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Revelation 10 The Mighty Angel And The Little Scroll



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Revelation 10 pauses the trumpet judgments to reveal a powerful message about the completion of God's plan. Just as prophets in the Old Testament were given messages to proclaim before major judgment events, John is given a prophetic commission in the middle of the unfolding vision (Ezekiel 2:8-10).

† The scene emphasizes that the coming judgment was not random destruction. It was the fulfillment of God's long-declared plan through the prophets. What was about to occur had been foretold for centuries.

† This chapter also shows that God's mystery was reaching its completion. The events leading to the fall of Jerusalem were not merely political events. They were the climax of the covenant transition that Jesus had foretold during His ministry (Matthew 24:34).

Revelation 10:1-2

Then I saw another strong angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon 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.

† The imagery surrounding this mighty angel reflects divine authority. Clouds, fire, and radiant brightness often accompany heavenly messengers sent with God's authority (Daniel 10:5-6).

† The rainbow recalls God's covenant faithfulness. Even in judgment, God remains faithful to His promises and purposes (Genesis 9:13).

† The angel standing on sea and land shows universal authority over the entire region involved in the coming judgment.

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 spoke. 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.

† The roaring voice echoes prophetic language where God's voice is described as a lion's roar announcing judgment (Amos 3:8).

† Thunder often represents the powerful voice of God declaring judgment or authority (Psalm 29:3-4).

† The command to seal the message shows that not every detail of God's plan was revealed, reminding us that some aspects of prophecy remain hidden until the proper time.

† Daniel was also told to seal parts of his prophecy until the time of fulfillment (Daniel 12:4, 9). In contrast, Revelation reveals that the time of fulfillment had now arrived.

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 be no more 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, just as He preached to His servants the prophets.

† The declaration that there will be no more delay signals that the long-awaited fulfillment of prophecy had arrived.

† The mystery of God refers to the fulfillment of the redemptive plan revealed through the prophets, now reaching completion in Christ and the establishment of the New Covenant (Ephesians 3:3-6).

† The prophets had long warned that covenant judgment would come upon Jerusalem for rejecting the Messiah (Daniel 9:26-27; Matthew 23:36).

† The declaration that there will be no more delay matches the repeated statement in Revelation that the events were about to take place quickly (Revelation 1:1; Revelation 22:6).

Revelation 10:8-9

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. So 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.

† This scene directly parallels Ezekiel's prophetic commission, where the prophet was commanded to eat the scroll containing God's message (Ezekiel 3:1-3).

† The sweetness represents the joy of receiving God's truth, while the bitterness reflects the sorrow of delivering a message of judgment.

† Prophets often experienced this same tension, proclaiming truth while grieving the coming destruction upon their people.

† The scroll being already open shows that the message was ready to be proclaimed immediately, unlike Daniel's sealed prophecy which awaited a later fulfillment (Daniel 12:4).

Revelation 10:10

I took the little scroll out of 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.

† The sweetness of God's word is a common biblical theme. Psalm 119:103 describes God's word as sweeter than honey.

† Yet the bitterness reflects the painful reality that the message involved devastating judgment upon Jerusalem.

† This moment prepares John to continue proclaiming the message of what must soon take place.

Revelation 10:11

And they said to me, You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and languages and kings.

† John's prophetic mission continues because the message of the gospel and the testimony of judgment must be proclaimed to the nations.

† The fall of Jerusalem would mark a major turning point in redemptive history, demonstrating that the old covenant system had come to its end (Hebrews 8:13).

† The gospel would now go forward fully to the nations without the temple-centered system that once defined Israel's covenant life.

† Jesus had already declared that the judgment upon Jerusalem would come within that generation, confirming that the events John was prophesying were near at hand (Matthew 24:34).

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the growing turmoil and prophetic warnings that circulated during the years leading up to the

Jewish War.

† Eusebius recorded that early Christians understood Jesus' warnings and fled Jerusalem before the final destruction came (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Tacitus confirmed that the events surrounding the Jewish War shocked the Roman world and marked a significant turning point in the region (Tacitus, Histories 5.13).

How It Applies To Us Today

† God's plans unfold exactly as He declares. Nothing in history happens outside His sovereign authority.

† The gospel message is both sweet and bitter. It brings life to those who believe, but it also exposes judgment for those who reject it.

† The fulfillment of prophecy reminds us that Christ reigns over history and that every promise of God will be completed.

† We are called to faithfully proclaim the truth of the gospel just as John was commanded to continue prophesying.

Q And A Appendix

Q: What is the little scroll in Revelation 10?

A: The little scroll represents the prophetic message John was given to proclaim. It parallels the scroll given to Ezekiel, symbolizing the reception of God's message (Ezekiel 2:8-10; Ezekiel 3:1-3).

Q: Why was the scroll sweet in the mouth but bitter in the stomach?

A: God's word is joyful because it reveals truth and salvation, but the message also contained judgment upon Jerusalem,

which brought sorrow and grief (Psalm 119:103).

Q: What is the mystery of God mentioned in verse 7?

A: The mystery refers to the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan revealed through the prophets and completed through Christ and the New Covenant (Ephesians 3:3-6).

Q: Why was John told to prophesy again?

A: The message of the gospel and the testimony of God's fulfilled judgment needed to be proclaimed to the nations as the covenant transition unfolded (Matthew 28:18-20).

Q: Why was part of the thunder message sealed and not written?

A: Scripture shows that God sometimes reveals only part of His plan. Daniel 12:9 shows a similar example where parts of prophecy remained sealed until the appointed time.

Q: Why is the angel described with cloud, fire, and radiant brightness?

A: These are common signs of divine authority and heavenly commission. Similar descriptions appear when heavenly messengers are sent with important revelation. Daniel 10:5-6 describes a messenger with shining face and fiery appearance, showing the authority of the message being delivered.

Q: Why does the angel stand with one foot on the sea and one on the land?

A: This shows the authority of the message over the entire region. In Scripture the sea and the land often represent the whole world or the full scope of human territory under God's authority (Psalm 24:1; Exodus 20:11).

Q: Why is the message both sweet and bitter for the prophet?

A: God's word brings joy because it reveals truth and salvation, but it also brings sorrow when it announces judgment. Jeremiah experienced the same tension when he proclaimed God's

message to a rebellious nation (Jeremiah 15:16).

Q: Why does Revelation emphasize that prophecy must continue to be proclaimed?

A: God's truth must always be declared to the nations. Even after the destruction of Jerusalem, the gospel continued spreading throughout the Roman world just as Jesus commanded (Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20).

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

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Source Index

† Revelation 10; Genesis 9:13; Psalm 29:3-4; Psalm 119:103; Amos 3:8; Daniel 9:26-27; Daniel 12:4, 9; Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 8:13; Ephesians 3:3-6; Ezekiel 2:8-10; Ezekiel 3:1-3; Revelation 1:1; Revelation 22:6

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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