

REVELATION 10

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 10 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen, as the wrath of God is poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, it starts out slow and is gradually picking up in intensity and frequency with each succeeding judgment.

We covered the seal judgments and we saw that one-quarter of the earth's population will be destroyed in only four of those seven judgments. Maybe some 2 billion people.

Then, after the sixth seal is broken and judgment comes forth, before we get to the seventh seal, we saw in Revelation chapter 7 a short break where John is filling in some details of what is going to transpire during this period of time.

We saw the 144,000 Jewish witnesses and then, as John tells us in Revelation 7:9, **“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”**

These people are the ones who come to know the Lord through the witness of the 144,000, they are the Tribulation saints.

And to show you that this is not the church, that these are those who are saved during the Tribulation Period, John tells us in Revelation 7:14, **“... ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”**

Then we moved on to the seventh seal judgment and we said that the seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments spoken of in Revelation chapters 8 and 9 and chapter 11.

And, just to keep this in your mind, the seventh trumpet judgment contains the seven bowl judgments spoken of in Revelation chapter 16.

Now, as we have seen, in six of the seven trumpet judgments that have been unleashed upon this earth, we have seen the devastating effects it has brought upon the inhabitants of this world!

In the first four trumpet judgments we saw one-third of the earth's vegetation destroyed; one-third of the oceans destroyed and the life within those oceans including one-third of the ships within those oceans; one-third of the fresh water supply was destroyed and for those who drink this water, many will die from it; we saw one-third of the sun, the moon and the stars struck in this judgment, reducing the sunlight or daylight by 33%.

If that was not bad enough, we are told in Revelation 8:13, "**And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, 'Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!'**"

In other words, if you thought those previous four trumpet judgments were bad, you haven't seen anything yet!

As we came to the fifth trumpet judgment we saw Satan unleash the most wicked fallen angels or demons from the bottomless pit where they were chained for this day of judgment. And for five months they will inflict deadly pain upon people like that of a scorpion sting, and yet, they will not be able to die! Death takes a holiday as people agonize in pain and can't do anything to alleviate it, not even die!

Then, as we came to the sixth trumpet judgment we see four fallen angels going forth, being unleashed from the area of the Euphrates River and as they go forth with 200 million followers, they destroy one-third of the earth's population by fire, smoke and brimstone!

And I believe these are demons that are unleashed, these 200 million!

And yet, even after all of this, we are told in Revelation 9:20-21, **“But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.”**

The heart of sinful man is very hard to break!

Now, as we move into chapter 10 there is another break from these judgments where some more details of the Tribulation Period are filled in.

In fact, this break will cover Revelation chapter 10 through 14, with chapter 15 being a prelude to the bowl judgments.

Yes, we have seen the cataclysmic events that occurred during the seven seal judgments and the six trumpet judgments so far, but there are other things going on, taking place during this period of time. And for John, and for us, it is a breather from the unspeakable destruction and devastation that will come upon the earth dwellers.

Let me share this with you and then we will get to our text. You see, there are so many people out there that are trying to tell us what to do, what to say, where to go, what is truth and what is not truth, and it can become confusing and overwhelming.

In fact, many just negate everything because they can't believe anyone or anything. Listen to this story because if you are feeling this way, I pray that you can get refocused on the truth.

We are told,

My parents had come to visit my sister and me. We were working at Kanakuk, a Christian sports camp in Missouri. But that night the softball game I was playing in wasn't over when my parents and sister were ready to go.

I told them to go on, and they did. These were the days before cell phones. I knew my parents would be staying at a resort called Holiday Island, but that was all I knew.

After the game, on the drive to Holiday Island, I began to wonder how in the world I would find my family.

I got to Holiday Island and pulled into what looked like an office. Thankfully, someone came to the door, but when I asked if they could help me find which time-share my parents were in, I was told there were thousands of time-shares at Holiday Island.

To make matters worse, there was no central system that logged all the units. He couldn't help me.

Suddenly I realized that I was alone in the world, with no idea where to go, no clue as to where to start, and no way to contact my family.

So I despondently got in my car and started driving farther into Holliday Island.

Then I saw a familiar sight: there was my sister's car!

And under a windshield wiper was a note – I have it with me to this day. It reads as follows:

Jimbo,

We are at 15 Ironwood Dr. on the Island. Go to the Island – turn right on Apaloosa Dr. – 2nd street is Ironwood Dr. Go to the end of the street. 15 Ironwood Drive.

