

Passage: Revelation 10:1-11

Title: The Mighty Angel and the Little Book

Summary: The Apostle John in this chapter is told to keep prophesying, and he does until he finishes telling the world what God has said in all 22 chapters. He is given a book to eat, which was sweet to his mouth but bitter to his stomach. Our chapter before us today is the same calling, to keep telling all Jesus is coming, and the same bitter and sweetness when some receive and some reject the Word we share.

Revelation 10:1–11 (NKJV) ¹ 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. ² 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, ³ and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. ⁴ 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." ⁵ The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven ⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, ⁷ but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. ⁸ Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." ⁹ So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." ¹⁰ Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. ¹¹ And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out

of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.

- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now ½). (9:13-19)

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as: the rebuilt temple, the 2 Witnesses preach, Satan thrown out of heaven for good, the details on the Beast (the anti-christ – Satan incarnate), Satan's/Beast attempt to destroy Israel, God supernaturally tucks Israel away in safety, the false prophet arises, the mark of the beast demanded, and the angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man.

So the Mighty Angel, and the Little Book.

No More Prophecy Talk / Hal Lindsey / Publishing Houses – Topic out of Date

It is interesting that we are at this verse (you must prophecy again – v11), for we are seeing an escalating "War Against Bible Prophecy". This week TBN has canceled Hal Lindsey's television show which was about Prophecy, they stated that they felt it was too anti-Islamic, and they worried it would be offensive to the Muslims, and that Muslims would not watch other TBN shows and never get saved. Hal Lindsey linked the end times prophecy together as the Muslims will continue their attacks and hatred on the Jewish people and Israel, and we all know that Israel is the prophetic timepiece of God. Thus it is impossible to talk about prophecy, and not talk about Israel, which are constantly at risk of extinction because they have 300 million Arabs (most Muslims) bent on their destruction. Also, word has come out this week that many publishing houses are saying "no" to Bible prophecy. They claim the topic is out of date, out of favor (an understatement), divisive, and no one cares. Seems strange that 40 million copies of "Left Behind" have sold if no one cares.

People call it Doomsday Talk / Seminaries not Teaching It

"It is surprising to me that there are so many people I have tried to talk to about prophecy who have brushed me off by saying that they consider it 'doomsday talk.' It is difficult to get anyone to even talk about it. How and when did we get to this deplorable point? Why is the issue of "the King is coming" a downer? It started twenty years ago in our seminaries when students determined, thanks to their professors, that we can't know for sure which interpretation is right so it would be better to just stay away from it. The Bible is clear which interpretation is right. There are nuances that admittedly only let us "see through a glass darkly." But the seminaries are cranking out pastors who aren't sure what theology to teach and preach so they don't even go near it.

Twisted Theology / Church usher in Kingdom – Replacement Theology / Sermonettes

Now we have theologies who are "new kids on the block." They aren't really "new" but they are enjoying new popularity as those that promote them are popular (though wrong). Almost all mainline Protestant denominations and Catholicism teach Replacement Theology which says the church is Israel, when, in fact, Israel is the key to eschatology. Amillennialism (we're in the Millennium now) is standard in most denominations, and Preterism (all prophecy but the Second Coming is history and happened in 70 AD) is growing in belief. It looks like they're partially right: All prophecy IS history, at least in the churches and now Christian publishing houses. The theologies that have exploded in the last twenty years are Kingdom Now/Dominion/Reconstructionist/Latter Rain. They all teach that the church will subdue the world and make it perfect, then the Lord can return, but not until the world is perfect. Find that in the Bible, would you?! Their Twisted theology comes because they don't understand the divine outline of the Book of Revelation, and because they do not take the whole counsel of God, because they are teaching sermonettes for Christianettes.

