

A SERIES ON REVELATION: is this the end?

Week 15 – a brief interlude

Transition: Last week we watched with John as the Lord gave the orders to release creatures from the abyss (bottomless pit) as well as four angels that had been bound at the Euphrates River. The creatures from the abyss tormented people for five months to the point where they wished they were dead...but they did not die. But that wasn't the worst of it. The angels released a tremendous army of some other kind of creature (200,000,000 strong) that killed one third of the people on the planet. Devastation of this magnitude is hard to imagine let alone comprehend. We have never witnessed anything like it. It would actually be very easy for us to dismiss what we've been studying because so little of it relates directly to our lives today. So...let's resolve together to continue to seek from God how we can be more like Jesus because of what we're reading in Revelation.

Context: Chapter 10 serves as a kind of brief interlude. The judgments have temporarily stopped. God seals up some "thunder" for later. And it's time once again for God to do some "business" with John.

Opening Questions:

- What are some ways that you have served/are serving God? How do you know when God wants you to serve Him in some specific way? What would you recommend to someone who was struggling with knowing whether God was prompting him/her or not?
- What is something that you eagerly waited for but that took a long time to happen? How did you get yourself through the waiting period? How did it feel when the event finally happened?

Scripture/Storing: Revelation 10

Discipleship Questions:

- When the mighty angel comes down from heaven, John writes that one foot is on the land and the other is in the sea. Do you think this is intentional? If so, what do you think is the purpose?
- Why do you think that God tells John not to write down what the seven thunders said? What is your response to God mentioning something and then not letting us know what it is?
- John never reveals what the seven thunders was about. How high do you value someone honoring their commitment to keep something confidential? Explain your score. What are some repercussions for betraying a confidence? How can someone win back your confidence after it has been broken?
- What do you think it means that "*there would be no more delay*" that "*the mystery of God would be fulfilled*"?
- Why do you think that the little scroll that John eats starts out being sweet in his mouth, but winds up being bitter in his stomach? (Is there a deeper meaning to it?) How might you apply this to your own life?
- Understanding Revelation is difficult for many reasons...but chiefly, the chronology is hard to piece together, and the imagery is fantastical at times. Take some time to discuss whatever you may be struggling to understand.