

Revelation 10 This pause is not a delay. It is a divine intention

Structure of the Chapter

The Appearance of the Mighty Angel **10:1–4**

The Oath of No More Delay **10:5–7**

The Eating of the Little Book **10:8–10**

The Recommissioning of John **10:11**

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 Revelation 10:1 NKJV

Word Observations:

- “Mighty angel” — Strong angelic being, distinct from ordinary messengers
- “Coming down from heaven” — Authority originates above
- “Clothed with a cloud” — Divine presence imagery as in Exodus 13; Daniel 7
- “Rainbow” — Echo of covenant mercy in Genesis 9; Revelation 4
- “Face like the sun” — Reflects divine glory, Matthew 17
- “Feet like pillars of fire” — Stability and judgment

“another mighty angel”

The same Greek words for “mighty angel” are used in Revelation 5:2

Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” Revelation 5:2 NKJV

Now we are simply seeing “another” strong or might angel

It might be Michael the archangel, who is definitely involved in the last days

At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time... Daniel 12:1 NKJV

Some argue this is Christ. However, the text calls him an angel, and Christ is never identified as “another mighty angel” in Revelation

The description reflects **delegated authority, not deity**

The “mighty angel comes down from heaven.” This matters!

Authority does not rise from the earth upward. It descends from heaven downward

This angel carries symbols of **glory and judgment**, “**face like the sun, feet like fire**”

But he also wears a “**rainbow**”. The “**rainbow**” represents a covenant of mercy

That is a powerful combination

This may be just the way this fellow is dressed, but a rainbow has significance to us

It reminds us of a promise that God made to Noah after the flood

**It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud
Genesis 9:14 NKJV**

**and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all
flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh Genesis 9:15 NKJV**

God said that the rainbow would be a reminder that there would never again be a flood to
destroy all flesh

I wonder if this angel’s rainbow isn’t some sort of a reminder that as bad as things get, there is
still hope. God isn’t just going to wipe everything out.

God is all powerful, God knows everything, God is Good and God loves His people

God is not distant from crisis. The “**mighty angel comes down**”

“**Face like the sun**” — Reflects divine glory, **Matthew 17**

“**Feet like pillars of fire**” — Stability and judgment

It is important to remember that our **God is not detached from earth’s turmoil**

When our world feels unstable, a diagnosis, a financial strain, a family tension, remember

God does not watch suffering from a distance; He steps into history because He is history

**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 Revelation 10:2 NKJV**

This is a declaration: meaning what is written concerns the whole earth

“**He had a little book open in his hand**”

**Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel... Take and eat it Revelation 10:8–
9 NKJV**

What Is the “**Little Book**”?

The Greek word is biblaridion “bib-la-rid-ian” — a diminutive form meaning “**small scroll**” or “**little book**”

It is distinct in wording from the large, sealed scroll mentioned in **Revelation 5** (biblion)

This is a portion of the Final Judgment Revelation. The scroll in **Revelation 5** contained **the full redemptive-judicial plan of God** and was sealed with seven seals

By **Revelation 10**, that scroll has been opened

The “**little book**” likely represents a specific portion of the remaining prophetic revelation, especially what unfolds in **Revelation 11–22**

Key Observations:

- It is open — meaning revelation is now being disclosed
- It relates to “**many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings**” **Revelation 10:11**
- It contains both sweetness and bitterness, hope and judgment.

John must now proclaim the final phase of God’s plan “the recommissioning”

The book of **Ezekiel 2–3**, **Ezekiel** was commanded to eat the scroll before speaking

So in **Revelation 10**, the little book functions as

A symbol of divine revelation, notice this: the **Word must be digested before it is declared**

What the “**little book**” It Is Not

A separate gospel, a hidden mystical code, a random heavenly object

The “**little book**” represents the revealed Word of God

Particularly judgment and kingdom fulfillment, which John must internalize and then proclaim

Sweet in the mouth — because God’s Word is glorious and true

Bitter in the stomach — because its content includes severe judgment

How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth Psalm 119:103 NKJV

Before the final escalation: God reaffirms His sovereignty, God reveals His Word, and God recommissions His messenger in **Verse 11**

The little book reminds us, before judgment completes, God makes sure His Word is proclaimed

God is all-powerful, God knows everything, God is Good and God loves His people

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 Revelation 10:2 NKJV

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

So what are the seven thunders? Short answer: We are not told

What we do know is that they are real Revelation

The text says the thunders “uttered their voices.” This is not symbolic noise

It is intelligible speech. John understands it and prepares to write it down

So whatever the seven thunders communicated was actual revelation from God

However, this is withheld Revelation from God

John is commanded: Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them Revelation 10:4 NKJV

This is the opposite of Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand Revelation 22:10 NKJV

So in Revelation 10 we see something unique: God deliberately withholds specific content

This echoes But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end Daniel 12:4 NKJV

The message of the thunders is intentionally undisclosed

But what does this likely represent

While we cannot know the content, however, we can observe context

These seven thunders uttered occur after the mighty angel roars like a lion, and before the declaration of “no more delay”, and it occurs in the middle of escalating judgment

Thunder in Scripture often accompanies divine judgment and authority:

Exodus 19:16— thunder at Sinai

Psalms 29 — the voice of the Lord thunders

Revelation 4:5 — thunder from the throne of God

So the seven thunders likely represent further declarations of judgment or divine action

The theological significance

God has revealed much, but not everything

Revelation is the unveiling of Christ and His plan. Yet even in the final prophetic book, some details remain secret

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV

Revelation 10 teaches both disclosure and restraint

Heaven speaks, but God also withholds

Why this matters for us, Grace

We live in a time when people want every detail of the end times precisely mapped out

Before the seventh trumpet sounds, God makes something clear

You will know enough, But you will not know everything, and that is enough to trust Him

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." Revelation 10:4 NKJV

God reveals what we need. He withholds what we do not

Imperfect knowledge

Sometimes we like to have everything in life all figured out. We want clarity. We want answers. We want timelines. We want God to hand us the blueprint before we take the step

But sometimes that just doesn't happen

Sometimes the diagnosis doesn't make sense
Sometimes the relationship doesn't resolve

Sometimes the future feels uncertain.
Sometimes faith means walking without full explanation

And that's why this table matters

When Jesus gathered with His disciples, they didn't have everything figured out either. They didn't understand the cross. They didn't understand the suffering. They didn't understand what was coming in just a few hours. But Jesus didn't give them a detailed plan, He gave them bread, He gave them the cup

In other words, He gave them Himself

Communion reminds us that we don't have to understand everything to trust the One who does. We don't come to this table because we have life mapped out. We come because Christ has already settled the most important thing: our redemption

The cross proves that even when we don't see the whole picture, God is still sovereign. Even when life feels unclear, His love is not. Even when we don't have answers, we have a Savior who hung on two wooden beams...

So what do we do with things we don't understand?

Trust in what we know.

When ancient mariners were caught in a storm at sea, they would let out the anchors to keep their ship from going off course.

These are the anchors in our lives when the storms are raging.

God is all-powerful

Whatever problem I'm facing, God is bigger. There is no problem that God can't handle. He can do anything.

(Je 32:17 NKJV) 'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

God knows everything

God is strong, but does He know what's going on in my life?

(Ps 139:1-2 NKJV) —1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

God is good

He's not just powerful and smart, He's also good. He is not evil.

(1 Jn 1:5 NKJV) This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

God loves me

God might be powerful, all-knowing, and good, but am I someone that He cares about?

(Ro 5:8 NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

If you are struggling with unanswered questions, you're not alone.

Learn to trust in what you know, learn to trust in the anchors.