

The Revelation – The Little Book

Today we continue our study of Revelation by looking at one of the intermediate bits of Revelation between the revealing of the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments. Revelation 10 says:

- (1) And 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:
- (2) And 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,
- (3) And cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.
- (4) And 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.
- (5) And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,
- (6) And 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:
- (7) But 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.
- (8) And 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.
- (9) And 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.
- (10) And 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.
- (11) And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Before returning once again to the end there are some things which God wanted John to understand. John tells us that in this vision he saw a spectacular angel with a full rainbow around his head and clouds as clothing. Just the size of this angel would be enough to inspire awe. The shining of his face reveals that he has been in the presence of God since it shined like the sun. This angel appears and puts his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the earth, claiming each of these as the creation of the Almighty God.

Let's talk about that for just a minute. In verse 6 this angel clearly defines God as the Creator of all things. You see, these things didn't just happen by chance. Even with countless years it would be impossible for life to have come by anything other than the design of God. This angel is declaring that all things belong to God from the beginning to the ending. Satan, though, will have his hour.

As this angel began to speak seven thunders began to speak. The things which were spoken are not revealed. They continue to be sealed until the days when the seventh trumpet is blown and the mystery is revealed.

This angel had a little book in his hand. This little book most likely contained revelations of the things which were going to take place in the last days. There are two great aspects to this little book. The first is sweetness, the second is bitterness. It's sweet to the mouth but bitter to the stomach. This is like a good bowl of chili. It might taste good going down but you pay for it later.

Now the image of eating the book is to let us know that it is important to really take God's word into our hearts and lives. It shouldn't be just superficial. God's word should be sweet to us.

At the same time, God's word should have a bitterness to us. You see, the word is the Sword of the Spirit. God uses the word to reprove, rebuke, and exhort. Sometimes it may be bitter to realize that we're in the wrong, but it is what we need.

This little book is the same way. There may be bitterness about it, but it is necessary for our wellbeing. You see, we're living in a sugarcoated society. We're living in a world today where the sweetness is being brought out without the bitter truth. The truth is that we're living in a fallen world. The truth is that none of us are righteous. The truth is that the only way that anyone will get to heaven is through the blood of Jesus Christ.

I think that John here had a bitterness in his stomach because he understands the things which are going to happen. He sees that the Church is going to be put on trial. He sees that Satan is going to have his hour. He desires to be in Heaven, but he realizes life is not easy as some would have it. He realizes that Satan has made war with the Church, and that this Revelation is the climax of that war. He also realizes that the end is coming and many on earth have sealed their fate.

What about you today? What is your fate? Are you prepared to be on the Lord's side, or can Lucifer count on you? God is still accepting members to be on the winning side. If you'll call upon his name, believing on him for the salvation of your soul, you will gain the victory and spend everlasting life with God in heaven. The alternative is an endless death in the lake of fire. The choice is yours. If you choose Christ today I want to encourage you to send me a note to let me know.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich