

Revelation 10

“Does God Have Your Attention?”

Letter from John, Apostle & Prisoner / TO 7 Struggling Churches in TURKEY
 GOSPEL PREACHED AROUND Mediterranean – MODEST RESULT
 ROMAN Empire continued WICKED WAY, OPPRESSION, PERSECUTION

EVIL PROSPERED / IDOLATRY FLOURISHED

LEADING RELIGION – CULT OF THE EMPEROR

Christians – MISUNDERSTOOD, HATED, PERSECUTED

BOOK we often DON'T READ --- and some Christians FEAR > Only Blessing

1. 3 “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

BLESSING of HEARING & DOING: All People of God / All Time / All Places
 From John's First Readers in 7 Churches of Asia Minor
 to The Final Generation before the Return of Christ

Revelation NOT 1st Century SUDOKU Puzzle to Work Out

“the Apocalypse is not a collection of puzzles and cryptograms for those who find such things amusing and diverting: the fearful judgments so graphically depicted in John's visions are real and they are impending.” Philip Hughes

“The book of Revelation is a series of pictures. The pictures move. They are full of action. Everything is constantly astir. You see one picture. It soon makes places for another; again, another, and another. If you really wish to understand the book, you must imagine that you are enjoying a movie” William Hendriksen

WISDOM OF GOD– PICTURES are meaningful for all esp. CHILDREN

Unless you read Revelation like a child, you will never understand it

Apostle John – Artist with Words – Describing the Indescribable

Colors, smells, monsters, demons, thrones, angels, Lamb that was Slain

As it was carried thru Asia/Turkey 7 Churches gathered READ Letter from Jesus

All SMILED when HEARD PROMISE of Blessing thru this REVELATION

Perhaps INVITED Friends & Families – Seekers for TRUTH – OPEN Minded

Msg NOT All Seeker-Friendly: Some More FRIGHTENING than FEEL-GOOD

6 TRUMPETS Sound > Divine Pronouncements of GRIM JUDGMENT

Hail, Fire, Blood, Smoke STRIKE Mountains, Rivers, Seas, Skies, Stars

WE STILL HEAR Trumpets > Been BLASTING thru HUMAN HISTORY

WARINGS FROM HEAVEN – Nations, Peoples, Churches >> WAKE UP!

Virus, Global Warming, Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Assassinations, Earthquakes

Woe and Misery to those on the EARTH – Some will LONG to Die, but Cannot

Often THINK Troubles & Trials make People TURN to God...Not Always

After the PAINFUL SCOURGE of SIX Trumpet Blasts, JOHN SEES...

The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 9.20,21

Will NOT REPENT > RESPONSIBLE, but Repentance is GIFT of GOD

Chapter 10

INTERMISSION – Pause BEFORE 7th/FINAL Trumpet will Sound – 11.15

Important MESSAGE from GOD to Church > PREPARE for Final BLAST!

Friends & Neighbors in LITTLE Churches > HIDING under the PEWS!

Don't want to THINK about GOD & His Judgments > or TALK about THEM
SCARED into SILENCE > NO WIND in Sails – NO Zeal to PREACH

2000 yrs LATER – Church of 21st C faces SIMILAR Challenges // 1st C

ROMAN EMPIRE > Ancient History > CAESAR'S > Distant Memory

NEW SET OF STRUGGLES > Modern Man > Life never Better, never Worse

Church: Sidelines of Global Conversation, Family & Sex ARCHAIC, HATEFUL

Belief that GOD is CREATOR is ANTIQUARIAN, UNSCIENTIFIC

Trying to bring HOPE of Jesus Christ to NEEDIEST Lands > Prison, DEATH

Warning WORLD about Judgment Day is PUNISHABLE >> HATE-CRIME

Want MAKE Friends & GET Ahead in World? Keep Mouth Shut about Jesus!!

We are too Ashamed to put Christian Bumper Stickers on our CARS!

When John, Early Church, Modern Church, You, and Me – Throw IN Towel!

RETIRE from the WORK of WITNESSING > Given a VISION of Ch 10...

1. Enormous Messenger 2. Everlasting Mandate

1. Enormous Messenger

a. Mighty

v. 1 another mighty angel // ANOTHER: Like Trumpet Blowing Colleagues

I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice... Revelation 5.2

v. 2 he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land

THIS GUY IS BIG > STRIDE STRADDLES the SEAS....BIG and LOUD!!

v. 3 called out with a loud voice...7 thunders sounded // 7 X's God's Voice

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. *The voice of the LORD* is powerful; *the voice of the LORD* is full of majesty. Psalm 29.3-4

b. Majestic

NO Question – Person is AWESOME, but are he EVIL? Dark Side?