Scoffers / All from Satan / There is a War on Prophecy

So here we are, likely in the last of the last days, facing such a scenario. The signs are shouting at us. But in the last days the Bible also says in II Peter that people (believers and unbelievers) would mockingly ask, "Where is the promise of His coming?" And there is an assault on truth. Eschatology spells out in deadly detail (pun intended) the devil's demise. Thus, he's putting up a fight against it as well. So hang on to your prophecy books because if the Lord does tarry, you may have to resort to re-reading them with the publishing ban on them now in play. By the way I love scoffers of prophecy, because I tell them they are only fulfilling prophecy:

(2 Peter 3:2 NKJV) that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

(2 Peter 3:3 NKJV) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

(2 Peter 3:4 NKJV) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

Chapters 8-9 tough Road / ½ World Dead / Heavy Stuff / Stop Here – too Heavy

Chapter 10 is here by Divine order, for chapters 8-9 have been some tough road to travel, and taking chapters 6-9 and all the destruction coming upon the earth (1/2 population dies) it is some heavy stuff. The Lord inserted chapter 10 here for us so that we don't quit, so that we don't put the book down, so we don't say I think I'll read Ephesians now, I like reading the Swiss Alps of the New Testament and all the glorious promises. Or worse, I'll just read the newspaper, nope that is too heavy, I'll read Sports Illustrated or a Harlequin Romance novel.

John is told to keep prophesy, and we are told to keep reading.

Sweetness 1, 4-5 / Bitter 6-9 / Half Way – Don't Stop – Chapters 21-22

Speaking of sweetness and bitterness, how sweet was chapter 1 (the glorified Christ), chapters 4-5 (the scene around the throne). How bitter and sour has chapters 6-9 been, these 7 seals and 7 trumpets, and 3 woes. Chapter 10 was for John, and it is for us, to keep going, for we are about half way through, and we will have some more bitterness to go, but we must make it through chapters 11-20, for the sweetness of 21-22 is the New heaven, the New Earth, all things made new and we enjoy eternity where He will wipe away every tear from our eye, and there shall be no more death – where it is done!

Time of Refreshing / Call to Keep Going

So the Lord gives us chapter 10 to refresh us, to give us the call to keep going, just as He did for John.

Outline Revelation 10:1-11:

- The Rainbow (Holiness & Grace of God) – 10:1
- The Mighty Angel (Total Dominion of God) – 10:2
- The Thundering (Excuses/Arrogance Silenced) – 10:3
- The Thunders Sealed (Yet Still Revealed) – 10:4
- The End of the Delay (Because Still Would not Repent) – 10:5-6
- The Mystery (Finished) – 10:7
- The Word of the Book (Bitter & Sweet) – 10:8-10
- The Prophecy (You Must Prophecy Again) – 10:11

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Rainbow (Holiness & Grace of God) – 10:1

(Revelation 10:1 NKJV) 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.

Who is this Angel / Messenger / Could be Jesus

There is much debate over who this angel is. The Greek word here for angel is the word “messenger”; now based on the description many believe it is Jesus Christ, while others say it is a mighty angel. Some think it is Jesus because of the references of cloud (Jesus is coming on the clouds – Rev 1:7), the rainbow (the rainbow before the throne – Rev 4:3), his face was like the sun (Rev 1:16), his feet were pillars (feet of brass – Rev 1:15), and his voice thundered (Voice of many waters – Rev 1:15). So this very well could be Jesus.

Could be an Angel / Mighty because Characteristics of God

Or it could be a mighty angel, just as the Scripture says that it is. I like to just keep things simple, and verse 1 John says I saw another angel, and so that means to me another angel like the one he had seen prior (sounding the 7 trumpets). This angel is mighty, because this angel has the characteristics of the Lord Himself.

The Mighty Angel (Total Dominion of God) – 10:2

(Revelation 10:2 NKJV) 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,

Doesn't Matter / All Prophecy will come to Pass

Whoever this mighty angel is, does not change the outcome, all the prophecies written in this book will come to pass.

God in Control of All Things – Land and Sea

As we have studied the Tribulation that is upon the earth covers both the waters and the land; and this angel with a foot on both the sea and land shows that God is in control over all that is happening.

That includes your life today..... do you believe that?

