

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10-11**CHAPTER 10****Introduction**

- This present vision is the longest in the book, covering 3 chapters (10, 11, 12)
- A parenthesis, 10:1-11:14

1. The Mighty Angel & the Seven Thunders—Rev. 10:1-4

- Who is this angel?

“Though this is a plausible interpretation, the evidence seems to support the idea that here is a holy angel to whom has been given great power and authority. J.B. Smith believes it is an error to understand the angel here to be Christ. The angel of 10:1 is declared to be “another mighty angel” and apparently refers to “the strong angel” of 5:2 who is clearly an angel and not Christ the Lamb. The angel of 10:1 is described as one who “comes down from heaven” and there is no evidence that Christ comes to earth midway in the tribulation. There are many instances of this in Revelation where angels are made the ministers of God for both the punishment of the wicked and the protection of the righteous. In chapter 12 Michael the archangel is mentioned by name as contending against Satan and the wicked angels and casting them out of heaven. Some have concluded that the description given in chapter 10 must be a reference to Michael as the chief of all the holy angels. Though the angel is presented as one having great majesty and power, there is no clear evidence that his function or his person is more than that of a created angel to whom has been entrusted great authority.

The description of the angel, however, is in very graphic terms. He is declared to be “clothed with a cloud” and has “a rainbow upon his head.” His face is described as glorious as the sun and his feet compared to pillars of fire. John sees him in a most dramatic pose, with his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot upon the earth, implying a position of power and authority over the entire earth. All of this, however, is introductory to the point of primary importance that in his hand is a little book which is opened.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

- Chapter 10 is the very heart of Revelation and at this point of time is in the middle of the tribulation period
- This book is already open, “a little book”
- The contents are not revealed but seem to represent the written authority given to the angel

“As John beholds the vision with the angel standing upon the sea and the earth, the angel cries with a loud voice like a lion’s roar. In answer to this cry of the angel, seven thunders are heard.

It would seem evident that the seven thunders contain a further revelation consisting of some articulate voice which John could understand. Scott relates the seven thunders to the seven times the voice of Jehovah is mentioned in Psalm 29:3-9, and states, “the seven thunders point to the perfection of God’s intervention in judgment” When John was about to write what he had heard, however, he was instructed not to do so, as recorded in verse 4, “I heard, however, he was instructed not to do so, as recorded in verse 4, “I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.” Though the principal purpose of the vision given to John was to enable him to write the book of Revelation and thus pass on divine revelation to the church, in this instance the revelation is for John’s ears and eyes only, and he is not permitted to reveal what he heard. This illustrates a divine principle that while God has revealed much, there are secrets which God has not seen fit to reveal to man at this time.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

2. **Announcement of the End of the Age**—Rev. 10:5-7

“One of the indications that the angel portrayed in this vision is not Christ Himself is the fact that he swears by God, implying that God is greater than the angel. It is, however, a very solemn oath. Attention is called to the special character of the authority of God over the earth as the One who lives forever and as the One who created all things in heaven and in earth. Thus, abruptly, is brushed aside the foolishness of men who try to create a universe of resident forces apart from God. As the Creator, God is also the sovereign Ruler who can declare that there shall be no more time, that is, no more delay. This expression (Gr., *chronos*) has sometimes been misunderstood to mean that time will cease. The expression here, however, does not refer to time as a succession of chronological events; rather it means that time has run out, that is, that there will be no further delay.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

- The end is now to be consummated
- v. 7—the mystery of God is finished. What is it?

“The prediction is related to the full manifestation of the divine power, majesty, and holiness of God which will be evident in the glorious return of Christ, the establishment of His millennial kingdom, and the creation of the eternal state which will follow. The ignorance of God and the disregard of His majestic person which characterize the present age as well as the great tribulation will exist no longer when Christ returns and manifests Himself in glory to the entire earth. In that day all, from the least to the greatest, will know the Lord, that is, know the important facts about Him (cf. Jer. 31:34).

