



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

We turn our attention to Chapter 10 of Revelation and notice that just like a well written book or play, we have an interlude between the judgments and the angels which bring those judgments. In this chapter John sees a mighty angel whose attire is clouds, a rainbow above his head, face shining like the sun and feet that looked like pillars of fire. In the hand of this mighty angel was a small scroll opened upon his hand. The authority of this angel is revealed in the placement of his fiery legs and feet. One foot on the sea the other on land. When the angel gave a shout it sounded like that of a lion. After this shout, Rev 10:3 speaks of seven thunders which spoke. When these seven thunderous voices spoke, John was getting ready to record what he heard just as he had been doing previously. Rev. 10:4 says that a voice from heaven stops him from writing. The voice implores him to seal up what he heard and do not write it down.

The angel raised his right hand (while his left hand is still holding the small scroll) and swears by him who lives forever, that “There will be no more delay”. Remember what the request of the martyrs under the glassy sea said in Rev. 6:10: How long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth. Well, this is the angels response, **no more delay!** This angels let’s them know that when the seventh angel is about to sound the trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished. This word mystery has been strategically placed. Turn to I Cor. 2:7-9 (Read). This text let’s us know that the intricate plans of God are often veiled or hidden from man’s view or understanding. They are also kept from the devil’s understanding. Paul states that the mysterious hidden wisdom of God is hidden! If Satan could understand God’s methodology, he would have made sure that Jesus was not crucified. Now in Revelation, we see that the mystery of God will be accomplished or finished. He then follows up by saying that it has been announced by His prophets (Read Amos 3:7). God does nothing without always warning His people first. This is the function of the prophets and the prophetic writings. Our reading this book of Revelation is yet another reminder that nothing will be done without God’s people being given a “heads up!”. Then the voice John heard speaks to Him directly and gives him some very different but specific instructions: (Rev. 10:9...1) take and eat. This is a wider contextual conversation to those charged with carrying God’s word. We must lay hold of it, we must take it. This is an active posture and not a passive one. We don’t wait on things to happen to us, we ensure that we are “taking hold”. I’m always moved when I hear the statement, “Carpe’ Diem”. This is a Latin phrase by the poet Horace. We must take the word and be taken by it! Psalms 119:11 says that I have hidden your Word in my heart. This is when we “eat” the scroll.



We are reminded in this text that we are not just to be around the Word, but to “take it in and digest it”. We must reconcile being hearers and doers of the Word. (James 1:22). He indicates the Word will be sweet to the taste, but will turn sour in the stomach. Ezekiel 3:3 (Read), gives us another example of how the Word of God is to be eaten (or absorbed as a part of our nutrition). I Peter 2:2 speaks of the Word as milk and that we grow as we partake of it. John 6:35 tells of when Jesus proclaims that He is the bread of Life and whoever comes to Him will hunger no more. As a prophet the Word of God is given to us and of that we are humbled and grateful and sweet. Yet as it settles in us, we are reminded often of the somber judgments that often accompany His Word. Unlike the challenge to the prophet Ezekiel who was to warn Israel, this prophecy is far wider in its scope and reach. Read Rev. 10:11. John is told that he must prophesy against 1) many peoples, 2) nations, 3) languages and 4) Kings. This prophecy is for the whole earth! This is the set up for the entire earth and not just the people of God. The Word of God is encouraging for those who follow Christ (it’s sweet), but the same Word is bitter for those whose judgment it befalls. This interlude, is setting us up for this great and final woe. One of the biggest lessons in chapter 10 is this idea of the mysterious plan of God. We can bring direct application to our own every day lives. We don’t always understand the purposes of God and the plans of God. It may seem like we are just like the people under the glassy sea wondering when will God “make things right”? Well, all things will be done in His timing and in the timeframes He has ordained. Once again our faith must hold fast to the fact that God is not a liar and will always accomplish what He promises. Another very important point of this chapter is the God as Just. The justice of God must be executed. No one will ever be able to say that God did not give humanity an opportunity to repent and be saved. God continues to send prophets to remind us of things to come. He already knows before sending the prophet what our response will be. However, God will not allow there to be judgment without warning. The same is true in our lives. Through His Word, situations and circumstances, God warns and prepares us for what is yet to come. He is both holy and **JUST**.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Is This One of the Seven Angels?
2. What is this angel’s purpose?
3. What is John not allowed to report?
4. Why is John invited to eat the scroll. What similarity does John have with Ezekiel and why?
5. How does the mysterious ways of God made clear?
6. Does God prepare His people for what is to come? Give examples form Chapter 10 and from your own life.