The Thundering (Excuses/Arrogance Silenced) – 10:3

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

Silenced

Man will have all their excuses and even arrogance, with many words of why they haven't repented... but this thundering will silence and drown out all them.

All the offenses of love is love, how could a God of love allow, It's my body – my choice, I was made that way, we don't need You in our schools, we know better than You, all roads lead to You, Your way is too narrow, we can govern ourselves, Your Book is hate speech, and the list goes on and on, but the thunders (as we will read on) drown out man's arrogance and excuses, and God say's without delay..... now I must finish this Book of Revelation.

The Thunders Sealed (Yet Still Revealed) – 10:4

(Revelation 10:4 NKJV) 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."

Don't Seal Up / You can Tell Me

We do not know what these 7 thunders are for he is told to seal them up, not to write them down. I wonder when John was released from Patmos, went back to Pastoring his churches, how many people would have come up to him and said, come on you can tell me, I won't tell anyone.

Certain things we won't Know / 7 thunders – High Level

Christian, there are certain things that we just won't know while we are here on earth. We are not going to see and understand everything clearly. We know there are 7 thunders, and God feels that is all we need to know at this time, so He has still unveiled, but only to the high level, not the lower level details. Wait a minute you might say, this is not supposed to be a sealed book you might say, it isn't, God said there will be 7 thunders, He just didn't say what they were. God tells us the anti-christ will come, He just doesn't tell us who it is, nor who the False Prophet will be, nor who the 2 Witnesses. He is unveiling, but certain things He chooses not to give us all the detail too.

John 13:7 – Feet Washing / Don't Understand Everything Now – But you Will

Jesus said in John 13:7 when He came to wash Peters feet, you don't understand everything right now, but a day will come when you will

(John 13:6 NKJV) Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

(John 13:7 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

Never be Content – Peace – Struggle / Must Learn Simple Lesson / Eternal Perspective - Perfect

A person will never be content, have peace, and will continue to struggle until they learn this simple lesson, that we will not know and understand all things here on this side of eternity. But when we do get on the other side of eternity we will see things from the eternal perspective, and say – Perfect, Lord you knew and how marvelous are your ways. Every Christian needs to rest in John 13:7, and when you do, you will find yourself living a much more relaxed Christian life. You will not be struggling over the continual why's, but just trust that God is sovereign, and in control of every detail of our life, and the happenings of this world.

(Revelation 15:3 NKJV) They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"

Our Questions of Why / Death – Illness – Single – UBL / Must Accept He is in Control

We all have different questions, mysteries for God. God why did you allow my Father to die at an early age, why am I still single, why is evil still on the loose, why do I have this illness, all things for now we have to accept on faith, and know God is in control and will make all things clear to us one day.

Street Ministry / God of Love – Jungle – Belly / Salvation Comes – Questions Leave

One of the things I so often enjoyed about street ministry was all the questions I would get from people. Well if God is a God of love then why would He allow _____, or what about the people in the jungle who never heard this, or did Adam have a bellybutton, all kinds of stuff like that. I would say, can I share the gospel with you, this good news, and then we'll come back to your questions; so after sharing about the God of love leaving the throne, taking on their guilt and shame, trading places with them, and the wrath of God for their sin being poured out upon Jesus instead of them, dying and then rising again on the third day, and then asking them if they would like to receive Him as their Lord and Savior, and they say yes, there was something we noticed, they never cared about those questions they were asking. There are questions that salvation washes away, doesn't really matter anymore now I see in light of my salvation, I am free and forgiven; other questions we will just never know here on earth, but God will reveal clearly when we see Him face to face.