Love, Dad

PS: It is 7:20 pm – we will be back here at 8:20.

It was 8:15 when I found that note. As I began to follow the directions, I soon crossed paths with my dad coming to get me, just as he said he would.

Apart from divine revelation, can we really know anything in the world? Apart from the Bible, do we have any hope of understanding who we are, how we got here, what has gone wrong, what God has done to address the problem, and what will become of the world?

We need the Bible like I needed that note from my father that night. If God does not communicate with us, we are lost, adrift, uncertain, hopeless, and without purpose, significance, or any sense of meaning.

- James M. Hamilton Jr., *Revelation – The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*, pp. 221-222

It is easy to get lost in this world, especially today when so much is being thrown at us. But if we stick to God's Word, follow His direction, we will not be lost no matter how bad things will get. Look to God and His Word and you will not go wrong.

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 10, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

REVELATION 10**VERSE 1**

Now as you read the description of this “**mighty angel**” it seems to be speaking of Jesus Christ.

In fact, many have identified this mighty angel, this messenger, as Jesus because some of the imagery also applies to Him. And when you look at Revelation chapter 1 and see the description of Jesus and see what John tells us here in Revelation chapter 10, it does make sense.

One writer, Ray Stedman describes the angel like this, pointing to the fact that it is Jesus. He wrote,

There are certain clues given in this symbolic book that identify this angel as the “Angel of the Lord,” or the “Angel of Yahweh;” the great angel who accompanied Israel through their wilderness wanderings.

This Angel always appears when Israel comes to the forefront of God’s program. That is an indication here to help us identify where we are and what is happening at this time.

This great Angel comes “robed in a cloud.” A cloud is characteristic again of the nation Israel. Remember that when Israel was marching through the desert they were preceded by a cloud by day and followed by a pillar of fire by night.

Actually the same cloud came to the rear at night and was lighted from some kind of fire within so that it appeared as a glowing, brilliant pillar. Later, when the tabernacle was completed, and later still when the temple was built, this same cloud came down and filled the Holy of Holies.

It was called the Shekinah, the cloud of glory, an indication of the presence of God. So right from the start we have a clue that identifies this Angel as the Lord himself, Jesus, God the Son, appearing as the Angel of Jehovah.

Then we learn he has a rainbow above his head. We last saw a rainbow in Chapter 4 of this book, around the throne of God. The Angel's face, we are told, was "like the sun," and "his legs [actually, the word is feet] were like fiery pillars." That takes us back to Chapter 1 where John saw the vision of Jesus standing amid the churches.

John describes his face as shining like the sun and his feet were like burnished, glowing bronze. Here, as John watched, he saw the Angel plant one foot upon the land and the other upon the sea, so that he stood astride the earth as a giant colossus. This symbolizes, of course, his ownership of the entire earth. Here is the rightful owner of earth, standing like a great colossus, claiming the earth for himself.

The last clue is that he "roared like a lion." This goes back to the scene in Chapter 4 where we saw the slain Lamb who is also the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He roars in triumph over the earth. So once again we have indications that Israel is coming into view again as God's people whom he desires to use in a special way throughout the period of judgment of the last days and to continue on into the establishment of the kingdom after the return of Jesus.

This scene must have been a great encouragement to John. It is also to us because it helps us see that all these cosmic events affecting earth are still under the firm control of the Angel of God. He is working out everything that happens on his own timetable. This mighty Angel should forever remove from our minds the concept we frequently have of angels as rather effeminate creatures who pluck languidly on harps. That is not what an angel is in Scripture. . .

As I have said, if you look at his description in chapter 1 of Revelation there are some similarities. And there are many who feel this is Jesus, but I am not one of them and I will tell you why.

John tells us that he saw **“another mighty angel”** and he uses the Greek word ALLOS for **“another”** and this word means another of the same kind.

What does that mean?

It means that this angel is similar to the angels spoken of in Revelation chapter 9 and thus, he is not Jesus.

Let me show you the difference.

In John 14:16 Jesus said, **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”**

Jesus, in speaking of the Holy Spirit, our Helper, our Comforter, says, **“another helper”** and He uses the same Greek word for **“another.”** He uses ALLOS.

If Jesus used the Greek word HETEROS that would mean another of a different kind. But He didn't.

Thus, what Jesus is saying is that He is going to send another helper who is just like Him. What does that mean? It means that like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity!

