

1 **A Season in Revelation with Dr. Paige Patterson**

2 **Session 14**

- Wednesday, November 11, 2015
- Revelation 10
- The Angel and the Little Scroll

3 **Quick Review**

- What type of literature is Revelation?
 - Apocalyptic
- What makes it different?
 - Highly symbolic, difficult to interpret, a divine being acts as intermediary between God and man.
- Who wrote Revelation?
 - John the Apostle

4 **Quick Review**

- How many chapters are in Revelation?
 - 22
- How is the book ordered?
 - Chapter 1-3 - past historical
 - Chapters 4-22 - Futuristic

5 **Quick Review**

- What are the four primary interpretations of Revelation?
 - Preterist - all fulfilled at the time of writing.
 - Historicism - panorama of church history from John's time to the second coming of Christ.
 - Idealistic - depicts the cosmic struggle of good and evil while forecasting the triumph of God's purpose.
 - Futuristic - chapters 4-22 focus entirely on the eschaton (future and end times)

6 **Quick Review**

- What is the key to understanding the book?
 - 1:19 - Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later."

7 **Quick Review**

- John's Greeting - 1:4-8
- Vision of Christ - 1:9-20
- 7 Churches - 2:1-3:22
- The Throne in Heaven - 4
- The Scroll and the Lamb - 5

8 **Quick Review**

- The Four Horsemen - 6
- The 144,000 and the Great Multitude
- The Seventh Seal and First Four Trumpets - 7

- The Seventh Seal Opened, the Angel and the Golden Censer and the Seven Trumpets Begin - 8
- Locusts from the Pit, Horses with Lion's Heads - 9

9 **Quick Review**

- The Angel and the Little Scroll - 10

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34 **Chapter 10**

- Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

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36 **Chapter 10**

- 5 And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, 7 but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

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38 Chapter 10

- 8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. 11 And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

39 Chapter 10

- Chapter 9 concludes with the sounding of the sixth trumpet.
- The seventh trumpet announcing Christ's reign over all of the cosmos will not be heard until the fifteenth verse of chap. 11.
- Consequently, Rev 10:1–11:14 constitutes one of the interludes that occur periodically in the Apocalypse of John.
- The two events composing this interlude do not appear to be intimately connected. The first event is a vision in which John himself becomes a player, while the second focuses on the appearance of two remarkable witnesses and the bizarre events that encompass their lives and ministries.

40 Chapter 10

The Giant, Mighty Angel

- 1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

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42 Chapter 10

The Giant, Mighty Angel

- Came down from heaven - from God
- Wrapped in a cloud - Daniel
- Rainbow over his head - Covenant
- Face was like the sun - Transfiguration
- Legs like pillars of fire - God's presence

43  **Chapter 10**

The Giant, Mighty Angel

- Who is this angel? (many have suggested Christ)
 - Nothing in this verse or the verses to follow will enable the interpreter to make a certain identification;
 - fortunately, the unequivocal identification of this angel is not necessary to the significance of the chapter.
 - My own suspicion, since the appearance of the Lord elsewhere in the book is largely undebatable, is that this angel is one of great prestige and authority.

44  **Chapter 10**

The Giant, Mighty Angel

- He had a little scroll open in his hand...
 - biblaridion - diminutive form of "book"
- His right foot/sea, left foot/land...
 - Some interpreters eager to explain every symbol will inevitably see mention of the land as a reference to Israel and the mention of the sea as a reference to the Gentile nations. Better is the view that simply recognizes the authority of the angel as encompassing all the earth—namely, the dry land and the seas (i.e., the cosmos).

45  **Chapter 10**

The Giant, Mighty Angel

- His voice was like a lion...
 - The word for "roar" (mukaomai) is onomatopoeic (word derived from the sound itself) and references the sound like that made by the celebrated felines.
 - The unnerving effect of the roar of a male lion close at hand can be fully appreciated by those who have experienced from an unprotected camp in the African Savannah the bone-chilling, night-rending call of this beast.

46 

47  **Chapter 10**

The Giant, Mighty Angel

- When he called out, seven thunders sounded...
 - These seven peals of thunder are apparently each clearly identifiable, hence indicating sequence.
 - This, of course, is exactly what the interpreter would expect in light of the sequential breaking of the seven seals and sounding of the seven trumpets and pouring out of the seven bowls, the seventh of which is yet to come.
 - The seer was about to write when he is arrested by a heavenly voice forbidding him to record what the seven thunders uttered.

48 

49  **Chapter 10**

John is Forbidden to Write

- 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."
 - Something was revealed to John through the peals of thunder that he is not allowed to record for us to know. Why?