Go Back to Simple Salvation / Churning & Burning – why not Answered / John 13:7

Can I encourage you in this, you Christians who have been saved for a while, there is a danger to forget and/or leave the simplicity of when we first got saved. We leave that simple, free place of when we knew we were saved, we were walking on air with a spring in our step, we were saved and we were happy with that and nothing else could diminish that joy – but now we have been saved for some time, and we complicate things, we want answers from God, we want to know why He hasn't intervened and delivered to us. We want heaven on earth now! Some of you here today do not have joy in your walk, in your relationship, because you want all the answers, and all the fixes, and it is crushing your spirit, it is causing your stomach to churn and burn. Go back and put everything into the perspective of your salvation, enjoy the freedom of forgiveness, and trust in John 13:7, He will answer all things to you when it is the right time. Learn the lesson of John 13:7:

(John 13:6 NKJV) Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

(John 13:7 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

The End of the Delay (Because Still Would not Repent) – 10:5-6

(Revelation 10:5 NKJV) The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

(Revelation 10:6 NKJV) and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

His Delay is He wishes None Perish

The Lord has delayed because of His mercy, grace and love, because He wishes that none should perish but all seek repentance:

(2 Peter 3:7 NKJV) But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

(2 Peter 3:8 NKJV) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Because Would Not Repent

The end of the delay, is because as we finished chapter 9, even with all God did to get man's attention, they would not repent. Therefore now God has to judge in totality.

Revelation 9:20–21 (NKJV)²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Notice the personal pronouns, of “they”, “their”,.....and “they should not....” It doesn’t say they could not, but that they would not. If they could not repent, that would make God responsible, but they would not repent makes them responsible. It was their determinant decision not to repent therefore judgment is fully because of their choice.

Delay is Over / Thy Kingdom Come / All things put in Order

The delay is over, the fulfillment of all the prayers of thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. There will be no delay; all things will be put in order:

(1 Corinthians 15:22 NKJV) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

(1 Corinthians 15:23 NKJV) But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

(1 Corinthians 15:24 NKJV) Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

(1 Corinthians 15:25 NKJV) For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

(1 Corinthians 15:26 NKJV) The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Gospel / If You Were to Die Tonight

Personal

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Problem

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Penalty

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Provision

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Profession

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Recognize

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Repent

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Receive

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The Mystery (Finished) – 10:7

(Revelation 10:7 NKJV) but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Mystery of God – Not Fully Understanding / Evil & Hurt / John 13:7

Verse 7 - the mystery of God would be finished – A mystery isn’t something God is hiding from us, but something we fully do not understand, and cannot understand apart from His Holy Spirit revealing it to us. All our questions will be answered, all things will be made clear to us. Why evil seems to triumphs, where was God at that moment. Remember John 13:7:

(John 13:6 NKJV) Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"
(John 13:7 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

Mysteries

These mysteries of Revelation they interest me, I like searching them out, tying all the pieces together.

Colossians 1:26–28 (NKJV)²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this **mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.** ²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:1–6 (NKJV)¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**), ⁵ **which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:** ⁶ **that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,**

2 Thessalonians 2:6–12 (NKJV)⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ **For the mystery of lawlessness** is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

In Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe, the titular character rescues a man from captivity and, since they initially can't communicate, decides to call him "Friday" because that was the day of the week he rescued him.

He eventually teaches Friday about Christianity and finds that although he readily accepts Crusoe's explanations of God and Jesus, he finds the devil to be more difficult to accept. He also asks a question that Crusoe finds very surprising (emphasis mine):

After this I had been telling him how the devil was God's enemy in the hearts of men, and used all his malice and skill to defeat the good designs of Providence, and to ruin the kingdom of Christ in the world, and the like. "Well," says Friday, "but you say God is so strong, so great; is He not much strong, much might as the devil?" "Yes, yes," says I, "Friday; God is stronger than the devil—God is above the devil, and therefore we pray to God to tread him down under our feet, and enable us to resist his temptations and quench his fiery darts." "But," says he again, "if God much stronger, much might as the wicked devil, why God no kill the devil, so make him no more do wicked?" I was strangely surprised at this question. After pretending at first not to hear him in order to buy time, and reflecting on the fact that he isn't really qualified to answer such deep religious questions, Crusoe comes to this explanation (emphasis mine):

By this time I had recovered myself a little, and I said, "God will at last punish him severely; he is reserved for the judgment, and is to be cast into the bottomless pit, to dwell with everlasting fire." This did not satisfy Friday; but he returns upon me, repeating my words, "'Reserve at last!' me no understand—but why not kill the devil now; not kill great ago?" "You may as well ask me," said I, "why God does not kill you or me, when we do wicked things here that offend Him—we are preserved to repent and be pardoned." He mused some time on this. "Well, well," says he, mighty affectionately, "that well—so you, I, devil, all wicked, all preserve, repent, God pardon all." Here I was run down again by him to the last degree. His final frustration seems to be over the fact that the devil isn't expected to repent and be pardoned, unlike they are, and decides to change the subject.

