

Revelation 10

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Between sixth and seventh trumpet:

Chapter 10 and 11: two parts. Just like after the sixth seal (ch. 7).

Sixth trumpet: 6:21 : and they did not repent.

First response: ch. 10: John being told to prophesy.

Second response: ch. 11: The two witnesses.

Strong Angel:

Mighty angel: see 5:2. See also 18:1.

This one is the most powerful.

See 1:16.

Cloud: Ex. 13:21, Rev. 1:7, 14:14-16. Also Daniel 10:6 !

Angel who is very close to God.

Seven Thunders:

voice of God. Ps. 29: seven times: voice of God!

seal it up (see Daniel 12:4,9). Still some secrets, for the very end.

Angel on the sea and the land:

Swore by the eternal God: the Creator of everything Who never changes!

Daniel 12:7 : time, times and half a time. Here: there should be delay no longer. Seventh trumpet is coming.

God's mystery: God's revelation to His people, His Word: His plan: finished: From beginning to end.

John eats the scroll:

John becomes part of the vision. Eat it: make it his own, take it to him completely.

Sweet: God's Word, God's commandments, are sweet: see Psalm 19, 119.

Sweet: beautiful message. Bitter: also punishment, sorrow for the unbelieving world.

John must prophesy again:

About many peoples, nations, tongues and kings: again the number four.

Daniel 7:14, Jeremiah 25:15-29 : God and Christ have authority over all nations!

Ezekiel 3:6 : Ezekiel **not** sent to many nations but to Israel. Now: John goes to many nations.

John first addressed the church, ch. 2+3. Now, to all the nations.

About: also 'to'. About: see later parts of this book. To: see chapter 11: two witnesses preaching to the world.

This strong angel: back to 5:2 : reminder of the heavenly throne room.

Refocus: the scroll which was sealed (5:2) is now opened in his hand (10:2).

The Book/Scroll :

'little book' and 'book' synonyms, used interchangeably. Book also translated as scroll (ch. 5).

Scroll is opened now. See vs. 7: the mystery of God would be finished.

For this entire chapter: cf. Ezekiel 1- 3: the calling vision of Ezekiel. Many similarities. Ezekiel 3: he had to eat the scroll, sweet as honey.

Revelation 11:

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also [c]our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations [d]will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the

earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,
And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,
And those who fear Your name, small and great,
And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

John measuring the temple:

Ezekiel 40-44

To measure: especially protected, reserved for God: the temple, the altar and the worshipers.

The outer court is given to the Gentiles.

In NT: the temple is the Church. Place where God dwells, where His people is protected by Him.

Altar: the prayers of the saints. That is where the congregation comes to worship: the worshippers.

Outer court: the holy city, given to the gentiles: tread underfoot everything that was formerly considered holy. But the 'holy city' had rejected Jesus! Is not holy anymore and will be destroyed.

42 months:

42 months: see Daniel 12:7 : time, times, half a time. = 3 years 6 months, see James 5:17 : drought in time of Elijah.

3.5: symbolic number.

Vs. 3: 1260 days

See also verse 9: 3.5 days.

Gentiles will tread the holy city underfoot: 3.5 years: also the time of prophesying of the two witnesses.

42 months seems to be long, but is limited. Not indefinitely. Only half of 7.

The outer court will be trampled underfoot, but the temple, the worship service: that is the Church, will be protected by God: It will continue throughout all those 42 months!

The Two Witnesses:

The two olive trees and the two lampstands: images from the temple!

Lampstand: see ch. 2-3 : the church!

Signs in vs. 5 and 6: the signs of Moses and Elijah. Law and the prophets. Preached by the Church.

God allows time for the world to trample the court and the holy city: time also for prophesying: preparing the world for judgment.

The witnesses killed:

Finish their testimony: Preached to all nations. Matt. 28. God's judgment comes.

But before that: The world's response: reject the Word, kill the preachers.

Beast from the bottomless pit: Rev. 20:3. Very last moment of the end time. This beast leads the war against the Church of Christ.

3.5 days: not months but days. Needed for the world to make the measure of their sins full, by not burying them, vs. 9, and by showing that they celebrate, vs. 10.

On the street of the great city, spiritually called Sodom and Egypt: example of God's wrath in OT.

Where also our Lord was crucified: Jerusalem compared to Sodom and Egypt.

Crucifying Christ: now by killing the witnesses. Not the Jews in those days, but all unbelievers!

Name Jerusalem not mentioned. Reserved for the New Jerusalem.

The witnesses resurrected

Breath of life from God: God's Spirit.

Resurrection of Christ: now also His Church will be killed and raised with Him. Christ is Life!

As Christ ascended up to heaven, so also the witnesses: in a cloud.

Vs. 13: Great earthquake: tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand were killed.

Ten percent: tithing: first fruits: this is the beginning. More to follow.

7000: large amount. But still limited.

The rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. Different from 9:21.

The whole earth bows down for God and for Christ, now they accept His Kingdom!

Now the seventh trumpet can sound!

Seventh Trumpet:

Vs. 15: all kingdoms of the earth acknowledge Christ as King.

Vs. 16: 24 elders worshiped, joined the voices in heaven, praising God.

Vs. 17-18. Praise is also announcement of God's judgment.

Vs. 19: then the temple was opened: God's throne. The ark of the covenant.

Questions:

1. Very often we see themes from the Old Testament coming back in Revelation: from Exodus, Ezekiel, Daniel, but also several other books. The mentioning of the temple and the altar in chapter 11 also shows continuity between Old Testament and New Testament. Often we speak about the Old Testament shadows which are fulfilled in Christ. But the New Testament also indicates that there is continuation. In which ways do we see continuation between OT and NT?
2. The Two Witnesses have power to punish the enemies of God's Word: all those who try to harm the Church (the two witnesses). Should we be more bold in praying to God to punish those who resist the progress of the preaching of God's Word?