

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #20 | Rev. 9:13-11:14 | The Sixth Trumpet, part 2 (10:1-11:2)

Revelation 10:1-4 | Another Mighty Angel and a Message Kept Secret

- The remainder of the information on the sixth trumpet is not chronological but gives additional information.
- In verse 1, **Another mighty angel** is introduced. While we are not told the identity of this angel, it does not appear to be one of the seven holding the trumpets.
- This angel had **a little book open**. The book of Revelation 5:1 was sealed with seven seals. Now we have the seventh seal removed, and thus this **little book open** could be the same book; once closed, now open.
- The angel set one foot on the sea and the other on the land, surely signifying the authority of his message over both all the earth.
- The angel **cried with a loud voice**, and upon this cry **seven thunders uttered their voices** (v. 3).
 - Note that the seven thunders are *not* the angel.
 - Compare Psalm 29, especially verse 3, followed by seven voices.
 - Compare also John 12:28-29, where the voice of God is taken as thunder by some who hear it.
- The voices of the seven thunders were to be sealed up and not written.
 - The things spoken were known by John but are not known to us. They are a "mystery" in the Biblical sense. Since they are unknown, speculation is unfruitful.
 - When John wrote, it was to reveal. He was told not to write in order to conceal.
 - Many students want to take what John wrote and treat it as if it is concealed, and then want to take what John didn't write and want to reveal.
 - John's writing was so clear that the voice from heaven did not want him to write, but rather wanted it to remain known only to John.

Revelation 10:5-11 | The Time Has Arrived

- By the content of verses 5-6, we can see that this **mighty angel** is not Christ (as some teach).
- In Revelation 6:10-11 the martyrs cry **How long?** In Revelation 10:6 the time has come to a close. With the sound of the seventh

trumpet (which is yet to come), the **Mystery of God** will be finished (v. 7)

- The mystery of verse 7 is one of many mysteries in the Bible. It is important not to confuse and mix the mysteries.
 - This mystery was **declared to his servants the prophets**.
 - The Pauline mystery was hidden in God until revealed to Paul (Eph. 3:2, 9).
- John was given instruction to take the book and eat it.
 - It would be sweet to the taste, but bitter to the belly.
 - Compare Ezekiel 2:8-3:7. There is a sweetness to knowing that "the time has come." There is a bitterness to pronouncing judgment on Israel.
- John was then told to **prophesy again** (v. 11).
 - Since John was not a prophet, the **again** likely refers to the prophecies of **his servants the prophets** mentioned in verse 7.
 - The word **before** is *epi*, which, when used with an indirect object (as here), means *upon* or *against*. The prophecies would be *against many peoples...etc* (v. 11). Compare Luke 12:52-53, where the same word is used in the same form.

Revelation 11:1-14 | The Two Witnesses

- These verses are a *continuation* of the previous verses. Note the word **and** at Revelation 11:1.
- John was given **a reed like unto a rod** –
 - The word was used of a reed that, depending on size, was used for a number of purposes. The smallest were filled with ink and made into pens, thus the word can, in context, mean *pen*. The size variation is the reason John clarifies that this reed is "like a rod."
 - The English word *calamari* comes from *κάλαμος* [kalamos], because types of calamari are hollow and contain a natural ink.
- The **Temple of God** (v. 1) is not a *heavenly temple* but the future tribulation-era temple, yet to be built.
- For a period of **forty and two months** the city of Jerusalem will be **tread under foot** by the Gentiles. This is a future time of 3.5 years, which is (I believe) the last half of the tribulation.
- During this same time, the **two witnesses** will proclaim the word of God. –*stay tuned!*