

"The Little Scroll"

Part 3

Revelation 10:1-11

Introduction: Last week in our study of Revelation 10 we looked at the CHRONOLOGY of the book and we set this chapter in its proper place.

The SILENCE in heaven between the Seal Judgments and the Trumpet Judgments seems to happen at the mid-point of the Tribulation. So, the Seal Judgments are in the first 3 ½ years and they are known as the Tribulation. The Trumpet Judgments start at the mid-point and proceed almost the entire way to the end. They occur in what Jesus called THE GREAT TRIBULATION.

Matthew 24:15-21

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Chapter 10:1 - 11:14 is an interlude between the 6th and the 7th Trumpet Judgment. This chapter is here to help us to see that during the GREAT TRIBULATION God is in control of all that is happening on the earth.

Last week we looked at the MIGHTY ANGEL in this chapter and we also looked at his stance.

Notice Revelation 10:2

He set one foot on the earth and one on the sea. His feet are pillars of fire and FIRE in the Bible speaks of judgment. The SEA in the Bible is a reference to the Gentiles and the

LAND is a reference to the Nation of Israel. So, his stance speaks of global judgment. The LEFT foot on the land is the unfavorable foot which means that Israel will receive the greater judgment in the 7 years of Tribulation. The Gentiles of the Tribulation will also experience the judgment of God but not to the severity which Israel will face it. Let me show you a glimpse of what takes place at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

Revelation 12:7-13

⁷ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

¹² Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

When Satan is cast out of heaven at the mid-point of the Tribulation he will exercise GREAT WRATH as he persecutes the Nation of Israel. Considering all of this we shall see why this 10th chapter is so important.

I. The Oath

Notice Revelation 10:5

Now let us keep in mind this mighty angel has in his hand a little book. This is NOT the same book which Jesus had that was sealed with 7 seals. This book is different and last week we touched on the fact that this book is in the angel's LEFT hand. Again, I remind you that

the LEFT side is the unfavorable side so this tells me that what is in this little book is UNFAVORABLE. We will get to the contents of the book later.

Let us get back to this OATH which the angel makes. He raised his right hand and swore by God.

Notice Revelation 10:6

This verse is very important. It places the emphasis upon God as Creator and Owner of the earth. God created the earth in 6 literal 24-hour days and He then entrusted it to man. When man sinned, he lost possession and it has come under the influence and control of Satan. But after the Great Tribulation the earth will go back to its original Creator and Owner.

The idea here in this verse is that God owns what it is that He has created. He can do with the earth as He pleases and that is exactly what He is doing in the Tribulation period. He is judging and He is cleansing the earth in preparation for the Kingdom.

Application:

I need to stop here for a moment and make an application for our own personal lives. I want to show you a lesson which Jesus taught in Mark.

Mark 12:13-17

13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.

17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

Caesar's image was on the coin therefore it belonged to Caesar. God's image is in us therefore we are God's and just as He is free to do with the earth what He desires so He is also free to do with us as He pleases. **Man's ultimate purpose is to glorify God** and that means He can place us wherever He desires to bring glory to His name. Our responsibility is to SURRENDER to whatever it is that we face.

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Notice Revelation 10:6 again.

The angel makes an oath "That there should be time no longer". This does not mean there will be no more measurable time for that would be impossible. The meaning here is "THERE WILL BE NO MORE DELAY".

This then raises several questions, "What is this oath all about?" "What has been delayed?"

Let me explain the significance of this statement. God has promised for thousands of years that He would one day bring a judgment upon the earth and that the Messiah would return to establish His Kingdom on the earth. He has promised that Israel would be saved and they would possess the land which God had promised to Abraham and his seed.

Many have scoffed at these promises.

2 Peter 3:2-10

² That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

³ Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

⁴ And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

⁵ For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

⁶ Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Even the earth waits for the day when the Kingdom will be established.

Romans 8:19-22

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Notice Revelation 10:7

The contrast here is between the PAST DELAY and the 7th Trumpet which will bring to a conclusion the MYSTERY of God. What is the MYSTERY of God spoken of here?

It is the GOOD NEWS which had been prophesied of by the prophets. Peter spoke of the same thing in Acts.

Acts 3:19-24

¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

²⁰ And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

²¹ Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

²² For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

²³ And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

²⁴ Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

We will pull this all together here in a moment.

II. The Command

Notice Revelation 10:8-10

John was commanded to eat LITTLE BOOK and it was sweet in his mouth but bitter in his belly.

What was in this book and why did it have this effect upon John?

This little book contains the remainder of the judgments namely the BOWL JUDGMENTS which will be poured out as the 7th Trumpet Judgment sounds. The Bowl Judgments were far more severe than the Seals and the Trumpets. The Little Book was sweet because it told of the fulfillment of God's promises, but it was bitter to John's belly because as he digested the contents he began to realize that the fulfillment of God's promises would mean that many people would perish.

Notice Revelation 10:11

John was told he must prophesy again which gives us the idea that he thought it was all finished.

Application:

Let me pull all of this together in a conclusion. There is coming a day when the promises of God will all be fulfilled. The thought of the Rapture, the coming Kingdom, the New Heaven and the New Earth are all exciting to us. But as we get into the Word of God and we begin to digest the contents of the Scriptures there is a BITTERNESS deep within because we know that there are going to be people who will be left behind and they will die in their sins. They therefore will perish in the Lake of Fire.

That is where Revelation 10:11 comes in. John was not to stop but he was to prophesy to all the world as he would finish out the Revelation of Jesus Christ/this Book. The world can pick this Book up and see what is coming. But there are many who do not read the Bible and there are many who do not own a Bible.

It is our responsibility to go out into the world and tell them what is coming and tell them that God has made a Way of Escape through His Son Jesus Christ.

Let me show you what God told Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 3:17-19

¹⁷ Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

¹⁸ When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

¹⁹ Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.