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

3. The Eating of the Little Book—Rev. 10:8-11

- The angel holding the book has complete authority over the entire earthly situation
- The angel commands John to eat the book

“It shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. In his announcement to John with reference to the effect of the eating, the angel mentions the bitter before the sweet, probably so that the thought of agreeableness might linger with him and consequently the inducement to eat. The effect, however, was in the reverse order, as is also implied in the angel’s statement. In the figure employed this is certainly in the realm of probability, for what is pleasant to the taste may be distressing in the process of digestion. The figure as applying to John maybe understood without difficulty, for while he was doubtless delighted with the *fact* of a new revelation from the Lord, he nevertheless was distressed with the *nature* of that revelation. While he doubtless rejoiced in a measure at the revelation of at the coming triumph and glory, yet he was saddened and grieved because preceding that glory were to occur the most terrible judgments and martyrdoms of all history.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by J.D. Smith)

- John must prophesy again to many people and kings
- v. 7—Who is the beast from the bottomless pit?

“According to verse 7, the beast from the bottomless pit, which is none other than Satan himself, makes war against them and overcomes them and kills them. Of interest is the fact that this is the first of thirty-six references in Revelation to the beast (Gr., *thērion*), not to be confused with the living creatures of chapter 4. the beast out of the pit is Satan. The beast out of the sea is the world dictator (13:1). The beast out of the land is the false religious leader of that day (13:11). This unholy trinity is the satanic counterfeit of the divine Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

- v. 8--The victory over them is so great their dead bodies are allowed to remain 3 ½ days in Jerusalem to be seen by all the world
- v. 9-10—great rejoicing—by whom? Worldwide
- a religious prophet is always a torment to a religious generation

4. Resurrection of the Two Witnesses—Rev. 11:11-14

“And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Three days and a half. Apparently the time period, three days and an half, is mentioned to indicate that the bodies of the witnesses did “not see corruption.”

Great fear fell. Their restoration to life was abundant proof to the merry-makers that a greater than the beast has undertaken in their behalf, for now great fear fell upon the bewildered spectators.”
(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by J.D. Smith)

- v. 12—a great voice from heaven—probably Christ
- They ascend in full view of their enemies
- The remnant glorified God—“remnant”—those left on the earth not slain by the earthquake
- The “7,000”—city’s inhabitants who did not make their escape before the arrival of the beast
- V. 14—the third woe is announced

5. **The Seventh Trumpet**—Rev. 11:15-18

- A commentary:

“When the seventh trumpet sounds, John hears great voices in heaven announcing that the kingdoms have become the kingdoms of Christ and that henceforth He shall reign forever and ever. In contrast to previous instances where a single voice makes the announcement, here there is a great symphony of voices chanting the triumph of Christ. The expression “the kingdoms of this world” in the best manuscripts is in the singular, but the meaning is much the same. The fact that earthly rule will pass into the hands of God is frequently mentioned in Old Testament prophecy (cf. Ezek. 21:26-27; Dan. 2:35, 44; 4:3; 6:26; 7:14, 26-27; Zech. 14:9). The question that remains, however, is how can the kingdoms of the world become at this point the kingdoms of Christ when, as a matter of fact, the seven vials seemingly are still to be poured out?” The answer as indicated previously seems to be that just as the seven trumpets are comprehended in the seventh seal so the seven vials are comprehended in the seventh trumpet. The process of destruction of earthly power is therefore already under way.

A further problem is presented in the fact that Christ is declared to reign “for ever and ever.” This is more than simply announcing His kingdom over the earth. The millennial reign, while it extends for only one thousand years, is in some sense continued in the new heaven and the new earth. Never again will the earth be under the control and overlordship of man. Even the brief rebellion recorded in Revelation 20 at the close of the millennium is unsuccessful.”
(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

- v. 16-17—worship of the 24 elders
- the eternal God by His power takes His natural right to reign
- a fulfillment of Ps. 2:9

“Another approach to the exegesis of this verse is suggested by J.B. Smith, namely, that in the first part of verse 18, three statements are made concerning the wicked: (1) the nations are angry, (2) the time of their wrath is come, and (3) the time of the judgments of the wicked dead is come. This is repeated in the threefold description of the

reward to the prophets, to the saints, and to all who fear the name of God.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