We also see this spoken of in Romans 7:23 as Paul uses the Greek word HETEROS for **“another.”**

He says, **“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”** This Greek word means another of a different kind.

In other words, the Law was different than the Spirit of life. You see, the Law makes us aware of our sinful condition and it leads to condemnation and death. The Spirit gives us life as we receive the grace of God, which is extended to us through Jesus Christ!

So here in Revelation chapter 10 we see John linking this verse to that which he has already spoke of in Revelation 5:2, which says, **“Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’”**

The word **“strong”** and the word **“mighty”** are the same Greek word, ISCHUROS, (is-koo-ros’).

Thus, here is the point. The angel in Revelation chapter 5 was not Jesus Christ and the angel here in Revelation chapter 10 is not Jesus Christ, but you might say they were cut from the same cloth, they both are mighty or strong angels!

Now here is a question for you. Why does this angel’s description reflect the description of Jesus Christ, why are they similar?

Think about that for a minute. The more time you spend with Jesus the more His nature will flow from your life.

Remember all the time that Moses spent with the Lord and then, in Exodus 34:33-35 we are told, **“And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses’ face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.”**

It is just like spending time in the sun, the more you are out in the sun the more people will see the sun's effects upon your life – sunburn or a suntan, whatever the case may be.

As you spend time in the Son of God, the more people will see the Son of God's effects upon your life – His nature will flow forth.

Then why do some people spend time in the Word of God, they go to church, they go to Bible studies and yet, their lives seem unchanged.

Folks, you can block out the effects of the sun by using sun block and you can block out the effects of the Son of God upon your life by hardening your heart, closing your eyes and blocking out what God is telling you.

May we be open to God and allow His nature to flow from our lives!

My pastor summed it up like this. He wrote,

Then who is this mighty angel in Revelation 10:1? - we don't know.

But we do know these 2 angels in Chapters 5 and 10 are more powerful than the rest - I therefore think they could be Gabriel and Michael.

- The name Gabriel means “strength of God” (5:2)
- The name Michael means “who is like God” (10:1)

The reason that this angel, if he is Michael, reflects so many of the attributes of God is because - God's holy angels in general reflect many of the attributes of God and since that's true how much more Michael the archangel?

- Pastor Phil Ballmaier, Revelation 10:1-4

VERSE 2

The first thing we see here is this “**little book**” that is in this angel’s hand and the book is open.

What is this “**little book**” that John is speaking of?

Some say it is the scroll that contained the seal judgments. But I don’t think so.

I believe this “**little book**” represents the judgments that are remaining and have not yet been poured out upon the earth dwellers and in a broader sense, it represents the Word of God!

Mark Hitchcock put it like this. He wrote,

If the little book is not the 7-sealed scroll (Chapters 5 & 6) - then what is it?

The little scroll is probably the revelation from God about the remainder of the contents of Revelation in Chapters 11-22. It’s the rest of the prophetic message John will record.

Revelation 10:11 supports this notion because John eats the little book and then prophesies again.

These prophecies are the context of the little book. He eats the book and then, once he has taken it in, speaks the rest of the prophecies in Revelation.

- Mark Hitchcock

I do think that is the point here and we will look at this a little more as we finish up this chapter.

We are also told that this angel “**set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.**” Again, what is that all about?

Now many do read this, and they see this *giant angel* placing one foot on the land and his other foot on the sea, but I don’t think that is the point that is being made here.

Let me impress you here for a minute.

Did you know I could place one foot in Lake Michigan and my other foot on the beach!

Those listening on the radio think I'm a giant. No, only 6⁵ - okay, 5⁶! But you see my point; you don't have to be a giant to do this!

Then what is John's point here?

First of all, this angel had a book in his hand, a message and thus, I believe the point that John is making is that this message is not for a select few, but it is universal in nature.

Can I prove that?

I think so. Look at Revelation 10:11, the last verse of this chapter, which says, "**And he said to me, 'You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.'**"

You see, the message in this book is for all to hear and not only to hear but to apply to their lives, to repent and return to the Lord!

Without the application of these truths from this angel it is worthless to the person!

I also see this picture here like this. This angel is representing God who is in control, who stands over all the earth in the dominant position and God is preparing to execute His judgment, pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world before He comes to take dominion over it.

VERSES 3-4

Now many read this and they say that the book of Revelation is a sealed book and we are not to look into it, we are not to study it, we are to focus on other things. Foolishness.

Remember what I said the book of Revelation is all about!

