

The Mighty Angel and the Little Scroll **Revelation 10:1-11 (Part 18)**

Revelation 10:1 *Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire.*

- The Angel of the LORD appeared in the Old Testament to various people including Moses. He was a theophany or an appearance of God in the physical form.

Revelation 5:2 *And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"*

Revelation 10:1 *Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire.*

Wrapped in a cloud: Points to the shekinah glory of the presence of God.

A rainbow over his head: The rainbow was a sign of God's covenant of mercy and that he would never destroy the earth by water.

His face was like the sun: Holiness, a reflection of God's majesty and holiness.

His legs like pillars of fire: Judgment and/or God's presence as fiery pillar in Exodus.

1. We should reflect the character of Christ.

Revelation 10:2 *He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land.*

Little scroll: The word used for scroll here is a diminutive form of the word used in chapter 5.

Right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land: Here the scroll's intent of redemption of the earth is now the focus.

Revelation 10:3-4 *and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."*

2. There are things we will not know in advance.

Revelation 10:5-6 *And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay.*

Raised his right hand to heaven: The angel is taking a vow that what he is about to say is the absolute truth.

That there would be no more delay: The tribulation and opportunity for repentance will soon be over and Christ will return to reign on earth.

- The seal and trumpet judgments will take some time to unfold, which will give earth-dwellers time to repent (6:15-17; 9:20-21). But the bowl judgments will come very quickly in succession and will allow little or no time for repentance (2 Pet. 3:1-9).

Daniel 12:5-7 *Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.*

- Four similarities between the angel of Revelation 10 and the angel of Daniel 12:
 - Both angels raise a hand (or hands) to heaven.
 - Both swear by Him who lives forever.
 - Both make an oath regarding a time delay.
 - Both announce that all things will be finished when the time delay ends.

3. God's timing is more important than ours.

Revelation 10:7 *but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.*

Mystery of God would be fulfilled: The mystery of God seems to be the culmination of all prophecies and all fulfillment of Scripture as evil is defeated, Israel will be saved, and Christ will reign from Jerusalem.

Matthew 24:36 *But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.*

Revelation 10:8-10 *Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.*

Ezekiel 2:8-10 "But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." 9 And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

Ezekiel 3:1-11 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. 3 And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. 4 And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. 5 For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— 6 not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. 7 But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. 8 Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. 9 Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." 10 Moreover, he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. 11 And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."

- There are several similarities between Ezekiel and Revelation.
- Commanded to eat a scroll.
- The scroll is taken from a hand.
- The scrolls are open. (Ezek. 2:10 *And he spread it before me.*)
- Written on both sides. (Rev. 5:1)
- Both ate the scroll.
- It was sweet in the mouth.
- It was bitter. (Ezek. 3:14 *The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit*)
- Both commanded to speak and prophesy.

Revelation 10:8-10 *Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.*

Sweet in the mouth: Because it reveals the greatness and goodness of God and His plans and purposes for us.

Bitter to the stomach: Because of the reality of the terrible doom and judgment awaiting unbelievers, those who have said no to Jesus (and perhaps to suffering saints enduring martyrdom in the Tribulation).

4. The Word of God is both sweet and bitter.

Revelation 10:11 *And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."*