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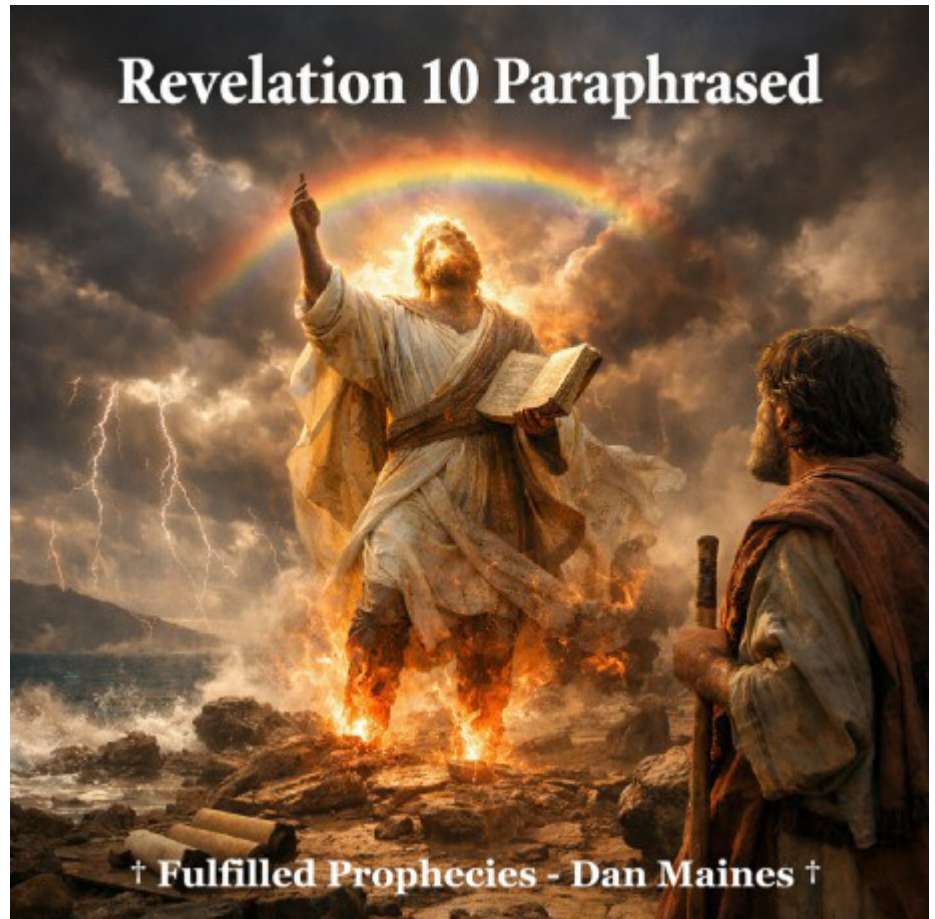
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## Revelation 10 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Revelation 10 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Revelation 10 pauses the trumpet judgments and shows a powerful messenger declaring that God's plan is reaching its completion. The imagery is symbolic but rooted in real covenant judgment that was about to fall on Jerusalem in the first century (Matthew 23:36; Luke 21:20-22).

† The chapter shows that God's mystery, which had been spoken through the prophets, was about to be fulfilled in their generation. This connects directly with Jesus' warnings that the Old Covenant system would soon come to its end (Matthew 24:34; Luke 13:34-35).

† John is told to eat the scroll, showing that the prophetic message must be received internally before it is proclaimed publicly. The sweetness and bitterness reflect the good news of Christ's kingdom and the painful judgment on the old order (Jeremiah 15:16; Ezekiel 3:1-3).

## **Revelation 10:1**

Then I saw another powerful messenger coming down from heaven. A cloud surrounded him, a rainbow stood above his head, his face shone like the sun, and his legs looked like pillars of fire.

† The cloud imagery shows divine authority and judgment language often used in scripture when God comes against a nation (Isaiah 19:1; Matthew 24:30).

† The rainbow recalls God's covenant authority and faithfulness, showing that the events unfolding are not random but part of God's covenant plan reaching fulfillment (Genesis 9:13-16; Revelation 4:3).

† The fiery appearance reflects holiness and judgment, similar to how divine messengers are described throughout prophetic visions (Daniel 10:5-6).

## **Revelation 10:2**

He held a small scroll that had been opened. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.

† The open scroll shows that the message is no longer sealed. The time for its fulfillment had arrived (Daniel 12:4, Revelation 22:10).

† Standing on sea and land shows universal authority over the entire world of the Roman Empire and the covenant land of Israel (Psalm 24:1).

† This position also symbolizes that the coming judgment would affect both the nations and the land of Israel (Jeremiah 25:29-31).

### **Revelation 10:3**

He shouted with a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he cried out, seven thunders spoke with their voices.

† The lion imagery reflects the voice of God declaring judgment, echoing prophetic warnings in the Old Testament (Amos 3:8).

† Thunder often represents divine revelation or judgment announcements from heaven (Psalm 29:3-9).

† The number seven again shows completeness in God's decrees and judgments (Revelation 1:4).

### **Revelation 10:4**

When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write what they said. But I heard a voice from heaven saying, Seal up what the seven thunders spoke and do not write it down.

† Not every detail of God's plan was revealed to John. Some elements remained hidden, emphasizing God's sovereign authority (Deuteronomy 29:29).

† This contrasts with the command in Revelation that the book itself must not be sealed because the time was near (Revelation 22:10).