The book of Revelation is the unveiling of Jesus Christ in all of His glory as He returns to set-up His Kingdom on this earth.

This is not a sealed book but one we are to read and apply to our lives.

In fact, in Revelation 1:3 we are told, **“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”**

And yet, here in Revelation chapter 10 John hears these seven thunders speak and as he is about to write down what they said, he was told to seal these words, don't write them down.

Now it is truly amazing that people try to speculate what these seven thunders said, but folks, that is foolish! If God wanted us to know, then He would have told us!

Remember what Daniel was told in Daniel 12:9, **“And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.’”**

Daniel did not understand all that he wrote about, and we are told that these things would not be opened up until **“the time of the end.”** I believe we are living in those days and what Daniel wrote about is now opened up to us by God.

And here in Revelation, what these seven thunders uttered, we are not to know.

Why did God do this?

Why did John even tell us that these seven thunders spoke and that he then could not write down what they said?

Folks, there are some things we just are not going to know; we are not going to understand.

God has His reasons, and I am going to rest in that.

I am not going to waste my time trying to figure out something that God doesn't want me to know at this time.

In fact, in Deuteronomy 29:29 we are told, **“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”**

This is a powerful point. We spend so much time trying to figure out things God doesn't want us to know and yet, the things we do know of God and His desire for us, we don't follow!

We are responsible for the things that God has told us, and we need to keep them instead of trying to figure out those things that God doesn't want us to know.

In Psalm 131:2, and this is from The Living Bible, we are told, **“I am quiet now before the Lord, just as a child who is weaned from the breast. Yes, my begging has been stilled.”**

A child who is weaned from his mother's breast has to learn to trust that she will provide for him even though the child may not fully understand what is happening.

As we are still before the Lord, as we grow, we must learn to trust in Him apart from fully understanding what He is doing or why He is doing it.

We just may not understand it, but can we trust in Him?

It is as Walvoord wrote, ***“This illustrates the principle that while God has revealed much, there are secrets which God has not seen fit to reveal to man at this time.”***

I agree totally!

Keep in mind when we read of the thundering of God, it is speaking of His power, and it is also speaking of His judgment, which comes with His power!

In Psalm 29:3-9 we are told, **“The voice of the Lord is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The Lord is over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; The voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, Yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; The Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, ‘Glory!’”**

The voice of God is so powerful, it spoke the universe into existence, and yet it is His still small voice that speaks to our hearts and when He does it is powerful.

God’s voice is powerful, it is strong, it can bring fear to people, it causes them to get knocked off their course.

And in His judgment, His voice is clear, all will know, but not all will come to Him! The judgment of God is coming as these seven thunders utter their voices!

VERSES 5-7

Why does God allow this evil to continue on?

When is this going to come to an end?

We see that here as one commentator writes, *“A question that has troubled God’s people throughout history is why God has allowed evil in the world. The wicked often appear to prosper. Sin seemingly runs wild and unchecked. Why, people ask, does God not stop all the carnage, corruption, and chaos in the world? Why does He allow His children to suffer? When will divine justice prevail and the righteous be delivered and the wicked punished?”*

And Warren Wiersbe gives us this insight. He wrote,

The “mystery of God” has to do with the age-old problem of evil in the world. Why is there both moral and natural evil in the world? Why doesn’t God do something about it?

Of course, the Christian knows that God did “do something about it” at Calvary when Jesus Christ was made sin and experienced divine wrath for a sinful world.

We also know that God is permitting evil to increase until the world is ripe for judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:7; Revelation 14:14–20).

Since God has already paid the price for sin, He is free to delay His judgment, and He cannot be accused of injustice or unconcern.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 1061

Exactly!

Now some of you who have the King James Version of the Bible, it puts verse 6 like this, and I don’t believe they are correct.

It reads, “**And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.**”

I think the New King James Version of the Bible has it correct, and I like the way that The Living Bible puts this verse. It says, “**and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and everything in it and the earth and all that it contains and the sea and its inhabitants, that there should be no more delay.**”

It is not that God is going to cause time to cease but that there would be no further delay, that God’s final judgment is coming.

Also, in Revelation 10:7 it is speaking of “**. . . the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.**” What is that all about?

First of all, when we think of a mystery we tend to think of something that no one knows. But that is not what this word means, biblically speaking. It speaks of something that we don't know but has been revealed to us by God. It is not something you could know by intuition or by your own personal investigation.

Paul, in speaking of the Rapture of the church said, “**Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**” I Corinthians 15:51-57.

