



**Halftime?
John Recommissioned
Revelation 10:1-11**

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We are, in the text, somewhere around the middle of the Tribulation. Possibly in the Great Tribulation already or about to go into it. I think we are already in it based on the text, but for all practical intents and purposes, half time.

For those who have been disturbed about the idea of judgment and wrath being poured out by God onto this planet, we need to understand a simple thing, that is part of the character or nature of this time



period. The Bible is incredibly clear about that in both the Old and New Testament. Dr. Pentecost outlined it all for us.

The nature or character of this period is that of wrath (Zeph. 1:15, 18; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 6:16–17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19), judgment (Rev. 14:7; 15:4; 16:5, 7; 19:2), indignation (Isa. 26:20–21; 34:1–3), trial (Rev. 3:10), trouble (Jer. 30:7; Zeph. 1:14–15; Dan. 12:1), destruction (Joel 1:15; 1 Thess. 5:3), darkness (Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18; Zeph. 1:14–18), desolation (Dan. 9:27; Zeph. 1:14–15), overturning (Isa. 24:1–4, 19–21), punishment (Isa. 24:20–21). No passage can be found to alleviate to any degree whatsoever the severity of this time that shall come upon the earth. (Pentecost 1958, 235)

The sixth trumpet has ended and with it those who have survived, who are earth dwellers, have continually refused to repent. The seventh angel is warming up but there are some things we need to know about first. Once the seventh trumpet sounds, then the bowl judgments begin. But we have another apparent pause in the action.

Remember, judgment is indeed taking place, but the Lord still is showing mercy and allowing opportunities for repentance. But many are hardened to the same point pharaoh was hardened to when in the face of overwhelming evidence and contrary to what his advisors recommended, he remained focused on hanging on to his slave laborers, Israel.

What John has witnessed so far has been horrific. So much so he has, for the first time, told us about the state of those who have survived the sixth trumpet and the demon army.

There is more to come, and much of it is about Israel. To remind of us the Old Testament nature of this book, we see this in Revelation 10.

Revelation 10:1–4

“I saw another strong angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; and he had in his hand a little scroll, which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken, and do not write them.”” (NASB 2020)

John has been viewing activities on earth and he continues with that view here. He sees a strong angel coming down to earth.

This is indeed one of the sections of scripture folks like to point to as showing us that angels have wings. Do they? If we are relying solely on the descent language here as evidence, then you would also conclude that Jesus as well as the Holy Spirit have wings as well.

Cherubim have four wings, (Exodus 25:20, Ezekiel 10) and Seraphim have six (Isaiah 6). They also are not all that human looking. Or at least they have been described as such. They are divine beings as are Angels.

We are told in Hebrews 1:14 that Angels, more of a job description than anything else, are spirit beings. They are divine beings so as such, why would they need wings?

The functional word “angel” (angelos) is by far the principal New Testament moniker for celestial beings in service to God. The label—effectively a job description (“messenger”)—communicates assistance from



heaven...For New Testament authors, angelos is a catchall term for the supernatural agents who faithfully attend God. (Heiser 2018, 120)

The Watchers, another type of divine being, we read about in Genesis, Daniel and Enoch, who came down to earth, yep, no wings.

I am about to shoot down an idea that has no basis in fact from the Bible. The idea that an angel looks like a human being only with wings. That is simply not found anywhere in the Bible. Regular Angels do not have wings.

That being said, they are also not bound by the laws of the physical universe. Do they ascend and descend? Yes. Do they need wings to do so? No.

There is no biblically definitive description of how all angels look. In the Bible though, we get various views or “looks” of them. This could be the reason why the writer of Hebrews warns all of us about the need for us to show love consistently.

Hebrews 13:1–2

“Let brotherly love continue. Don’t neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.” (CSB)

Agape love means we also are not paying attention to how well, or how poorly someone is dressed. We love them both the same. As the church, each of us individually has the opportunity to reflect Jesus Christ in all we do. We are His imagers after all.

So, who is this strong angel we see here in Revelation 10?

Is this another Angel, a Divine Being like the ones we have already met in the text? There are some who say yes to that.

