

AUSTELL GRANDVIEW SDA CHURCH PRESENTS



THE  
**APOCALYPSE**  
SERIES

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SHOWCASING JESUS CHRIST IN PROPHECY

DEALING WITH DELAY

# EPISODE 7

## DEALING WITH DELAY

Based on Revelation Chapter 10

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### MAIN IDEA

A mighty angel delivers a memo, from Creator to John, announcing justice's delay has both **a timeline and a deadline**.

### KEY POINTS

1. The mighty angel's identity is not definitively known. There are some noted similarities with this angel's description and Jesus Christ in Revelation 1, but nowhere in Revelation is Christ seen or called an angel. When the context of the chapter and overall book don't provide a clear answer to questions like this it's important to direct our attention to what the author wants us to notice. The angel's message from Creator is the point of focus! (Verses 1-4)
2. The delay's ending is not an announcement of its immediate end, but a declaration that it has an expiration date. (Verse 6)
3. The open scroll or little book in the angel's right hand, was divine revealing with insight about God's justice both immediate and ultimate for "peoples, nations, languages, and kings". The taking of this scroll marks John's prophetic re-commissioning. (Verses 7-8,11)
4. Digesting the scroll is symbolic of his mandate to internalize the content. The scroll's taste is symbolic of the destructive side of God's justice (bitter) and the deliverance side of God's justice (sweet).

# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What has been delayed in your life? The nation? The world?

2. Can you recall a time when your eyes readjusted to see in a dark room? If so what principles from the dark room can be taken into other dark experiences?

3. What coping mechanism do you use to accept the sickening truth of life and the hold onto the sweet anticipated outcome?

4. The angel communicated to John in vision, how is the Creator speaking to you in these times?

5. John following through on the assignment to “prophecy again” was his way of resisting with hope. What assignment have you been given that manifest the resistance of hope in your life?

# INSIGHTS

**10:1-11** Following the sixth trumpet judgment, John sees another mighty angel holding a little scroll who announces a fulfillment of the mystery of God, which will follow the next trumpet blast. John hears seven thunders after the angel speaks, but he is told not to communicate what they say. He is then given the little scroll to eat and is told he must prophesy again. Following a time of intense judgment, this chapter presents a message of hope to the people of God. This is the first of two interludes before the seventh trumpet is blown in **Rev 11:15**.

## **MIGHTY ANGEL & POSITION** (10:1-3)

The descriptions of the angel appearance speak to the theme of justice and the authority the angel is under as a messenger of Creator. The position of the angel speaks to sphere of authority that this assignment covers. (**Exodus 13:21, 16:10; Daniel 12:5-9**).

## **CREATOR** (10:5-6)

The long description of Creator points to the beginning, and speaks to the wisdom of the boundaries and assignments that were placed on the inhabitants of those various spheres. This ancient bridge to the creation narrative is to also highlight the fact that this delay is also under Creator's wise boundaries and assignment. (**Genesis 1**)

**THE MYSTERY OF GOD** (10:7) The connection of the mystery with the seventh trumpet may indicate that the mystery is the full establishment of God's kingdom (**11:15-18; Mark 1:15**).

**TAKE AND EAT IT** (10:9) By eating the scroll, John can speak the very words of God (**v. 11**). In Ezekiel, the prophet is also told to consume a scroll (the words of God) in order to make them known (**Ezek 2:9-3:4**).

**BITTER** The scroll is bitter or sour because it contains God's judgments.

**SWEET** The scroll is also sweet because it contains God's words (**Psa 19:10; 119:103**). **PROPHESY AGAIN** refers to the latter part of Revelation (**Rev 12-22**).