6. **The Opening of the Temple of God in Heaven**—Rev. 11:19

“The opening of the temple of God in heaven seems to be related to the revelation given in chapter 12 rather than to the seventh trumpet specifically. There may be an antithesis between the temple of God in heaven (v. 19) and the temple of God in Jerusalem during the great tribulation (vv. 1-2). Though the earthly temple may have been desecrated by the beast, its counterpart in heaven reflects the righteousness and majesty of God. The heavenly ark of the covenant, which in its earthly equivalent originally contained the law, speaks of God’s righteousness. Aaron’s rod that budded typifies resurrection, and the golden pot that had manna represents Christ as the basis of the shed blood of the sacrifice.

With the opening of the temple in heaven, there are accompanying lightnings, voices, and thunderings, apparently in the earthly scene, as well as an earthquake and a great hail. The plain implication is that now God is going to deal in summary judgment with the earth. J. N. Darby believes what precedes verse 19 “brings the general history of the ways of God to a termination.” He outlines the material which follows under three headings:

First, the cause of evil, and what proceeds from those causes; secondly, the development of Satan’s power and of the moving springs of evil in the instruments he used, and which manifests itself under a very decided form; and thirdly, what God does in order to destroy the evil.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

CHAPTER 11

Introduction

“Careful students of the book of Revelation will probably agree with Alford that chapter 11 “is undoubtedly one of the most difficult in the whole Apocalypse.” A comparison of many commentaries will reveal the widest kind of disagreement as to the meaning of this chapter. Even Alford attempts to spiritualize the city, the temple, and the events portrayed in this chapter. The guiding lines which govern the exposition to follow regard this chapter as a legitimate prophetic utterance in which the terms are taken normally. Hence, the great city of 11:8 is identified as the literal city of Jerusalem. The time periods are taken as a literal earthquake. The seven thousand men who are slain by the earthquake are seven thousand individuals who die in the catastrophe. The death of the witnesses is literal as are their

resurrection and ascension. These major assumptions provide an intelligent understanding of this portion of prophecy even though the possibility of difference of opinion on the part of the reader is taken for granted in some of these judgments.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

1. **Measuring the Temple**—Rev. 11:1-2

- A reed—a species of cane, served as measuring 1 rod
- John is commanded to measure the temple
 - He becomes one of the actors in the drama
 - The Lord's claim to right of ownership
 - The word temple refers only to the holy place and most holy place
 - Therefore the literal temple is there!
- Outer court given to the Gentiles
- This is the middle of the tribulation period

“*Tread under foot.* The treading underfoot is to continue for forty-two months. This is the first time note occurring in the book which shows that this is the middle of the tribulation period. This accords with the sure work of prophecy as uttered by the Lord after His rejection by the Jews: “Jerusalem shall be trodden down by [Greek] the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24). (It should be remembered that by Gentiles, the nations are meant.) That the times of the nations continue until the end of the tribulation period is evidenced in the succeeding chapters.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by J.D. Smith)

- Compare Luke 21:24

2. **Episode of the Two Witnesses**—Rev. 11:3-14

“In the Old Testament the Mosaic Law required two witnesses to validate matters pertaining to Jewish religion. In the same way, God will send two witnesses to prophesy and validate the world's sin and blasphemy during the Tribulation Period.”

(taken from *The Book of Revelation: The Smart Guide to the Bible Series* by Daymond R. Duck)

- Who are the two witnesses?
 - Elijah---Malachi 4:5
 - Differing views—mine is Moses; who although he died there is significance in Jude 9
 - v. 3—They prophesy the last half of the Tribulation
 - v. 4—They are the two olive trees—two lampstands
 - Zechariah 4:14—light bearers in this dark period
 - v. 5-6—their power—able to witness 3½ years despite opposition—protection
 - v. 7-10—their deaths
 - v. 11—often with great prophets of God, when their ministry is finished He permits their enemies to overcome them