Is this Jesus Christ, being described as the Angel of the Lord once again just as in the Old Testament? There are many who say yes to that as well.

Okay Ken, so what do you think. I think this is a strong angel. Not the same one we saw earlier in Revelation 5:2 and not the one we have yet to meet in Revelation 18:21. There must be a group of Angels who spend a lot of time in the gym pumping iron.

Having been a serious weightlifter in college, I like that idea, but most likely these were made this way partially for the purposes we see them employed in here in Revelation.

Listen to the description of what John sees

- “Clothed with a cloud”
- “Rainbow around his head”
- “Face glows with light”
- “Legs like pillars of fire”
- “An opened little book”

The descriptions of this angel attributed to him by John, are similar to the way God has been referred to in the scriptures.

God was clothed in a cloud numerous times (Exodus 16:10) and yes He has also been described of wearing a rainbow (Ezekiel 1:28).



We Know Moses reflected the light of God and had to wear a veil (Exodus 34) and Jesus was described as having a glowing face on Mount Hermon when He was transfigured before Peter, James and John (Matthew 17:2).

Jesus has legs like burnished bronze (fire) as we saw in Revelation 1:15. But there is a reason this strong angel has this appearance.

The angel that John sees is on a mission direct from the throne room of God, his face still reflects the fact that he was in the presence of God, could it be that the rainbow around his head is nothing more than the natural result of light from the angel's face on the cloud he is wearing?

We are not told the name of the angel, and the language that John uses lead me to believe he has not seen him before as he says he is another strong angel. We do know he is a strong angel; how does John know that?

We do not know his name.

How do we know this is not Jesus Christ? In verse 6, this Angel swears by Him who lives forever and ever and one other point, John does not fall and worship him. He will try and worship a couple of angels later and be corrected by them for it (Revelation 19:10, 22:9). Here he does not worship, he is not told to do so either.

Based on the description, it becomes obvious that this angel is something special. He spends a lot of time around the throne of God and reflects God to those who see him.

I don't know about you, but that sounds pretty cool. Moses reflected the glory of God and had to cover up his face because of all the time he spent with the Lord (Exodus 34:33). The glory being reflected unnerved others around him (Exodus 34:15). And then there is this strong angel and how much he reflects the Lord.

How much time do you and I spend with the Lord? Are we with Him so much that we reflect Him and begin to have physical characteristics that align with Him?

This strong angel is not Jesus. Before the incarnation, Jesus and the Angel of the Lord were one and the same.

But after He took upon Himself our humanity, after He died and rose again and received a glorified body, we now see Him in the place of great power and glory yonder at God's right hand. We never see Him as an angel again. (McGee 1997, 973)

In Revelation, He is the glorified, resurrected Christ.

As John looks on, he sees that there is a small book in the hand of this angel and the book is open.

Is this scroll, this book, the same one that had all the terms and conditions on to include all of the judgements that we have seen so far as part of the seventh sea.? There is still more to come. I think this is a smaller version of the scroll from Revelation 5 that was originally in the hand of the Father and then transferred to Jesus who is the only one capable of opening it. The seven seal judgements are in this scroll, as well as the seven trumpets and the seven bowls too.

Once it is fully opened, Jesus appears to have then transferred it to a strong angel for safe keeping and we will discover, the angle will give it to John to eat.



This scroll is the title deed of the earth and has listed in it, everything yet to come. IT provides a full description of all that is required to take place for Jesus Christ to take over the planet.

Revelation 10:2

“and he had in his hand a little scroll, which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land;” (NASB 2020)

This book is the angel's authority for claiming both the sea and the earth for Christ. He puts one foot on the sea and the other foot upon the earth, and he is claiming both for God. (McGee 1997, 974)

Psalms 24:1–2

“The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD; for he laid its foundation on the seas and established it on the rivers.” (CSB)

God owns the land and the sea. The deed which the angel is holding is evidence of that. Jesus Christ has purchased it back from the usurper with His blood. When the angel sets down with a foot on the land and one on the sea, it is a statement. Owned by the Lord.

We have not arrived in chapter 11 yet, but once the seventh trumpet sounds, this symbol will become finalized.

