

## **Notes on chapter 10**

Intro: Chapter ten affords us additional information concerning the conflict John is describing in this book. There seem to be three key ideas: 1) not all of God's judgments in history have been made known; 2) the sounding of the seventh trumpets results in the accomplishment of the mystery of God spoken by the prophets; 3) yet, there is more that God wants to reveal concerning "many peoples, nations, tongues and kings.

Thematically this anticipates the closing of the first part of the book and prepares the way for the second major section.

### **Strong angel**

Coming down out of heaven (His mission is from God)

Clothed with cloud (Clouds often indicate judgment)

Rainbow on his head (He comes in the mercy and faithfulness of God)

Face was like the sun (He comes with heavenly glory in the likeness of God's Son)

feel like pillars of fire (He comes with the power of destruction)

Right foot on the sea and the left on the land (He comes with a universal message)

Cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars (He speaks so as to be heard by all, Cf. Jer. 25:30, Hos. 11:10; Joel 3:16, Amos 3:8)

Seven peals of thunder (They too suggest the power of judgment; Cf. 2 Sam. 22:14; Ps. 29)

There message was intelligible to John (John, in keeping with his mission proceeds to write).

This message is sealed and not written (Cf. Dan. 12:4,9) To seal means to make unavailable to others. This indicates that God has available for his use more weapons of judgment than he has chosen to reveal. This is comforting to the saints. It also reminds us that we do not always know all that God is doing in history; for all has not been revealed.

Swears that that there will be no more delay. Chronos basically refers to time in terms of measure rather than purpose (kairos). What is suggested is that the 7th trumpet does indeed usher in the fulfillment of what the prophets had said.

At the sound of the seventh trumpet (11:15 and this seems to imply the final pouring out of God's wrath on the nations)

The mystery of God is finished. This is what other generations was not known clearly but has not been revealed in the gospel; specifically that the Jews and Gentiles are both fellow-heirs in God's kingdom and that together they would constitute a kingdom that would bring all other kingdoms to an end. Finished means the completion of a process. The establishment of the kingdom of God in the world did not take place in a single moment but was a process. (Cf. Lk. 21:31).

The sounding of the 7th angel doesn't result in the fulfillment of all things but the fulfillment of they mystery of God. With the destruction of Jerusalem God made it

clear that his true people were not merely physical Jews but both Jews and Gentiles. With the destruction of Rome he brought to an end all kingdoms of the world and gave dominion to his saints. Cf. Dan. 7 & 9.

Preached to "his servants the prophets" seems to point to the O.T. prophets. That particular expression is often used in the O.T. of God's prophets.

### **A little book**

Open (In contrast to the sealed book of Rev. 5 which no man could open or know the contents of. The knowledge of this book is available to John, because Jesus has opened the seals.

John is instructed to take the book. (Its message is for John to reveal to the church).

The angel gives John the book, warning that it is sweet and bitter (This conveys that the message has both pleasant and unpleasant). Cf. Eze. 2:8-3:3; Jer. 15:16

John eats and experiences the sweet and bitter.

John is told he must prophesy again

When? It seems in the remainder of the book.

Concerning many peoples, nations and tongues and kings. In 11-22 John will indeed declare the struggle between the people of God and the political and religious forces of the day.

The little book then seems to symbolize the message of the latter section--a bitter-sweet message. It was one of victory for God's people, but also one of persecution and death. It was one of judgment for the enemies of truth. Like Ezekiel's little scroll, it also contained a message of lamentation, sorrow, and woe.