MAJESTY > POWER & AUTHORITY of MESSAGE Comes from GOD

v. 1 mighty angel coming down from heaven

v. 1 wrapped in a cloud > thru ALL Bible: GOD comes in CLOUDS

God LED Israel by Cloud – APPEARED to MOSES in the Cloud

Risen Jesus ASCENDED into CLOUD – Will RETURN Again in Clouds

“He makes the clouds his chariot...” Psalm 104.3

v. 1 with a rainbow over his head > TODAY in West SIGN of PERVERSION

SIGN from GOD > Promise of PROTECTION – No GLOBAL Flood Again

Even in WRATH God Remembers MERCY

v. 1 and his face was like the sun

“his face was like the sun shining in full strength” Revelation 1.16

v. 1 and his legs like pillars of fire // PILLAR of FIRE that led ISRAEL at Night

Faithful God of Old Covenant is God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

“his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace” Revelation 1.15

vs. 5,6 raised his right hand to heaven 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

RAISING the HAND and Swearing is SOLEMN PROMISE of Judgment

SONG of MOSES > WARNS Enemies of God of ISRAEL of their DOOM

“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.
For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear...” Deuteronomy 32.39-41

c. Mysterious

v. 1 another mighty angel – MORE than 60 references to ANGELS in Revel.

Jesus NEVER Called MERE ANGEL – is this Angel (Messenger) or Messiah?

If NOT Jesus - it is ANGEL who brings FULL AUTHORITY of Jesus Himself

“...We cannot know for sure. But we are duly warned that for some of the locked doors of Revelation, keys may be hard to find.” Michael Wilcock

v. 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.”

SEVEN Seals Opened > Unleash Judgments / 7 TRUMPETS > Warnings!

Still 7 BOWLS of Wrath to Come

Perhaps God wants to SPARE us More WOE, Bad News > Revelation: HOPE!

“...the thunders are sealed...that is a warning against the kind of date-fixing that has characterized some of the schemes of prophecy...God has kept some things back from us. Let us not proceed as though all has been revealed” Leon Morris

CALLED to WALK by FAITH NOT by SIGHT > Trust God even in Darkness

Revealed ENOUGH to be CONFIDENT > Not to become ARROGANT

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us...” Deuteronomy 29.29

GOOD Not to HEAR all Grim Warnings > Even more AFRAID to Preach

The last days, no less than the first, are in His hands. Martin Kiddle

vs. 6,7 there would be no more delay, 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.

vs. 6 there would be no more delay > TIME EXPIRES / BUZZER SOUNDS

NO MORE DELAY --- THE END of the END

If JEW in Nazi Germany – Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994 – Xtian in Afghanistan

Would FEEL like it was the END --- Could Not be MUCH WORSE!

BUT those are just TRUMPET Blasts --- Still NOT YET End of TIME

BUT ---THERE WILL BE THE END OF ALL ENDS...NO MORE...

TIME EXPIRES / BUZZER SOUNDS /// Only GOD Knows WHEN...

2. Everlasting Mandate

a. Scroll > Mighty, Majestic, Mysterious ANGEL is Carrying LITTLE Scroll

v. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand.

ANGEL who Resembles Christ > Furthers Great Commission of Risen Christ

...in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals....he (*the Lamb*) went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne Revelation 5.1,7

Some Commentators SURE they know what is IN these Scrolls – Ch's, Vs's

Can SAFELY SAY – VERY WORD of God!

Differences and Similarities between these 2 Scrolls – Chapters 5 & 10

BOTH – Scroll that is OPENED – Ch 5 tells HOW & WHO

Ch 5 – PRAISE Results when Scroll is Opened > SCENE is HEAVEN

Ch 5 – GOD Holds Scroll / Ch 10 – ANGEL (described like Jesus) HOLDS it
 Ch 5 JESUS TAKES Scroll from Father / Ch 10 JOHN TAKES it from Angel

BOTH Scrolls (5 & 10) – SYMBOLIZE God’s Plan of Judgment & Redemption
 Which has INNAGURATED thru the DEATH and RESURRECTION of Jesus
 Span of Revelation > FIRST to FINAL Century / CROSS to NEW CREATION

The Creator’s worldwide sovereignty has now been handed over to Jesus.
 Therefore, the book held by the cosmic angel has a message relevant for all
 living on earth. G.K. Beale

b. Sweet and Sour – God SERVING Up CHINESE Food

WORD of God: BREAD of Life, MILK of Word, MEAT for Mature, HONEY
 Like EZEKIEL called to WARN IDOLATROUS Israel of their Coming DOOM
 He ALSO takes and EATS Very Words of LIVING GOD

vs. 9,10 ...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.” 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.

“...the rules of the LORD are true...sweeter also than honey and drippings of the
 honeycomb” Psalm 19.9,10

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”
Psalm 119.103

JOY of New Birth > TASTE and SEE the Lord is God > SWEET SAVIOR!

