

Revelation: Chapter 10

Opening Question: Describe the scene in chapter 10 and what is John expressly told to do and not to do. How does this chapter fit with the previous chapters?

Key Takeaways:

1. The book of Revelation uses symbolism that is either explained by John, introduced in the Old Testament, or left unexplained.
2. Chapter 10 serves as a transition and introduces elements that will be expanded upon in later chapters.
3. The “little book” in chapter 10 likely represents the covenant God made with Israel, Psalm 19 and Ezekiel chapters 2-3 offer insight into this conclusion.
4. The imagery of the land and the sea have been introduced in the Old Testament with the land being the land promised to Israel by God and the sea being the domain of the Gentile nations under the rule of Satan.
5. “Prophesy again” in verse 11 is a literary marker indicating that what follows is another pass through the events just described in chapters 4-10 and is consistent with John’s writing style which involves multiple passes through events, with each pass adding additional detail.
6. The scene described in chapter 10 occurs between the sixth and seventh trumpets.
7. There are certain things that John witnesses that he is expressly instructed not to write in his letter.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Psalm 19 and Ezekiel chapters 2-3. How do these passages connect to the “little book” in Revelation 10.
2. Recount all you can about God’s history and covenant with Israel. See Deuteronomy 32 for help. What has God promised? How has Israel responded to God? Where is Israel in relationship to God as John is writing this letter? What needs to change for Israel and how does Revelation describe this change from what you have read so far in chapters 1-10?
3. Why did John’s original audience need to hear this message?

Practical Application:

1. Reread Deuteronomy 32 and recount God's history with Israel.
2. Reread Revelation chapters 1-10, paying attention to the literary markers in 1:19, 4:1, and 10:11. What has occurred in each of these sections, the "things which you have seen," chapter 1, "the things which are," chapters 2-3, and "the things which will take place after these things," chapters 4-10?
3. Write down questions you have from the first ten chapters of Revelation. See if these questions are answered as the letter continues.

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for Your unchanging character. You are faithful to keep every promise that You have made in Your Word. May we find great hope and comfort as we learn more of Who You are and what You have done, are doing, and will do in Your redemptive plan for Your creation. Amen.