You see, prior to God reveling this to Paul, the Rapture was unknown to man, but not to God of course!

In these verses John tells us that at the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the mystery of God will be finished.

The Greek word that John uses for “**finished**” is TELEO and it means to “*accomplish, make an end, expire, full up, conclude.*”

What is this mystery that is about to be finished?

When Jesus came the first time He did not set-up a literal Kingdom on this earth to rule and reign from.

The Kingdom of God now is internal, God set-up His kingdom in our hearts as He became Lord and Savior of our lives, as the Holy Spirit indwelt us.

But now the mystery will be completed. What the Old Testament prophets spoke of regarding the Messiah setting up His Kingdom on this earth will come to pass as Jesus takes the Kingdom that was internal and spiritual and makes it external and physical!

In Revelation 11:15 we see this spoken of, **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”**

You see, the judgment of God will be complete, and the Lord will return to set-up His Kingdom and righteousness will fill this land.

Yes, the mystery of the Kingdom of God will be completed, for it will be here on the earth!

Praise the Lord for that – we long for that day!

It is as Habakkuk 2:14 says, **“For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.”**

So when you read this here in Revelation think of it as the *consummation* of God’s plan or the *completion* of God’s plan in bringing His glorious Kingdom in Christ to fulfillment.

Judgement comes and then the Kingdom comes, it will be completed, all of what the Old Testament prophets spoke of!

VERSES 8-10

Some equate this “**little book**” with the scroll spoken of in Revelation chapter 5 and 6, but again, I don’t think that is the correct way to look at this, as I have said.

That scroll in Revelation chapters 5 and 6 represented the title deed to the earth, and the Lord was the only one who can take that out of the Father’s right hand, He alone is worthy!

This scroll here in Revelation chapter 10, I believe represents the Scriptures, the Word of God and probably more specifically, the coming judgments that will be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

And John is told to take this scroll out of the mighty angel’s hand, and he does.

Then John is told to eat this scroll, and once again he does.

Now some may read this and laugh at this.

“What is John going to do, cut up this book and eat it? Maybe he could use a little salt or pepper for flavor!”

That is just foolish.

Let me ask you this. Have you ever devoured a book before?

How did it taste?

Just kidding!

Obviously you didn’t eat it but you read it through, you took it into your life. In fact, the Greek word that John uses for “**eat**” is KATESTHIO, (kat-es-thee’-o) and it means to devour!

The point here is that John is being told to take the Word of God into his innermost being, to digest it into his life, and that is something we should do!

In fact, Jeremiah said, **“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.”** Jeremiah 15:16.

So as John is told to take this book and to eat this book, as he did, as he took it into this life, it was sweet to his taste!

Folks, God’s Word is sweet, it is good for us, it is tasty you might say.

It is like honey in your mouth!

We are told in Psalm 19:7-11, **“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.”**

You see, as we take in God’s Word into our lives there are those blessings of promises that God gives to us, words we can treasure, words we can hold onto, words we can be comforted by and-so-on.

The Bible tells us that not only reading them is a treasure to us, but we must also keep God’s Word for as we do there is great reward. There are blessings.

God’s Word is sweet, it is refreshing, it is nourishing to our spiritual lives.

But, if you refuse to keep God’s Word, then there is judgment that will come.

You see, as you begin to digest the things of God you also see the consequences of disobedience. There is the message of judgment that is coming upon those who have rejected Jesus Christ.

It is bitter when you realize what is going to happen to the lost. Judgment is coming and thus your heart should burn for the unsaved. It should be a wake-up call to the reality of what we should do - share the Gospel! Point people to Jesus!

Several weeks back I was corresponding with Mike, and he was sharing some things in regard to Bible prophecy and it is exciting and sad. You see, it is exciting to know the Lord is coming for His Bride, the Church and things are getting close.

It is also sad because judgment, the judgment of God is coming upon those who have rejected Him. Mike said it truly is *“bittersweet!”* And I would agree.

We also see this in Ezekiel chapter 3, starting in verse 1, where we are told, **“Moreover He said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.’ So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.’ So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. Then He said to me: ‘Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.’ . . . ‘Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, “You shall surely die,” and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.”** Ezekiel 3:1-4, 17-19.

Ezekiel, like John, is told to eat God's Word, and how sweet God's Word is to those who believe, but judgment is coming upon those who refuse, as I have said.