BITTER Pain when REJECTED & DESPISED by Loved Ones, Friends
 Even VALIANT SOLDIERS like EZEKIEL & JOHN feel BITTERNESS
 Work of the GOSPEL is BITTER even for MATURE SAINTS of God

I WANNA be LIKED, FRIENDLY, HAPPY > Live w/OUT Conflict, Trouble
Warning of Revelation – Warning of Jesus & Apostles – EXPECT Conflict

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
James 4.4

BEIJING Talk w/ Management about RENTING Worship Space for Church

One Nice Lady > My Manager does NOT WANT you Here!

Loud SINGING, Too much NOISE, Too many PEOPLE – Hurt our BUSINESS!

Spinning BUDDHIST Prayer Wheel – Fit in JUST FINE!!

Open BAR and DRINK ourselves SILLY >>> Come Right In

No ROOM for Baby Jesus – Son of Man NOWHERE to Lay Head

ONLY Place World Found for JESUS was to Hang Him on a CROSS

Jesus: “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
John 16.33

Words of ONLY Person – Totally LOVING, RIGHTEOUS, HOLY, GOOD

Mercilessly BEATEN, TORTURED, CRUCIFIED

SWEETNESS even in WOE, by SUFFERINGS we COMMUNE with JESUS

When I Preach on Revelation in USA >> “Are we going to suffer Tribulation?”

Worried > Don’t want to LOOSE their place in the BUFFET LINE!

Ask Brothers & Sisters – China, Nigeria, Chad, CAR, Iraq, Iran, Syria, N. Korea

How is the PROSPERITY Gospel working for them THERE?

First PERSON to Receive MESSAGE > Apostle John – serving now 50 yrs

PRISON on PATMOS – NO Library, Big Screen TV, and Soft Mattresses

OVERWHELMING Vision / REVELATION of Jesus Christ – sees OLD Friend

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last" Revelation 1.17

LONG-TIME, Faithful Servant of God, BELOVED Apostle, Author of Scripture
Many Years of OBEDIENCE, Carried WOUNDS & SCARS – INSIDE & OUT

MY Vote for THEME Verse of Book of Revelation:

"They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers." Revelation 17.14

c. Summons

v. 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."

LITTLE SCROLL – We Each have SMALL Part in Grand, Global DRAMA
Work & Worship in SHADOW and STRENGTH of MIGHTY ANGEL
SOVEREIGN God TOWERS of Heaven & Earth – Rules, Reigns, Returning

John cannot SIT on SIDELINES, END Earthly Service when you're DEAD
vs. 8,9 "Go, take the scroll...Take and eat it..."

Call to Follow Jesus, Carry Cross, Preach Gospel > NO EXPIRY DATE
Bible knows NO LOUNGE CHAIR Christianity – Not SPECTATOR SPORT

MESSENGER of God must TAKE the WORD of God > Not PASSIVE
NOT Something SOMEONE ELSE does FOR YOU

Word NOT SHOVED into our MOUTHS We need to TAKE AND EAT!

“...take up the whole armor of God...put on the breastplate of righteousness...take up the shield of faith...take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...” Ephesians 6.13-19

John must PREACH AGAIN > 6 Trumpets Sounded, STILL ONE More!
 LAST HOUR – VERY LATE on God’s Clock of Redemption – NOT TOO Late!
 NOT a PROVINCIAL Gospel > just OUR KIND of People > ALL People

Just like Jesus WINS thru SUFFERING & DEATH so will HIS CHURCH
 ...have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to
 come
 Hebrews 6.5

Jesus: IT IS FINISHED! / Jude: FAITH ONCE FOR ALL Delivered to Saints
 CANON of Scripture COMPLETE – Warning of Revelation: Don’t ADD to it

NO MORE DELAY > Great News for those LONGING for His Appearing
 Solid HOPE for those CITIZENSHIP in HEAVEN > Waiting for our SAVIOR
 WARNING to Sinners > PATIENCE of God has an EXPIRY DATE
 DOOR of Mercy will ONE DAY CLOSE – SHUT for ETERNITY!

v. 11 And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

Translation “prophesy ABOUT” is NOT Wrong / “prophesy AGAINST” Better
 Emphasis TEXT > Immanent JUDGMENT on UNREPENTANT = TRUMPETS
 7th TRUMPET is About to be SOUNDED – NOT Dark Yet, but Getting There!

Well, I’ve been to London and I’ve been to gay Paree
 I’ve followed the river and I got to the sea
 I’ve been down on the bottom of a world full of lies
 I ain’t looking for nothing in anyone’s eyes

Sometimes my burden seems more than I can bear
It's not dark yet, but it's getting there
"Not Dark Yet" by Bob Dylan

Revelation 10
English Standard Version

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." 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.

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."