So we see the mystery of lawlessness, inequity, the devil; It takes great faith to walk in the mystery of Lawlessness.

The Greatest Mystery

But the greatest mystery is the mystery of godliness...that God could take someone like me, and change me from the man that I was, to the man that I am, to the man that I will be, and one day when I arrive at heaven's shore, the perfected man. It is a mystery to me. First that He can, and secondly that He wants to.

1 Timothy 3:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.* ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

The Word of the Book (Bitter & Sweet) – 10:8-10

(Revelation 10:8 NKJV) Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

(Revelation 10:9 NKJV) So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

(Revelation 10:10 NKJV) Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

John applying Revelation 1:3 - Literally

John here is applying the promised blessing that comes from this book:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

The Word of God / Sometimes Sweet – Sometimes Bitter / Saved – Damnation / Rapture - Trib

This book given to John is the Word of God, of what is to happen next; and some things will be sweet, others very bitter. Like the book the angel gave John, the Word is sweeter than honey (Psalm 19:10; 119:103). But if the sweet Word we take in through devotions or Bible study doesn't create a sour taste, something's wrong. You see, the fact that we're saved is sweet indeed—but the fact that people we love are going to hell is bitter. The fact that we will be raptured is sweet, but the fact that our loved ones will be left behind is bitter and sour in our stomachs.

If Always Sweet – Something Wrong

Christian if the reading of the word is always sweet to you, that it is never bitter, never upsetting, never sour, then there is something wrong with the way you are taking in the word.

2 Things When Taking in the Word / Compassion - Conviction

The word is sweet, and the word is bitter, God says that it is. How do you know if you are taking in all of the word, 2 things will happen. You will have compassion for sinners, and a conviction of your own sin.

1.) Compassion for Sinners

Believer Heartbreak / being Devoured / Marriages – Kids / Stomach Bitter – Because know Word

How my heart breaks when I watch brothers and sisters getting devoured by the enemy, because they refuse to fully apply the word to their lives. My heart breaks as I watch marriages struggle, kids going wayward, brothers and sisters going into sin that will devour them, as I watch Christians just kinda drifting along, not experiences all that God has for them. My heart breaks, my stomach gets bitter, because I know the word, I read the word, and I see a brother not applying it and I know pain and let down is certain at some point in their life.

Tried to Not Care / Word brings me Back to Them / Compassion / Jesus - Sheep

I have tried, I have said, I am just not going to care anymore, I am not going to make myself vulnerable, I am not going to get involved for it seems all that happens is that they get upset with me and all I am trying to do is help them; but I can't walk away, I can't because as I read the word, my heart continually goes back to them, and the bitterness moves in me to reach out to them, to have compassion for them.

Compassion is when something moves you so greatly, that you can't just sit idly by and watch, you must take action. Jesus that day saw the people, sheep without a shepherd and it says that he was moved with compassion, and we see what compassion did to Him, it moved Him to teach them, to give them the word that will give them life:

(Matthew 9:35 NKJV) Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

(Matthew 9:36 NKJV) But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

*(Matthew 9:37 NKJV) Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
(Matthew 9:38 NKJV) "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

Unbeliever Compassion / Death – Separation / Tribulation – Separation / Think of Loved One Now

As you take in this word, and it is sweet, and then becomes bitter, it will move you to compassion for the unbeliever. You will say I know what is coming their way, either death and eternal separation from God where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, or they will enter into the Tribulation, and still may end up in eternal separation from God. Compassion will move you to action, and the belief in the word will give you boldness to for that move into action. I challenge you right now to think of someone you love, maybe a spouse, a parent, a sibling, a co-worker, and think of them in the tribulation, and tell me your heart isn't breaking right now. Think of them eternally separated from God where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, where the worm dies not, where the fire is not quenched, and tell me how your heart feels. The word is sweet, and the word is bitter.