Our responsibility is to tell others of Christ. Then it is up to them to either reject or accept the Gospel message. But judgment is coming on those who refuse to accept. You see, God's Word contains sweet promises and assurances, but it also contains bitter warnings and prophecies of judgment!

There is another point I would like to make here and that is this.

It is your responsibility to take in God's Word. God will never force you; God will not thrust it down your throat, God will not force-feed you.

God hands His Word to us, and we must take it into our lives, we must have that desire to know God through His Word.

It is as the Psalmist said, "**As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. . . .**" Psalm 42:1-2a.

May we hunger and thirst after God and He will fill us. Be in His Word!

Remember the manna or bread from heaven spoken of in Exodus chapter 16?

God told the children of Israel that they must go out and collect enough for them to eat, but enough food for only one day.

In a sense, that is what we do with God's Word. We can't say, "***Hey, I read my quota for this week all in one day!***"

That won't help you because you must daily take it in, you must daily feed upon God's Word!

The Lord said this to Joshua as He was instructing him, **“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”** Joshua 1:8.

In other words, seven days without the Word of God will make one **WEAK!**

Yes, God’s Word is bittersweet!

There is the bitterness of judgment for those who reject Jesus, and it is hard when family and friends close their hearts to the truths of God.

But it is also filled with sweetness, filled with the promises of God to those who love Him!

As the Psalmist said, **“How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!”** Psalm 119:103.

It is as one writer put it, *“Every revelation of God’s purposes . . . is ‘bitter-sweet,’ disclosing judgment as well as mercy.”* (Swete)

And listen to how this chapter closes.

VERSE 11

And that is exactly what John is going to do as he gives these words of judgment to many peoples, nations, tongues and kings!

And his words continue to minister to people today.

What is the passion of your heart to witness to people? Why do you do it?

I think the greatest reason of telling others about Jesus is because we know that judgment is coming upon this world, and it is going to be devastating!

In fact, as we read the Scriptures and we see what is said about this judgment and what the future holds for those who reject Jesus in the Lake of Fire, we would not want our worst enemies to go through that!

It is the greatest motivation to share the Gospel – “**Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . .**” II Corinthians 5:11.

And in saying that, how often do you hear people say, “*Religion is personal, we don’t talk about that!*”

The Bible says the exact opposite. We are to talk about it, we are to share our faith with others.

That is what this angel was telling John.

Yes, don’t speak what the seven thunders uttered but speak forth the Words of God, give them the whole council of God, don’t hold back, don’t water it down!

Paul told Timothy, “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**” II Timothy 3:16-17.

I think we all believe that God’s Word is living, it is powerful, it is able to transform lives. We have seen it in our own lives!

The problem comes, many times, when people don’t want to hear it and we just keep silent.

Listen again to what Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 4:1-5, **“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”**

You see, when people want to hear God’s Word, share it with them.

When people don’t want to hear God’s Word, share it with them.

Yes, they may not want to hear it, but they need to hear it. Don’t be obnoxious about it but share it in love.

I know my wife tells me things that I don’t always want to hear, but I need to hear.

So too here with the Word of God. You see, we need to fulfill our ministry that God has given to us, the one that God has called us to do by speaking to all kinds of people from all walks of life about the Gospel message, the Good News of Jesus Christ!

As I have said, this chapter is an interlude filled with hope in the midst of judgment, and the hope is mixed with bitterness that reminds all Christians of their evangelical responsibility to warn the world of the day that is coming and point them to Jesus!

Thomas Paine, an immigrant to America in 1787, had leaped from obscurity to fame after writing some brilliant pamphlets on freedom.

But then he made a fatal mistake. He began to write his *“masterpiece”* called *The Age of Reason*, which scoffed at Christianity.

“This will destroy the Bible,” he predicted. *“Within 100 years, Bibles will be found only in museums or in must corners of second-hand bookstores.”*

His book was published in London in 1794.

But it brought him so much misery and loneliness that he once said: *“I would give worlds, if I had them, had The Age of Reason never been written.”*

Paine became a bedridden invalid until his death, friendless and alone, in 1809.

The Bible remains a best seller!

Many people have come, and they have gone who have echoed the same words as Mr. Paine.

They speak so boldly of the demise of God’s Word and yet, God’s Word continues on, and they have returned to the dust of the earth.

And God’s Word will continue to stand, even in the darkest days, as a light to point people to the true and living God, even during the Tribulation Period.

It is as Jesus said, **“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”** Matthew 24:35.

May we never forget that!