

A Mighty Angel

Revelation 10:1-11

I. Introduction:

A. Pause in the action

1. Chapter 10 of Revelation brings a pause in the action.
2. Chapter 9 ended with the blowing of the 6th trumpet & the releasing of a demon army.
3. This demon army will kill 1/3rd of lost people still alive at that point in the tribulation.
4. The judgments take place in the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation, the period Jesus ID's the Great Tribulation. But before the blowing of the 7th trumpet, there's a pause in action.
5. Some ID: pause as parenthetical. This pause (parenthetical) runs from **Rev. 10:1-11:14**

II. A mighty angel (Revelation 10:1)

A. A strong or mighty angel

1. John described this angel as strong or mighty, one of considerable power & authority.
2. There's a hierarchical structure among the angels. This angel is particularly strong.
3. They have positions of authority and responsibility that vary from one angel to the next.

B. Description: - *John described this angel's appearance.*

1. – Clothed with a cloud

- a. The cloud represents his power and majesty as he comes to bring judgment.

2. – Rainbow upon his head

- a. The Greek word for rainbow is *iris*. Iris is Greek goddess of the rainbow, messenger god. The idea here is a halo of light around this angel's head.
- b. As the cloud represents his power to judge, rainbow represents God's covenant promise. God's promised to save all who'll confess their sin. (judgment & mercy)

3. – Face shone bright like the sun

- a. This is the residual effect of being in the presence of God.
- b. Moses experienced same: coming down mountain after receiving 10 commandments
- c. This is the glory of God on an angel who stood in His presence.

4. – Feet like pillars of fire

- a. Fire is always associated with judgment & purification.
- b. This angel has great power to bring judgment upon the wicked.

III. The actions of this mighty angel (Revelation 10:2-3)

A. A little book in his hand

1. John saw small scroll, already open, but not the scroll Jesus received back in chapter 5
2. This scroll contains the remaining judgments that will bring human history to a close and inaugurate the kingdom of our Lord.

B. What he does- *John tells this mighty angel does 2 things:*

1. – Standing on sea and land

- a. Highlighting his massive size, this angel has one foot on sea & one foot on the land.

2. – Cried with a loud voice

- a. In proportion with his great size, the angel's voice is loud like the roar of a lion.
- b. The roar of a lion can be deafening. This angel's voice will have same effect.

3. – Seven thunders answered him.

- a. Voices have literal spoken response. Heaven responds to the angel's announcement.
- b. A thunderous response from heaven confirms that final judgment's coming.

c. Thunder has been associated with judgment throughout the tribulation.

IV. John's response (Revelation 10:4)

A. Forbidden to record

1. Back in chapter 1 John was instructed by Jesus to record things he saw in this vision.
2. John, hearing the response of the 7 thunders from heaven, was about to write down what the voices said when a voice from heaven told him not to write it down.
3. Thus, the seven thunders were an actual cognitive response to the angel's words.
4. Since it was Jesus who told him to write, it's likely this's Jesus telling him not to write.
5. Application: There are some things God does not want us to know right now.
6. Daniel was told to seal up part of the prophesy he received. (**Daniel 8:26**).
7. Paul was taken up into paradise, heaven, where he saw and heard things he was not allowed to utter or record (**2 Corinthians 12:4**).
8. There are things about heaven that we cannot fathom. (**1 Corinthians 2:9**)

V. An oath (Revelation 10:5-7)

A. No more delay

1. The angel declares there'll be no more delay, no more delay in completing God's plan.
2. The 7th trumpet will blow. The bowl judgments happen in rapid succession.
3. The mystery of God would be finished. Jesus will return, destroy armies of antichrist at Armageddon. He will cast the beast and the false prophet into the eternal lake of fire.
4. Then, Jesus will bind Satan & cast him into the abyss for 1,000 years. (millennial age)

B. Description of God

1. – He who lives forever and ever
 - a. Jehovah God is the only eternal being. Nothing else in the universe is eternal.
 - b. God never had a beginning and He will never have an end.
2. – He who created all things
 - a. He who created heaven & everything in it. He who created earth & everything on it.
 - b. He who created the seas & everything in them. God created everything w/ existence.
 - c. Matter is not eternal, God created it. Vastness of space is not eternal, God created it.
 - d. This mighty angel of heaven declared God is the creator of all things.
 - e. God fully intends to reclaim what is His!

VI. Instruction to John (Revelation 10:8-11)

A. Eat the little scroll.

1. Voice from heaven, most likely Jesus, told John to take the little scroll out of mighty angel's hand and eat it. The same command was given to Ezekiel in **Ezek. 2:9-3:3**.
2. John was told scroll would taste sweet in his mouth, but it'd be bitter in his stomach.
 - a. – Consuming God's word
 - i. To eat the scroll represents consuming God's word which is sweet to the soul.
 - b. – Bitter in his stomach
 - i. There's bittersweet effect from God's word, fulfillment of God's sovereign plan.
 - ii. We desire sin to be eradicated & our Lord's perfect kingdom to come, but the bitter part is the judgment that will fall upon the wicked and unrepentant.

B. Second commission

1. John was given 2nd commission: prophesy about rest of what would come in tribulation
2. Testify to the things he was about to see which would mark the end of human history.
3. Application: Jesus gave us a commission before He departed back to heaven. Jesus told us to take the gospel to the whole world. (**Matthew 28:18-20**)