**Revelation**

*Lesson 21 – Revelation 10*

* We’re in the middle of the trumpets and you can see in the table below where we’ve been. We’ve had 6 trumpets.

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| **First Seal** – White Horse: General Representation of God’s Judgment upon the Wicked | **First Trumpet** – Hail & Fire; 1/3 of the land burned |
| **Second Seal** – Red Horse: War (Lack of Peace) | **Second Trumpet** – Blood; 1/3 of the waters and ships |
| **Third Seal** – Black Horse: Famine & Inflation | **Third Trumpet** – Bitter Water (Wormwood); 1/3 of the rivers and springs |
| **Fourth Seal** - Pale Horse: Death (1/4 of Earth) | **Fourth Trumpet** – Darkness; 1/3 of the heavenly bodies |
| **Fifth Seal** – Souls Under Altar: Praying for God’s Justice against their persecutors | **Fifth Trumpet/First Woe** – demons (“locust”) who spiritually and psychologically torment unbelievers |
| **Sixth Seal** – Cosmic Undoing of the World (2nd Coming) | **Sixth Trumpet/Second Woe** – demons (“angels riding scary looking horses) who kill and wound 1/3 of unbelievers |
| **Seventh Seal** – Silence in Heaven | **Seventh Trumpet/Third Woe** - |

* “The parenthesis in 10:1-11:13 explains the relationship between the godless and the godly during the church age: the godless persecute the godly. Non-Christians are punished by the trumpet judgments throughout the church age because of this relationship.” –Greg Beale
* “With respect to the trumpets, this interlude is a sweet relief from the horrible visions of demonic armies in chapter 9. It reminds us that though Satan rages, Christ reigns, and His kingdom will come according to God’s decreed plan.” –Joel Beeke

*Verses 1-7: An Angel, Scroll, and Oath*

1. John sees an angel who is described as “mighty” (verse 1) and this angel is so huge that his right foot is in the sea and his left foot is on the land (verse 2), indicating that this message is for the whole world. He’s also described using OT language and this is some debate as to whether or not this is Jesus Christ who in the OT is called “the angel of the Lord.”
2. Daniel 10:5-6 – “I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. **6**His body was like beryl, **his face like the appearance of lightning**, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and **legs like the gleam of burnished bronze**, and **the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude**.”
3. Ezekiel 1:26-28 – “**26**And above the expanse over their heads [living creatures] there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. **27**And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And **downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire**, **and there was brightness around him**. **28Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain**, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.”
4. Clouds in the OT are often the vehicle in which God makes an appearance and the cloud is frequently symbolic for judgment. Zephaniah 1:15 – “A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
5. This angel is holding a scroll in his hand and it’s hard to know whether this is the same scroll that we saw in Chapter 5 that Christ takes from the Father and opens because Christ alone is worthy..
6. After the mighty angel calls out with a loud voice that is likened to a roaring lion, 7 thunders respond back and they apparently say something because John is about to write it down (verse 4), but God (or Christ) interrupts John and says not to write it down. So we have no idea what the 7 thunders said. In Revelation 6 the voice of the living creatures is described like a voice of thunder and the angel who speaks from heaven in John 12:28-29 is likened to thunder. It may be that this angel calls out and God (7 is the number of perfection) responds to the angel and John is about to write down what God has said when God stops John from writing it down.
7. What this indicates is that some things God reserves for Him and Him alone to know. Deuteronomy 29 says the secret things belong to God. Derek Thomas suggests that some things regarding the future and this time between Christ’s comings are not meant to be revealed so that we might live more in dependence on God. Joel Beeke writes, “Only God has the complete picture of what is and will transpire in this world.”
8. After this the focus returns in verses 5-7 to the mighty angel who swears or makes an oath by the God of creation, echoing language from Genesis and other OT passages, that there is going to be no more delay in God’s judgment. God has sent seals and 6 trumpets to terrorize and torment the ungodly that they may repent but the ungodly do not repent so the final trumpet is going to blow and God is bringing the consummation to completion. This is foreshadowing to us that the 7th trumpet is the 2nd Coming of Christ just like the 6th seal was the 2nd Coming of Christ. Greg Beale writes, “when God has decided to complete his purposes and to terminate history, there will be no delay in its termination.”
9. Daniel 12:7 – “**7**And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; **he raised his right hand** and his left hand toward heaven and **swore by him who lives forever** that it would be for a time, times, and half a time,…”

*Verses 8-11: John Eats the Scroll*

1. John is commanded to take the little scroll from the angel and eat it.
2. John is told, before he eats it, that it will be sweet as honey on his mouth, but make his stomach bitter and John confirms this in verse 10. What the angel said was true. What in the world does this mean?
3. Ezekiel 2:9-3:3 – “And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, **a scroll** of a book was in it. 10 And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it **words of lamentation and mourning and woe**. 3 And he said to me, “Son of man, **eat** whatever you find here. **Eat this scroll**, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” 2 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. 3 And he said to me, “Son of man, **feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey**.
4. What is going on in Ezekiel in context is God is sending Ezekiel to speak the Word of God, warning of God’s impending judgment. That’s exactly what we see going on with John which verse 11 confirms. After eating, John is sent to prophesy or speak forth God’s word just like Ezekiel was.
5. Leon Morris helps us understand what this eating means when he writes, “‘Eating’ signifies: ‘to make its contents completely your own’ or ‘take them into your innermost being.’”
6. The Church between Christ’s 2 comings is sent to the world to proclaim God’s woes and judgments (symbolized as the little scroll) and call people to repentance.
7. The Word of God (as a little scroll) is bitter because we are proclaiming God’s judgment on unrepentant sinners, which may even include our own family members and other loved ones, which causes us (or should cause us) great sorrow and broken hearts over the ungodly who reject Christ and forgiveness of sins and would rather remain in their evil ways.
8. But the Word of God is also sweet because it is good news to those who are being saved and we find delight when sinners repent and turn to Christ and we find delight in listening and obeying God’s Word.
9. Psalm 19:9-10 – “the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.”
10. Psalm 119:103 – “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Message for Us**

1. “As Christians, we have an obligation to tell people around us about the Gospel mystery. The world desperately needs to know that the six trumpets of judgment have already sounded and soon the seventh will blow. The day of grace will come to an end and the day of judgment will dawn. These are urgent times in which we must testify to others about the gospel. The mystery has been revealed to us, and we are in this world to make that mystery known.” –Joel Beeke
2. “We must take the gospel to heart. We must take it into our inmost being so that it can give strength to our lives and transform us, just as food nourishes and strengthens our bodies. The result of feeding on the Word of God is not only a schooled theological intellect, but also a Christ-like character. The purpose of such feeding is to change our being so that Jesus Christ in all His beauty and glory begins to shine forth in our character and lives.” –Joel Beeke
3. “In Revelation 10, John echoes the thoughts of Ezekiel, Paul, Jesus, and many others who attempt to warn unbelievers to repent of sin. He is saying that as we digest the gospel and it becomes part of us, our lives become different from those around us. We then share the message of the gospel with them, but we can suffer a kind of acid reflux when our testimony is rejected. So, believer, do not forget the sweetness of the gospel when life has a bitter taste.” –Joel Beeke
4. “God’s message to us is to keep on bearing witness until the last trumpet sounds.” –Joel Beeke