

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 45

The Seven Thunders

Informational

I. (Rev. 10:1-4 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. ²He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. ⁴Now 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."*

A. We do not know what the voices of the seven thunders said.

B. When John was about to reveal this, a voice from heaven stopped him.

C. We don't know what happened after the thunders spoke.

D. The nature and purpose of the seven thunders is one of the unknowns of the book of Revelation.

E. We know that there are examples in Scripture of God thundering with His voice which resulted in the defeat of His enemies.

1. (1 Sam. 7:10 NKJV) ¹⁰*Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.*

2. (2 Sam. 22:14, 15 NKJV) ¹⁴*"The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice. ¹⁵He sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.*

F. But we can only speculate about the seven thunders because what they spoke is sealed.

G. This passage reminds us that we still know in part, and the perfect has not yet come. (1 Cor. 13:8-13 NKJV) ⁸*Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²For now*

we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1. The perfect state will come when Jesus comes.
2. Then we will know as we have been known.
3. Until then we need the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit and all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which includes tongues and prophecy.
4. But until then we should expect all of the gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit to be in operation in the church until Jesus returns.

II. In (Rev. 10:5-7 NKJV) we have the end of the Tribulation Period announced by an angel. ⁵The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven ⁶and 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, ⁷but 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.

A. Verse 6 confirms the role of God as Creator. ⁶and 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.

1. The doctrine of Creation is confirmed throughout the Bible from Genesis through Revelation.

2. As Creator, God has the right to rule and control all things.

3. He initiated Daniel's 70th Week, the Tribulation Period, and He has the right to bring it to an end.

B. The angel announces that in the days of the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the Tribulation Period foretold by the Old Testament Prophets, will come to an end, and the millennial reign of Christ will begin.

C. (Matt. 24:21, 22 NKJV) ²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

D. For the elect's sake (that is, for the sake of those who are coming to Christ during the Tribulation Period) the persecution of those days is abridged so that there will be people on the earth who survive the Tribulation and repopulate the world during the Millennium.

III. The Little Book (Rev. 10:8-11 NKJV) 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."*

A. Eating the little book is symbolic of partaking of or consuming the Word of God.

B. Ezekiel's Commission (Ezek. 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.*

C. Jeremiah's Commission (Jer. 1:6-9 NKJV) ⁶ *Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."* ⁷ *But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.* ⁸ *Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD.* ⁹ *Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.*

C. (Jer. 15:16a NKJV) ¹⁶ *Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.*

D. The Word was sweet in John's mouth. Speaking of God's Word in (Psalm 19:7-10 NKJV) David says, ¹⁰*More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

E. The Little Book was bitter in John's stomach because its contents are judgments coming on many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings in the Tribulation Period.

F. This is a great picture of the Scriptures being given by the inspiration of God. (2 Tim. 3:16 NKJV) ¹⁶*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

G. The Bible teaches the verbal, plenary, inerrant inspiration of the Scriptures.

H. The Holy Spirit moved upon the Scripture writers in such a way that they were able to perfectly, hear, speak, and write the Word of God in its entirety...down to the jots and tittles.

I. (Psalm 12:6, 7 NKJV) ⁶*The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. ⁷You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.*

J. This verse teaches that God not only keep His Word, but that He would preserve the Scripture throughout all generations.

K. Among other things, that means that the devil will never be able to eradicate the written Word of God from the earth.