Revelation 11:15

“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”” (NASB 2020)

Why is it a little book? First of all, John is going to have to eat this. But also, the Tribulation has a definitive end that is coming. It isn't long, Daniel said seven years.

Revelation 10:3–4

“and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken, and do not write them.”” (NASB 2020)

This angel, as John sees him take his position, then loudly cries out. We have no idea what it is he says but when he cries out, seven thunders responded, and they said something. John was ready to write it all down to, but a voice came from heaven with instructions to John. I really like David Aune's translation.

“Conceal the message of the seven thunders; don't even think about writing it down!” (Aune 1998, 548)

An observation, every time we see a supernatural being speaking in the book of Revelation, they are loud (Revelation 1:10; 6:1; 7:10; 11:15; 12:10; 14:2, 7, 9, 15, 18; 16:1; 18:2; 19:1, 6, 17; 21:3). The message is obviously important, and we are not to miss any part of it. This is being related to us so we can know what is coming and it is all important.

About the seven thunders. We have no idea what they said, none at all. This is the only place in this entire book where what was related to John was intentionally sealed up and kept from us.

Are there teachers who have made guesses? Absolutely. I am not going there. God revealed something to John and then commanded him to not write it down.



Let me ask this question, do you and I know everything about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and our future in heaven? Let me answer for us – No we don't. Francis Schaeffer summed this up for us in his book **Escape from Reason**.

It is an important principle to remember, in the contemporary interest in communication and in language study, that the biblical presentation is that though we do not have exhaustive truth, we have from the Bible what I term "true truth." In this way we know true truth about God, true truth about man, and something truly about nature. Thus on the basis of the Scriptures, while we do not have exhaustive knowledge, we have true and unified knowledge. (Schaeffer 1982, 218-219)

We will have an eternity to learn more about our savior and Lord. These seven thunders are sealed and that is that.

Whether the voice was that of the Father, Jesus Christ, or an angel is not revealed. The command, however, clearly originated with God. The reason John was forbidden to record the message is not revealed. (MacArthur 2007, 175)

The bottom line, God is sovereign and in control. One of the things I learned about in the military, we do not always have a need to know. John continues with his observations.

There were many times while in the service I did not have a need to know and honestly, I really did not want to know. But I did reach a point in my service where because of what I was doing, I had a need to know. By that time, I no longer wanted to know what I needed to know because knowing it was not something I really wanted to know about at all. Or something like that.

Revelation 10:5–7

"Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will no longer be a delay, but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He announced to His servants the prophets." (NASB 2020)

Why is John telling us, again, where this angel is standing? The issue is sovereignty. God is control, Satan and his minions are not. This is important to remember because of what is yet to come.

Also, the angel raising his right hand brings us to another place in the Bible where we see a similar event.

Daniel 12:7

"Then I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the water of the river. He raised both his hands toward heaven and swore by him who lives eternally that it would be for a time, times, and half a time. When the power of the holy people is shattered, all these things will be completed." (CSB)

"Time, times, and half a time" (v. 7c) gives the Hebrew equivalent of the Aramaic of 7:25, which describes the three-and-one-half-year persecution of the saints by the little horn (antichrist), to which v. 1 also alludes. This is the time when "the power [literally, "hand"] of the holy people is shattered" (v. 7c), bringing us to the climax of the prophecies of Daniel. Immediately after this, the son of man figure appears with the clouds, and the kingdom goes to the holy ones, that is, the holy people (7:13–14, 18). (Sprinkle 2020, 337)

This connection here appears to be one that is intentional and would be remembered by those of John's readers recalling their studies of Daniel. This is also a reason some use for this to be at about the approximate mid-point of the 7-year Tribulation period.



As believers in the 21st century, one of the questions we find ourselves asking a lot in these last days is, “How much longer Lord?” That was the big question being answered in Daniel 12:7 and that is also the question being answered here as well. Judgment has been taking place and it has been horrid for those earth dwellers here on the planet.

