



# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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# Chapter Ten

- **1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; 2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. 4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.” 5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there will be delay no longer,**

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- **7** but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets. **8** Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, “Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” **9** So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” **10** I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. **11** And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”

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- **If I were to assign a title to chapter 10 it might be “When God puts His foot down”.**
- **We are now between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets and, like we have seen before, there is a bit of a break, a respite if you will between the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment and the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.**
- **The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet will usher in the next, and final round of judgments called the bowl judgments.**

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- **By now you may have noticed a pattern in the judgments that God sends as He reclaims the universe.**
- **Four seals that are similar followed by three seals with a break of some sort between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seals.**
- **Then we had the first 4 trumpet judgments that were similar followed by 3 that were different with a break between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets.**
- **This will also happen with the bowl judgments.**

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- **In chapter 10 we are in the break between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgments.**
- **So why are these breaks inserted in the judgments between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>?**
- **We are not told their exact purpose, but given that each new set of judgments seem to intensify, it is likely that God is giving the unsaved time to repent, and the saved a chance to catch their breath.**

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- **10:1 I saw .... This is the language John has been using each time he introduces a new vision.**
- **In chapter 4:1, “After this I looked”.**
- **In chapter 7:1, “After this I saw”**
- **In chapter 7:9, “After this I looked”**

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- In verse #1 John sees what he describes as “another strong angel”.
- **10:1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;**
- **There are many who believe this is not an angel at all, but that it is Jesus Himself.**



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- **It is easy to see why you might think this one who looks like an angel is Jesus – just look at how he is described.**
- **“He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.”**
- **He had the “book”?**
- **And then we also have precedence for this because in the O.T. Jesus would appear at times as “The angel of the Lord”.**

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- **Gen 16:** The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.” 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.”
- There are no appearances of “the angel of the Lord” after the incarnation of Christ.

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- **It is possible this angel is an appearance of Jesus, but there is not strong evidence to support that position.**
- **This is more likely a high ranking angel that John sees and his wording of “another strong angel” is just to separate him from the 7 trumpet angels John introduced us to in chapter 8.**
- **There is a rainbow over his head – perhaps in the midst of all of the judgments past and yet to come, God is reminding His people during this break that He keeps His promises.**

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- 2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land. (little book in Greek is biblion)
- Rev 5:1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. (biblion)
- Remember what the “book” is – it is the scroll that is sealed with seven seals that have been broken to facilitate the reclaiming of the universe by God.

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- **So why does John describe it as a “little book” in chapter 10?**
- **Possibly because it is in the hand of an angel that is large enough to straddle land and sea in John’s vision – maybe it’s just a proportionality thing.**
- **Also, note that in verse #9 John will be instructed to take the book and eat it, so it would have to be small enough for him to reasonably eat it, because he does.**

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- 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. 4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.”
- Compare that to Rev 1:19 Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

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- **Rev 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.**
- **So in chapter 1 John is told to write what he had seen, what he sees, and what he will see – in chapter 22 he is told to guard the integrity of what he wrote.**
- **In chapter 10 – he sees something he is not permitted to write. (odd)**

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- So whatever John heard when the seven thunders sounded was never recorded, and as far as we know, John never told anyone either.
- So what? The “so what” is that this is an illustration of something God has not revealed and it is no doubt not the only thing He has not disclosed.
- Eph 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ( we will spend eternity finding out just how good God is)



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- 5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, *that there will be delay no longer.*
- Evidently what we have seen thus far, as the seals and trumpets have unfolded, is about to change.
- The seals and trumpet judgments have unfolded methodically and rather slowly so as to allow people time to repent – that will no longer be true.

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- **You may recall from verse #2 that this angel placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land.**
- **This is not only a statement about the size of this angel, but may symbolically be saying, “God is putting His foot down, He has had enough of sin”.**
- **Probably since the beginning of time people have wondered just how long God will put up with sin, and the havoc it brings on God’s people and creation.**

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- **Well, in chapter 10, the time people have longed for – that time when sin will end, is about to happen.**
- **Bear in mind that God has always had His redemption plan in place for this world – Rev 13:8 “All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”**
- **While it took thousands of years for the “slain Lamb” to show up in history, and thousands of years for man to “get it” – the day will come when the plan is fulfilled quickly.**

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- **God has never given up on the Earth - what He created, though marred by the enemy, will be completely restored.**
- **What we see in the past in the Garden of Eden, perfect people in a perfect world, also happens to be our future.**
- **Rev 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."**

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- **Eccl 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. NIV**
- **God has placed a desire in our heart for the very things he wants to give us; a home in a world where peace reigns and love is the only law necessary.**
- **The day will come when we will no longer have to imagine a world without sin, we will be in a world without sin.**

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- **9 So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” 10 I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.**
- **So John is instructed to go take the little book from the hand of the angel and eat it.**
- **And he is told about it’s taste – sweet in your mouth, but bitter in your stomach.**

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- **Remember what the book is – it is the seven sealed scroll of the judgments God will execute to take back the universe.**
- **So there are parts of it for the believer that are sweet as honey.**
- **God is going to put an end to sin, He is going to judge the enemy, He is going to reward righteousness, and He is going to restore the Earth to it's original condition where we will live forever without sin and without the effects of sin.**

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- **Daniel 9:24 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.”**
- **So when John eats the little book, there are many, many, parts of it that are as sweet as honey.**
- **At the same time, while it’s contents are sweet to the believer, they will be anything but sweet to the sinner. (can we empathize with the lost?)**



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- **11 And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”**
- **And here is where the rubber meets the road regarding the bitterness – it is John who must prophesy yet about the bowl judgments that are about to begin.**
- **He is writing in the 1<sup>st</sup> century about the workings of God in taking back the universe and while the message for the believer is very sweet, there is still an element of horror for the lost.**

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- **When we get together as Christians to study the book of Revelation there is a certain excitement and joy that we have.**
- **But, if we were ever to read it from the viewpoint of the lost, our emotions would change.**
- **If the Lord comes back in our lifetimes, we will know some people who will face all of the pain of the seals, trumpets, and bowls without hope.**

# Questions