

Revelation 10

There has been six trumpets sounded and one yet to sound, yet a second interlude of time occurs between the sounding of the sixth and seventh trumpet.

It would appear that this interlude is intended to offer encouragement to God's children living on earth, as well as, to answer the question of the martyred saints. "How long O Lord, holy and true, will you refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (6:10)

¹And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow *was* upon his head, and his face *was* as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

"And I saw" signifies another vision, i.e., a new vision.

The Angel Described

1. Came down from heaven.
2. Clothed with a cloud. = Judgment.
3. Wearing a rainbow upon his head. = A reminder of His promises to His people suffering on earth.
4. Face shining brightly like the sun. = The brilliance of God's glory.
5. Feet as pillars of fire. = Consuming judgments that will consume the ungodly.

Who is this Angel?

Arguments are made that this angel is Jesus Christ. It is easy to understand why some think this as one examines the glorious description but there are strong arguments against this interpretation.

Namely, one only need look at the Greek word used to describe this angel. "Another strong angel come down from heaven..." (Grk *allos* = another of the same kind

Secondly, Jesus is always given a distinct title. (Cf. 1:12-17)

Thirdly, Christ is never referred to as an angel in the New Testament.

Fourthly, How could Christ swear by himself since he was the agent of Creation?

Lastly, This would add an additional coming of Christ. Scripture makes it clear that there are only two.

²And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and *his* left foot on the earth,

"Little book open..." = the open judgments of God that are to come upon all the ungodly.

"And set his right foot upon the sea and his left foot on the earth." = The judgments will be comprehensive

³And cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

“Cried with a loud voice...” = the cry of acquisition. When a lion captures its prey, they will often roar loudly, as if to announce their success. This will mark the judgments that are to come upon the earth. The announcement will be universal.

Cf. Jer. 25:30; Hos. 11:10; Joel 3:16 and Amos 1:2; 3:8

Note what happened after the angel’s loud announcement. The Seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.

Thunder is often used to describe judgment. That is, seven thunders represents that the coming judgments are to be final and complete.

⁴And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

“I was about to write...” This is what John had been instructed to do earlier in this book but here is an exception

“I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things...and write them not.”

Note that the voice is separate from that of the seven thunders. It is not possible to know whether this is God speaking, Christ or an angel, but for certain, God willed it to be so. This is the only place in the book that John is told to conceal what he had heard.

Compare Daniel 8:26

“And the vision of the evenings and mornings
Which was told is true;
Therefore seal up the vision,
For *it refers to many days in the future.*”¹

The judgments are so unimaginable that John was forbidden to write about them, but they will be revealed as they unfold.

⁵And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, ⁶And swore 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:

“Lifted up his hand to heaven.” This implies that what is about to be spoken is entirely true and trustworthy.

“And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven,...earth....and the sea...” This speaks of God’s Sovereignty and Eternality.

“That there should be time no longer.” This phrase is actually: “that there should be delay no longer. In other words, judgment is about to be unleashed and will no longer be held back.

¹ *The New King James Version*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982. Print.

The announcement speaks of the swift and comprehensive judgments that are to be unleashed by the blowing of the seventh trumpet

⁷But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

“But in the days of the voice....” This indicates that the unfolding of the final coming judgments will occur over a period of time and not occur all in one moment or day.

“The mystery of God should be finished...”

MacArthur stated:

“The mystery of God...is the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. It is the consummation of God’s plan in bringing His glorious kingdom in Christ to fulfillment. It involves the salvation of the elect and their place in His glorious kingdom and all that goes with that. It includes the judgment of men and demons. The mystery...refers to all the unknown details that are revealed from this point to the end of revelation.”²

⁸And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go *and* take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

“And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke...” John is told to go and take the little book from the angel.

Swindoll observed:

This isn’t the first time one of God’s prophets was told to eat a scroll. In Ezekiel 2:8-3:4, we read the following interesting exchange between God and the prophet Ezekiel:

⁸ But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

⁹ Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book *was* in it. ¹⁰ Then He spread it before me; and *there was* writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it *were* lamentations and mourning and woe.

3 Moreover He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ² So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. ³ 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. ⁴ Then He said to me: “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

² John F. MacArthur, Jr. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Revelation 1-11*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999). P. 286.

The consumption of the scroll was a symbol of complete appropriation of the prophetic message.³

⁹And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take *it*, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

“Take it and eat it up...” This symbolizes the necessity of study. To study results in digesting the truths that have been revealed. Just as one reads and meditates on the Word of God, one processes it’s truths mentally and internalizes them.

“It shall make your belly bitter but is shall be sweet as honey in your mouth.”

I believe on a larger scale one is to understand that the revelation of final and complete judgment upon Satan, sin and all the wickedness of men in these days will bring great joy and encouragement to God’s people, but it also marks the eternal doom that they will bear.

¹⁰And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. ¹¹And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Just like Ezekiel, John was instructed to take the scroll (book) from the angels hand and to eat it up. Also like Ezekiel’s experience, the scroll tasted sweet like honey, but brought about great indigestion.

How could one not have a churning stomach realizing the unimaginable judgments that were about to come?

John’s work was not over. God used him to pen the Revelation of His Son Jesus Christ and to unveil to the world the coming judgment upon it. God recommissioned John to continue heralding the message that he received.

Just like John, you and I are to share the Good News of God’s redeeming love to those around us, but we also live with the awareness of the terrible judgment that awaits all who reject the Savior.

Respectfully,

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³ Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s New Testament Insights: Insights on Revelation*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011), p. 150-151.