Ezekiel Given Boldness

In your leisure, read about the prophet Ezekiel and how the word of God was both bitter and sweet to him. It was only after Ezekiel ate the book that was sweet to his mouth but bitter to his belly that he was able to share boldly with those of whom he had previously been afraid (Ezekiel 3:3, 14). The bitterness in his belly motivated Ezekiel to share truth.

Ezekiel 2:9–3:4 (NKJV) ⁹ Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰ Then He spread it before me; and *there* was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it *were* lamentations and mourning and woe. 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. ⁴ Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

Ezekiel 3:14 (NKJV) 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.

2.) Conviction of your own Sin

Convict your Sin / Sweet – Celebrate Promises / Bitter as Pricks your Soul / Teaching - Entertain

Secondly, this sweet and bitter word will bring conviction of your own sin. As you come here on Wednesday and Sunday, as you listen to your Pastor Chuck tapes, and you have your own personal devotion, some places the word will be sweet as you celebrate your salvation, your promise of eternal life, and that you are His. But the word will also make you bitter as it reveals to you a sin in your life, the need for change, or the lack of compassion in your life. It will be sweet, and it will be bitter. If your devotion and church time is always sweet, than I say there is something amiss in your hearing for the word will be sweet at times, and bitter at times as it pricks you and convicts you. I am glad we go verse by verse because I know I would be a feel-good preacher, wishing to offend no one, and have all love me and say what a great pastor I am, but that is impossible if you are truly teaching the whole counsel of God. Church is not an entertainment center, it is a teaching center.

Switching the Channel / Children's Relief / Devotions - Pulpit

Sadly what happens in many Christians lives is that they switch the channel. You know what I mean, enjoy a good show and then a TV ad comes on for the Children's Relief Fund (help the starving kids), click, too heavy, change the station. Watching the news and they say lets remember our fallen hero's, click, that's too heavy, too bitter, lets see if everybody loves Raymond is on. So happens for many Christians, my devotions have really been convicting me, click, I'll skip them, listen to worship songs on the drive to work. That Pastor, that Church, sin-sniffers, I know they are judging me, they are so legalistic, can't they tell some jokes, and then click, I'll sleep in, time to find a new church.

Life begins to Unravel / Word brings Prosperity

But you know what happens to those people? Their lives begin to unravel because staying in the Word is the only way to experience prosperity and success (Joshua 1:8), but we must continue through it (just like John here in Chp 10). Yes, it will trouble you. No doubt it may upset you. But as time goes on, you will begin to see that your life is centered and grounded, fruitful and prosperous because the Word always does its work, the word will not return void:

(Joshua 1:8 NKJV) "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

(Isaiah 55:11 NKJV) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

The Prophecy (You Must Prophecy Again) – 10:11

(Revelation 10:11 NKJV) And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Keep Going / Devour Bitter and Sweet /Impact World – Prosper Ourselves

My prayer is that we will be those who, like John, that we would keep going, that we would devour and digest Scripture—the bitter portions as well as the sweet—in order that we, like John, would impact our world for the kingdom, and be prosperous and successful ourselves.

Outline Revelation 10:1-11:

- The Rainbow (Holiness & Grace of God) – 10:1
- The Mighty Angel (Total Dominion of God) – 10:2
- The Thundering (Excuses/Arrogance Silenced) – 10:3
- The Thunders Sealed (Yet Still Revealed) – 10:4
- The End of the Delay (Because Still Would not Repent) – 10:5-6
- The Mystery (Finished) – 10:7
- The Word of the Book (Bitter & Sweet) – 10:8-10
- The Prophecy (You Must Prophecy Again) – 10:11

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need