

Revelation

Chapters Ten and Eleven: The Little Scroll and Two Witness

Introduction

Before the seventh trumpet sounds there will be an interlude which stretches from 10:1-11:14.

There was an interlude between the sixth and seventh seals judgments and there will be another between the sixth and seventh bowl judgments.

In this the longest of the three interludes, we learn about two amazing events:

1. The first is the vision of an unusual angel and the “little scroll” in chapter ten.
2. The second is the vision of the witnesses during the tribulation period in chapter eleven verse one through verse fourteen.
3. Both have to do with the role of prophets.
 - The first relates to John’s role as a prophet.
 - The second has to do with the prophetic role and destiny of the two witnesses.

The Interlude’s First Half: The Mighty Angel and the Little Scroll! (10)

(The first nine chapters of Revelation have brought us to the middle of the tribulation. The **seven seal judgments** covered the first quarter, the seventh seal introduced the next quarter, or the **trumpet judgments**, and chapter 10 and 11 comprise a parenthetical section given to John just before the prophecy concerning the last half of the tribulation, or the **bowl judgments**.)

A. An Unusual Angel (10:1-2).

1. John saw a vision of someone new. “Another angel.”
2. His description is so much like that of Christ in chapter one, verses twelve through seventeen, that some identify this angel as Jesus Christ.
3. This is unlikely for the following reasons:
 - The Greek word for “another” means another of the same kind.
 - Revelation never refers to Jesus as an angel. John always gives Jesus unmistakable titles.
 - Christ would never have taken the action of verse five and six.
 - This angel came down out of heaven – this would have created another coming of Christ to earth.

4. Next John describes his spectacle attire.
 - He was clothed with a cloud, wearing the drapery of the sky over his mighty shoulders. This symbolizes his power.
 - He also has a rainbow upon his head. Symbolizing God's covenant mercy in the midst of judgment.
5. John notes that "his face was like the sun." His brilliant, radiant glory lit up the earth.
 - This represents the glory of the divine presence.
 - Angels who dwell in the divine presence reflect that radiance.
 - His feet and legs are firm, stable and are like immovable pillars of fire.

B. **An Unusual Act!** (10:2-3)

1. The angel put one foot on the sea and the other on the land, indicating that he has authority over all land and sea surfaces.
2. The angel cried out with a loud voice as when a lion roars. An amazing thing happens: "***Seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.***"

C. **An Unusual Response!** (10:4)

1. The same idea is found in Psalms 29:3-9.
2. The seven peals of thunder communicated information that John was about to write down when a voice from heaven said, "***Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder uttered and write them not down.***"

D. **An Unusual Announcement!** (10:5-7)

1. In a solemn act, the angel raises his right hand to heaven and vowed by the eternity of God – the One who lives forever.
2. He swore by God who is the creator of all things.
3. The specific content of the angel's oath was that there will be delay no longer.
4. This is a testimony that the fulfillment of the seventh trumpet would complete the "**mystery of God.**"

5. "Mystery" appears several times in the Bible, meaning that God is going to disclose a truth that is only possible to understand by divine revelation.
 - The prophets knew the mystery of salvation but not the mystery of the church. (Colossians 1:24-27)
 - The mystery of the church was finished in chapter four.
 - The mystery of how fallen man can be reinstated into fellowship with God based on New Birth by faith alone is coming to a close.

E. **An Unusual Assignment!** (10:8-11)

1. Verse eight tells John to take the scroll from the hand of the angel and eat it.
2. This symbolizes the absorbing and assimilating of God's Word.
3. After he had eaten the book, he was told to go speak to the house of Israel.

The Interludes Second Half: The Two Witnesses

A. **The mandated of the messengers!** (11:1-5)

1. During the long, dark years of Israel's rebellion, "***The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets***" (2 Kings 17:13)
2. In the future God will raise up two exceptional and powerful preachers.

B. **The history of the Jewish Temple!**

1. Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.
2. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed this temple and the city of Jerusalem. Seventy years later a decree was given to rebuild the city and eventually the temple.
3. This temple under the direction of Zerubbabel and Joshua was inferior, but served Israel until Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated it.
4. About forty years before Christ, Herod the Great had this whole temple destroyed and rebuilt. During the New Testament days this temple was known as Herod's Temple.
5. Jesus predicted the destruction of Herod's Temple in Matthew 24:2 and His prophecy was fulfilled in 70 AD.

6. Today the site of the Old Jewish Temple is occupied by Moslems, who built the "Dome of the Rock."
7. Matthew 24:15 is a prediction of Jesus that the "abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel, will take place. Daniel prophesied that in the middle of the 70th week the Antichrist would desecrate the temple. For this to happen the temple must be rebuilt.
8. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13 Paul says the Antichrist will defy God by sitting in the temple of God and presenting himself to the world as God. The temple must be rebuilt for the fulfillment of this word.
9. To the Jew the rebuilding of the temple is a **rejection of Christ**.

C. **The Two Witnesses!**

1. Two colorful and dynamic preachers and are given power for the purpose of witnessing for God in distinction to the power of the Antichrist.
2. Who are these two witnesses?
 - Elijah, Enoch, Moses?
3. The Work of the two witnesses.
 - Primarily to witness for God.
 - They are also to prophesy.
 - They will testify.
4. The witnesses will be killed (11:7-10).
5. The witnesses will be resurrected (11:11-13).
6. God's judgment on Jerusalem (11:13)

Conclusion

This marks the conclusion of the second woe. The first woe had been the sounding of the fifth trumpet (9:1-12). The second woe had been the sounding of the sixth trumpet (9:13-21). We have treated Revelation 10:1-11:14 as a pause between the sixth and seventh trumpet. They are, of course, related and for that reason this note comes at this point. Now it is announced that the "third Woe: is coming quickly. This will be the sounding of the seventh trumpet (11:14-19) out of which comes the Seven Bowls of Wrath (15:5-8).