John may have even been wondering the same himself since he reported on survivors in the aftermath of the demon armies running amok. What was predicted in Daniel 12:7 has now arrived. There will be no more delay. Fasten your seat belts we are entering the last half of the Tribulation. “The various designations for the three-and-a-half year “tribulation period” have not appeared before chapter 10, but in ensuing chapters they appear often (11:2, 3; 12:6, 13; 13:5). God has instigated the final events of world history, and nothing can delay them.” (Osborne 2002, 399)

God will no longer delay or stop the remaining judgments. Evil is about to arise and fully run its course here on the planet. Armageddon is coming. Jesus Christ will indeed take over and very soon.

The days of the seventh angel points to the angel yet waiting to play his horn. Once he sounds his horn, in those days, everything God has promised will come to completion. His Kingdom is not coming any longer, it is almost here.

The world has an appointment, God has set the time, and nothing can stop it any longer.

The seventh trumpet will echo for three and a half years, as the same Christ had told Daniel in his preincarnate state, but that would be the end. That this final trumpeting is to be prolonged is suggested by the reference to “the days” of the voice [Greek phone, meaning “sound”] of the seventh angel.” (Morris 1983, 183)

Revelation 10:8–11

“Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, “Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”” (NASB 2020)

I have done a lot of reading over the years. There are those books that you simply read while in school because you are required to do so. Then there are those you read because you want to. The Bible is one I can never stop reading. I not only want to know what is in it, I want to make it part of me. John has been given a sure-fire way to make that happen, eat the book. I would not recommend that, but this is not an uncommon command for a prophet. Ezekiel was commanded to eat a scroll (Ezekiel 2:7-3:3). Of course, Jeremiah talks about God’s word as food in Jeremiah 15:16.

What does John do?

Revelation 10:9

“And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.”” (NASB 2020)

No hesitation at all. He goes right up to the angel and asks for the scroll in order to chow down. The angel though does tell him what to expect as he eats.

There is a lesson for you and me here. As we read and study the word of God, we are to make it a part of us. We are devouring His word, eating it more or less.



This book has prophetic truth still in it. Old Testament truth as well as new truth still to be revealed by John as he writes. “It is sweet to know what God is going to do, but when you find out that judgment is coming, it is bitter.” (McGee 1997, 977)

Before John writes about what is yet to come, he has to understand it and fully assimilate what it is he will be saying. He knows he cannot leave anything out or add to it either. He is being recommissioned by the Lord to continue his work.

Revelation 10:11

“And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”” (NASB 2020)

The Great Tribulation is about to seriously kick off. John is only halfway there. John has been told his commission now is compulsory, he must prophesy to four groups, peoples, nations, languages and kings. There are many more who will come to Christ before the end of all things.

There were still many peoples, nations, languages, and rulers about whom he must write, those who would be the climactic objects of the cumulated wrath of God through the ages. (Morris 1983, 187)

What he is yet to write about is vital for those who are about the business of the Lord during this time period, some still may possibly be saved.

John has already witnessed more death and destruction than any other prophet before him. He is there, he is in the future, and he is an eyewitness. Ezekiel saw what happened to Jerusalem, but this is at a level never seen. A recommissioning at this point makes sense, it also allows John the opportunity to regroup and digest everything he has witnessed to this point. Because he has been told there is more to come.

We too get a chance to breath a bit here. Between the rapture and the judgments up to this point, we have seen a drastic change in the planet.

But as we study this, we know and have the assurance of scripture that we will not be here for this. We will be in heaven with the Lord.

There are things happening all around us today that dramatically point to how close His coming for us in the rapture most likely is. We are watching, in real time, the fulfillment of prophecy regarding Israel. Yes, what is going on in Gaza and Lebanon has been prophesied. There are reasons why the description of the Gog Magog War of Ezekiel 38 makes no reference at all to Gaza, Lebanon, Syria or what is today Jordan.

1 Thessalonians 5:3

“While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” (ESV)

From July 20, 2023, we read this item from the news: The UN Secretary-General on Thursday launched a new policy brief outlining his vision of a more robust multilateral framework to boost peace and security, for a world in flux. (United Nations 2023)

We are there. As we move into the rest of this book, some of the tech we will discuss is no longer yet to come, all the tech needed for what the Bible teaches, it's here.



Time to prepare for imminent evacuation.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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