of the Jews, Bridegroom of His chosen one, and Lord of creation.

The mystery aspect of the kingdom will come to an end and the Lord will take His throne and reign upon the earth according to the prophecies of the Old Testament.

The blindness of Israel will come to an end and the fullness of the Gentiles will come up for judgment before God.

The mystery of lawlessness will come to an end and righteousness will be enforced upon the earth.

"all Israel [then living upon the earth] shall be saved" (Rom. 11:26).

God never begins anything that He does not finish.

"When I begin, I will also make an end" I Sam. 3:12

Revelation 10:7

[7] But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The voice of the seventh messenger is heard for some length of time, "In the days of the voice.

It is not a sharp piercing cry, but a long drawn out judgment.

The completion of the mystery takes place "when he is about to sound."

The completion of the mystery is something that has been declared by God through the prophets.

The word translated "declared" is literally "evangelized."

"As he has announced the good news to his servants, the prophets."

Revelation 10:7

[7] But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The 7 seal judgments came first.

The opening of the 7th seal that it was in reality the 7 trumpets.

God now announces that there is to be no more delay.

The 7th trumpet is about to be blown; many added judgments follow it, coming out from it...including

"... seven messengers having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" (Rev 15:1).

When the 7th of these bowls of wrath is poured out, God will speak declaring,

"It is done" (Rev 16:17).

Revelation 10:8-9

[8] And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. [9] And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

The great voice from heaven which had spoken to John twice before (Rev 4.1 Rev 10.4) speaks to him a 3rd time

John is told to approach the angel holding the book and take it

Twice John is told to take the book. Rev 10:8-9

The book John is told to take is open and in the hand of the angel

John goes to the messenger and asks for the book but it is not given; he is told he must take it.

- * God's word; His revelation must be sought after in order to be received.
- * It is not forced upon man nor is it an idle gift given without desiring it, seeking it and taking it.

Scripture's 'Sweet and Sour' sauce

Sweet as honey

Psalm 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Psalm 105:34 He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillars, and that without number,

Psalm 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Ezekiel 3:3 And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.

Bitter in the belly

Ezekiel 2:10 And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

Ezekiel 3:14 So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me.

Revelation 10:9

[9] And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Ezek 3:1-3 Ezekiel is told to take a book (roll) and eat it.

The Jews symbolized the study of God's word by taking small cakes with scripture on them and eating them.

A Jewish boy learning the alphabet has the letters of the alphabet written on a tablet in a mixture of honey and flour. When asked the sound of each letter and upon answering correctly, he was allowed to lick the letter off the tablet.

Taking God's word into your very being, making it part of you is necessary.

The "Meat" of the Word

God's Word often compared to food:

- Bread ([Mt 4:4](#));
- Milk ([1 Pet 2:2](#));
- Meat ([1 Cor 3:1-2](#));
- Honey ([Ps 119:103](#)).

Revelation 10:9

[9] And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Assimilation is essential. Seeing, taking, knowing... isn't enough.

It is only after assimilating the book that John is able to "prophesy again."

Making God's Word a part of us will cause change and obedience.

Change is uncomfortable. True Obedience can bring anguish.

God does not expect to or wish even to convert the world through His judgment.

His plan is to save us through His mercy, grace and love.

But, when these are rejected only judgment remains.

The book is sweet to the taste but bitter to the stomach.

It is a 'sweet' honor and privilege to be trusted as God's messenger with God's message in order to deliver it.

The message itself may be 'bitter' however due to its content of judgment, warning and destruction.

Our reigning with Christ - our receiving our inheritance - brings not only authority but responsibility for judging and maintaining righteousness [1 Cor 6.2](#), [Ps 149.6-9](#), [1 Cor 6.3](#)

There is no pleasure or satisfaction in punishment, only sorrow at the loss of what might have been

Revelation 10:9

[9] And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Is this the book of Rev 5? No! I don't think so !!

The seven seals of the scroll in Rev 5 have been loosed and the book is now completely open.

Only Christ was able to take it.

He has the posture of a conqueror taking possession.

The Lamb has become the Lion

He is claiming the whole world (Deut 11:24; Josh 1:1-3; 1 Cor 10:26,28; Col 1:16). "All things must be put under His feet" (Ps 8:6; Heb 2:8).

We are but tenants. The owner is coming.

Revelation 10:10

[10] And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

John obeys. He takes the book and eats it

In his mouth it is sweet as honey.

Once in his stomach it upsets him; it is bitter

No one can question the correctness of God's judgments upon evil and evil doers

But, no one should take pleasure in the carrying out of His judgments and punishments

Ezekiel, hundreds of years before John, had been commanded to eat the "roll of the book".

"And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions; be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, if they will hear them, or if they will not hear them; for they are most rebellious. But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; be not thou a rebel like that family of rebels! Open thy mouth, and eat that which I shall give to thee. And I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out toward me; and, lo, a scroll of a book was held therein; and he spread it before me; and it was written within and without; and written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe. Moreover, he said unto me; Son of man, eat that which thou hast found; eat this scroll and, go speak unto the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that scroll. And he said unto me, Son of man, feed thy belly and fill thy bowels with this scroll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey (Ezek. 2:6-3:3, Free Translation).

Ezekiel was immediately commissioned as a watchman who was to speak to Israel.

Revelation 10:10

[10] And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

Speaking for God as His representative would be honey to the mouth of anyone.

Often though, once the message is known, it is discovered to be bitter.

Knowing prophecy – what God is going to do - is sought after, a thing of interest to many. Like having a secret no one else knows.

Once we understand what God is going to do and why it is a bitter thing, upsetting to have to share and communicate to an unbelieving world.

Many still believe they can achieve a 'golden age' by their own works.

To them the message of Christ's judgment and rule is not 'good news'

[Matt. 3:12](#) [Ps. 2:9](#) [Acts 7:51-53](#) [Matt. 23:29-36](#) [2 Pet. 3:10](#)

The true servant of God, however, will always find God's Word sweeter than honey to his mouth ([Ps. 119:103](#)).

When Jeremiah found the words of the Lord, he ate them and said, "[Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart](#)" ([Jer. 15:16](#)).

To John the little book was both sweetness and bitterness.

John learned he was not only to assimilate the truth of God concerning the judgment to come, but that he was to prophesy concerning peoples, nations, tongues and kings.

[Acts 17:11](#) [1 Thes 5:21](#)

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Revelation 10:11

[11] And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Before (gk: epi) should be translated 'of' or 'about'

John was told he was to prophesy of many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings, not before them

John will deliver God's message to many around and throughout the world (as he is doing for us today).

It is a message of (about) many peoples, nations, tongues and kings

John is writing what he saw – "history that hadn't happened yet..."

To us who are reading it, it is "prophesy"

Cf. [Jer 15:16](#) and [Ezek 2:9-3:4](#).

What we call achievement and civilization is seen by God to be rebellion and apostasy crying out to God for judgment. Our entire hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The remainder of the book of Revelation comes through John as a result of his commission in this verse. He is chosen and ordained for the purpose of speaking the word which will describe God's final wrath upon all the doings of men.

[Acts 17:11](#) [1 Thes 5:21](#)

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