† The sealed message reminds readers that prophecy often includes mysteries only fully understood once events unfold.

### **Revelation 10:5**

Then the messenger I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted his right hand toward heaven.

† Raising a hand toward heaven was the traditional posture for making a solemn oath before God (Daniel 12:7).

† This action signals that a decisive declaration is about to be made.

† The messenger acts as a witness of God's authority over the unfolding judgment.

### **Revelation 10:6**

He swore by the One who lives forever, who created heaven and everything in it, the earth and everything in it, and the sea and everything in it, saying that there would be no more delay.

† The oath emphasizes that the time of waiting was ending. The fulfillment was imminent (Matthew 16:27-28).

† The Creator is invoked to show that this judgment comes with ultimate authority (Acts 17:24).

† This statement directly challenges futurist claims of thousands of years of delay.

## **Revelation 10:7**

But in the days when the seventh messenger is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be completed, just as He announced to His servants the prophets.

† The mystery refers to God's redemptive plan revealed through Christ and completed in the transition from the Old Covenant system to the New Covenant kingdom (Ephesians 3:3-6).

† The prophets had long spoken about this coming fulfillment (Daniel 9:24; Amos 3:7).

† The seventh trumpet connects with the fall of Jerusalem and the establishment of the kingdom without the temple system (Hebrews 12:26-28).

## **Revelation 10:8**

Then the voice I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, Go take the open scroll from the hand of the messenger standing on the sea and on the land.

† John is personally involved in receiving the prophetic message.

† This reflects the pattern of prophets being commissioned directly by God (Ezekiel 2:8-10).

† The message must first be internalized before it can be delivered.

## **Revelation 10:9**

So I went to the messenger and asked him to give me the small scroll. He said to me, Take it and eat it. It will taste sweet in your

mouth but it will turn bitter in your stomach.

† Prophetic truth often brings both joy and sorrow.

† Sweetness reflects the glory of God's kingdom being revealed (Psalm 119:103).

† Bitterness reflects the painful reality of judgment falling on Jerusalem and the old covenant nation (Luke 19:41-44).

### **Revelation 10:10**

I took the small scroll from the messenger's hand and ate it. It was sweet in my mouth like honey, but when I swallowed it my stomach became bitter.

† John's experience mirrors that of earlier prophets who had to proclaim difficult messages (Ezekiel 3:3).

† The sweetness of God's word contrasts with the painful consequences of rejecting it.

† The judgment of AD 70 would be devastating even though it fulfilled God's righteous purposes.

### **Revelation 10:11**

Then they told me, You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.

† The message of Revelation wasn't limited to Israel but had implications for the wider Roman world.

† The gospel and the prophetic warning would spread among many nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

† This also shows that the prophetic witness of the church would continue beyond the destruction of Jerusalem.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus recorded the signs and warnings that appeared before Jerusalem's destruction, including voices and heavenly phenomena, showing that people of the time believed divine judgment was approaching (Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.5.3).

† Eusebius later wrote that the church remembered Jesus' prophecy and fled Jerusalem before the Roman siege, preserving the believers from the coming judgment (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Early Christian writers consistently connected the fall of Jerusalem with the fulfillment of Jesus' warnings in the Gospels.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† God's promises always come to pass exactly when He says they will. Revelation reminds us that Christ's words about that generation were fulfilled just as He declared (Matthew 24:34).

† The gospel message still carries both sweetness and seriousness. It brings life to those who believe, but it also warns of judgment for those who reject it (John 3:36).

† We are called to proclaim the truth faithfully just as John was commissioned to prophesy to the nations.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** What is the mystery of God mentioned in Revelation 10:7?

**A:** The mystery refers to God's long hidden plan to unite Jews and Gentiles in Christ and establish His kingdom apart from the Old Covenant temple system (Ephesians 3:3-6; Colossians

1:26-27).

**Q:** Why was the scroll sweet and bitter?

**A:** God's word is sweet because it reveals truth and salvation, but it is bitter because it announces judgment on those who reject it (Psalm 119:103; Luke 19:41-44).

**Q:** What does no more delay mean?

**A:** It means the time of fulfillment had arrived in their generation and the final covenant judgment was about to occur (Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34).

**Q:** Why were the seven thunders sealed and not written down?

**A:** God sometimes withholds details of His plans. The message of Revelation was already sufficient for the churches, and some things remained hidden under God's authority (Deuteronomy 29:29; Revelation 22:10).

**Q:** Who is the mighty messenger in Revelation 10?

**A:** The messenger represents a powerful heavenly envoy carrying God's authority to declare that the prophetic timeline was reaching its completion. The imagery reflects divine authority similar to descriptions of heavenly messengers in Daniel's visions (Daniel 10:5-6; Hebrews 1:14).

**Q:** What does the open scroll represent?

**A:** The open scroll represents revealed prophecy that was no longer sealed because its fulfillment was near. Daniel had been told to seal his prophecy for the distant future, but John was told the time was near (Daniel 12:4; Revelation 22:10).

**Q:** Why was John told to prophesy again about many nations and kings?

**A:** The message of Christ's kingdom and the coming judgment on the Old Covenant system had implications beyond Jerusalem. The gospel and prophetic warning would spread throughout the Roman world and to the nations (Matthew 28:18-

20; Acts 1:8).

## † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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### Source Index

† Revelation 10:1-11; Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:20-22; Daniel 12:4; Daniel 9:24; Amos 3:7; Ephesians 3:3-6; Hebrews 12:26-28

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.5.3; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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