50 Chapter 10

John is Forbidden to Write

- But then the interpreter may possibly address the text, asking why the message of the seven thunders would be revealed to John and not permit him to provide this information to his audience.
- Here once again possibly God is acting to reveal through his apostle much but not all of what he is intending to do in terms of the judgments of the tribulation period. That some of those judgments remain recondite as far as the reader is concerned is a literary device functioning as an ominous threat, having the effect of saying, "You have seen a great deal, but nowhere close to all of my hand in judgment."

51 Chapter 10

John is Forbidden to Write

- Perhaps something similar to what Paul experienced is at work here:
 - 2 Corinthians 12:3-6 - 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses — 6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.

52 Chapter 10

The Angel Proclaims, "No More Delay"

- 5 And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, 7 but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

53 Chapter 10

The Angel Proclaims, "No More Delay"

- The mighty angel distinguished himself from the One who sent him, the one and only Creator God himself.
- Notice the character he praises...the who....
 - Lives forever and ever
 - created heaven and all that lives in it
 - created earth and all that lives in it
 - created the sea and all that is in it.

54  **Chapter 10**

The Angel Proclaims, "No More Delay"

- No more Delay...for what?
 - the final trumpet call of the seventh angel...the mystery the prophets spoke about..
- Prophetic literature stretching back 750 years before Christ envisioned the coming of an awesome day of judgment. These passages of an ultimate "day of the Lord" were the warp and woof of prophetic utterance (see Isa 2:2–4; Joel 1:15; 2:1–5; and Amos 8:11 for a few examples). Nor were these prophecies merely foreseeing an ominous day of judgment.

55  **Chapter 10**

The Angel Proclaims, "No More Delay"

- Equally and perhaps even in greater profusion, such prophets envisioned a golden daybreak, a utopian era, God's earthly reign, which would ultimately reverse and restore all that iniquity had cost the race and the cosmos (see Isa 35:1–2; 65:17–25 for examples).
- What all the angels and the prophets had foretold, that which has been delayed over the centuries giving rise to the prophets "trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow" (1 Pet 1:11)—no longer will these hidden things tease and intrigue the prophets.

56  **Chapter 10**

John is Told to Eat the Scroll

- 8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. 11 And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

57  **Chapter 10**

John is Told to Eat the Scroll

- The "voice" that stopped John from recording what he had witnessed, now tells him to eat the Scroll held by the Angel.
- What is this all about?
 - Ezekiel 2:10–3:3

58  **Chapter 10**

John is Told to Eat the Scroll

- The consuming of the scroll is tantamount to the assimilation of its message. Whatever the contents of the scroll may be, John must make them a part of himself. Only as the sentiments of the scroll become a part of his own life will the incarnational effect accomplish what God intends.

59  **Chapter 10**

John is Told to Eat the Scroll

- In this regard, there is a practical lesson for the preacher.
- In Aristotle's canons of rhetoric, the philosopher called for ethos, pathos, and logos.
- Ethos reflected the credibility of the witness. John's venerable age, consistency of conviction, and long-term service to the Lord were sufficient ethos.

60 Chapter 10

John is Told to Eat the Scroll

- Logos represented the content itself; and since the content is part of divine revelation, sufficient logos is insured.
- Pathos referred, however, to the internalizing of the message of the logos, accentuated by the ethos of the messenger, and thus gives the persuasive power and the empathy needed in effective communication.
- The preacher, like the prophet, can only be an effective spokesman for God when he thoroughly internalizes the message he is to bring before he attempts to communicate it to others. The pathos of that message not only includes understanding its message but also embraces the application of the message first to the preacher's own life.

61 Chapter 10

The Bitter Sweet Scroll

- "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."
- John, therefore, is to assimilate the message, but the effect on the prophet is both pleasurable and distasteful. Thus it is with the mystery of God's program for the ages. For those who have been willing to receive his promised redemption in Christ, the message of the gospel is sweeter than honey.

62

63 Chapter 10

The Bitter Sweet Scroll

- It is the aroma of life unto life. But to those who have rejected the gospel and who have continued to be determined in their rebellion against God, it is the aroma of death unto death (2 Cor 2:15).
- This alternating sweetness and bitterness would have been the case had John's involvement been only that of knowing the message of God. But John now is instructed to internalize what he must now speak. He is thus informed, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

64 Next Week, November 19th

- Next Week - Prayer - Guest Speaker, R.D. Cline, Revive America Ministries <http://reviveamericaministries.com>
- November 25, Off for Thanksgiving
- December 2, Revelation 11