



Date: 5-17-2026

Sermon: When God Doesn't Tell Us Everything

Text: Revelation 10

What do we do when God's plan is certain, but His timing and details are hidden?

Revelation 10: God's plan is mysterious, but not _____.

a. God's messenger reveals God's authority over the whole world

Revelation 10:1-2 NLT

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, surrounded by a cloud, with a rainbow over his head. His face shone like the sun, and his feet were like pillars of fire. And in his hand was a small scroll that had been opened. He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.

Matthew 28:18 NLT

“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Notes:

b. God’s mystery reminds us that we do not get all the answers

Revelation 10:3–4 NLT

And he gave a great shout like the roar of a lion. And when he shouted, the seven thunders answered. When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. But I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Keep secret what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down.”

Faith is not trusting God because He has explained everything. Faith is trusting God because He has revealed Himself.

Deuteronomy 29:29 NLT

“The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.

Notes:

c. God's plan will be fulfilled without delay

Revelation 10:5–7 NLT

Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand toward heaven. He swore an oath in the name of the one who lives forever and ever, who created the heavens and everything in them, the earth and everything in it, and the sea and everything in it. He said, "There will be no more delay. When the seventh angel blows his trumpet, God's mysterious plan will be fulfilled. It will happen just as he announced it to his servants the prophets."

Notes:

d. God's Word is both sweet and bitter

Revelation 10:8–10 NLT

Then the voice from heaven spoke to me again: "Go and take the open scroll from the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and told him to give me the small scroll. "Yes, take it and eat it," he said. "It will be sweet as honey in your mouth, but it will turn sour in your stomach!" So I took the small scroll from the hand of the angel, and I ate it! It was sweet in my mouth, but when I swallowed it, it turned sour in my stomach.

Notes:

e. God's mission continues to the nations

Revelation 10:11 NLT

Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

Genesis 12:3 NLT

"All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Matthew 28:19 NLT

"Go and make disciples of all the nations..."

Revelation 5:9 NLT

"Every tribe and language and people and nation..."

Notes:

Application:

What do you do when God has not told you everything?

1. Trust what God has _____ instead of obsessing over what He has concealed.
2. Let the Word of God become both sweet and _____ to you.
3. Share the _____ while there is still time.

Life Group Questions – Revelation 10

1. Get to Know You

What is something you really wanted to know or understand when you were younger, but your parents, teachers, or another adult simply said, “You’ll understand later”?

2. Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 10:1–11 and Deuteronomy 29:29. How do these passages help us understand the difference between what God has revealed and what God has chosen to keep hidden?

3. Application

Revelation 10 reminds us that God has not told us everything, but He has told us enough to trust Him, obey Him, and proclaim the gospel. Where do you need to trust God with unanswered questions instead of waiting for complete clarity before obeying Him?

Revelation 10 is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets. In this chapter, John sees a mighty angel come down from heaven holding a small open scroll. The angel stands with one foot on the sea and one foot on the land, showing authority over the whole world. John then hears seven thunders, but he is told not to write down what they said. The angel announces that there will be no more delay and that God's mysterious plan will be fulfilled. John is then told to eat the scroll, which is sweet in his mouth but bitter in his stomach. Finally, John is recommissioned to prophesy about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.

1. The Preterist View

The **preterist view** understands much of Revelation as being fulfilled in the first century, especially in events surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and God's judgment on the old covenant order.

From this view, Revelation 10 points to God's soon-coming judgment in John's own generation. The mighty angel represents divine authority, and the open scroll may symbolize a prophetic message that is ready to be fulfilled. The command not to write what the seven thunders said reminds us that even though God reveals much, He does not reveal everything.

The phrase "there will be no more delay" is often understood as referring to the nearness of God's judgment. God's plan, announced through the prophets, is about to be fulfilled.

This view emphasizes that God keeps His promises, judges rebellion, and vindicates His people.

2. The Historicist View

The **historicist view** sees Revelation as a symbolic prophecy of church history from the first century until the return of Christ.

From this view, Revelation 10 has often been connected to the Reformation and the renewed availability of Scripture. The "little book" or "small scroll" being open is sometimes understood as a picture of God's Word being opened again to the people after a long period of spiritual darkness.

The sweetness of the scroll may represent the joy of rediscovering and receiving God's Word. The bitterness may represent the suffering, conflict, and persecution that often come when God's Word is faithfully proclaimed.

This view emphasizes the power of Scripture, the need for reformation, and the cost of faithful witness.

3. The Futurist View

The **futurist view** understands much of Revelation 4–22 as describing future events that will take place near the end of history before the return of Christ.

From this view, Revelation 10 is an interlude during a future tribulation period. The mighty angel announces that God's final judgments are about to move forward. The phrase "there will be no more delay" means that God's end-time plan is nearing completion.

The seven thunders may refer to future judgments or messages that God chose not to reveal. This reminds us that even though Revelation gives us real information about the future, it does not give us every detail.

The scroll is sweet because God's plan and victory are certain. It is bitter because the judgments still to come are severe.

This view emphasizes the certainty of Christ's return, the seriousness of judgment, and the urgency of repentance.

4. The Spiritual or Idealist View

The **spiritual view**, also called the **idealist view**, sees Revelation as a symbolic picture of the ongoing conflict between God and evil throughout the entire church age.

From this view, Revelation 10 is not mainly about one historical event. Instead, it reveals truths that apply to God's people in every generation.

The mighty angel shows that God rules over all creation. The sealed message of the seven thunders reminds us that God has not told us everything. The open scroll reminds us that God has revealed what we need to know. Eating the scroll shows that God's Word must be received personally before it is proclaimed publicly.

The sweetness and bitterness of the scroll represent the mixed experience of receiving God's Word. It is sweet because it brings truth, salvation, hope, and victory. It is bitter because it exposes sin, announces judgment, and calls people to repentance.

This view emphasizes God's sovereignty, the church's mission, and faithful endurance in every age.

What These Views Have in Common

Even though these four views disagree about some details, they all help highlight important truths from Revelation 10:

- God rules over the whole world.

- God has revealed what we need to know, but He has not revealed everything.
- God's mysterious plan will be fulfilled.
- God's Word is both sweet and bitter.
- God's people are called to receive His Word and proclaim it faithfully.

Revelation 10 reminds us that we do not need to know every detail of God's plan in order to trust Him. The sealed thunders teach us humility. The open scroll teaches us confidence. John's recommissioning teaches us faithfulness.

God has not told us everything about the end, but He has told us enough to trust Him today, obey Him faithfully, and proclaim Jesus until He comes.

Gospel Connection

The clearest revelation of God's mysterious plan is found in Jesus Christ.

At the cross, it looked like evil had won. It looked like Rome, religious leaders, and human rebellion had defeated the Son of God. But what looked like defeat was actually God's plan of redemption.

Jesus took the bitterness of judgment so that sinners could taste the sweetness of grace.

Revelation 10 reminds us that judgment is real, but so is mercy. God's plan will be fulfilled, and the heart of that plan is the good news of Jesus Christ: crucified, risen, reigning, and returning.

God has not revealed everything we may want to know, but He has revealed everything we need to trust Him, obey Him, and proclaim Christ while there is still time.