

**Bitter Sweet Book****Revelation 10**

We are in the middle of 7 yr tribulation--up to this point 6:8 after 4<sup>th</sup> seal judgment ¼ pop killed. Then 9:15 after the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgments another 1/3 perished. That makes ½ world population decimated yet hard hearted people refuse to repent 9:20-21. Ch 10 a pause in storyline to give details relating to complete prophetic picture of 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ as He takes possession of what He has redeemed. Ch 9 ends w/ 'they did not repent'

*1 And 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;*

*Angel*—messenger (who is this?)—7:2 *angel ascending from rising sun*--in office of prophet 'do not harm earth, sea, trees but seal bond-servants'; 8:3 *angel stood at altar* office HP 'holding golden censor & much incense'. In OT *Angel of the Lord* to Gideon Judges 6 to Moses *Melchizedek* Gen 14 to Joshua 5 *Captain of Lord of Hosts*--id Christ--Christophany

*Clothed w/ cloud*. Storm cloud of wrath-'Clouds and darkness are round about Him; Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne' Ps 97:2

*These are garments of judgment* 'Behold He is coming in clouds and every eye shall see Him **Rev 1:7** Jesus to Caiaphas 'You shall see the son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming in clouds of heaven' **Matt 26:64** **Judicial Garments** **19:14-16** *And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

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**Rainbow on head**—4:3 rainbow last seen around throne—symbol of **covenant**, now worn as a crown. After judgment a Covenant of promise--paradise follows punishment. In wrath God remembers mercy

**Face like sun** 1:16 *His face was like the sun shining in its strength.*

**Feet pillar fire** 1:15 *His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace,*

*2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. And 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.*

**Little book opened** We saw in Ch 5 a sealed book now opened--**title deed of earth** Right of ownership—Authority to rule—Right foot on sea, Left foot on land—position of authority, ownership, conquering King *Josh 10: 23 And they did so, and brought these five kings out to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. 24 And it came about when they brought these kings out to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came near and put their feet on their necks. 25 Joshua then said to them, “Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.”*

**Sea** refers to Gentile nations. *Is 60:5 Then thou shalt see and flow together, and thine heart shall fear and be enlarged, because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*

**Land** is always the land Israel--promise land

Judgment falls upon Jews & Gentiles *“there will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil of the Jew first and also of Gentiles Rom 2:9*

**Voice as lion**—5:5 ‘Lion of tribe of Judah’ Joel 3:16 ‘The Lord also shall roar out of Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem. Role of Prophet 7:2-HP 8:3-King

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*Cried out*-loud declaration—cry is prayer for vengeance upon unrepentant sinners-upon Christ rejecting world. No place in scripture does Jesus pray for the world *Jn 17:9 I pray on behalf of my own, I do not pray on behalf of the world...*”

*7 peals of thunder*- Mercy is ended, wrath is in full swing. Fulfillment *Ps 2:1,2,9 Nations and Kings rage against the Lord and His anointed, Lord speaks to them in His anger and terrifies them in His fury, He shall break them w/ a rod of iron and shatter them like earthenware.* The cry/prayer is now answered.

*4 And 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.”*

Where God is silent we need to be **Ps 29:3-9** 7 hold voice of Lord thunders

*5 And 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 shall be delay no longer, 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.*

No more delay in fulfillment to 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet--Those under altar **6:10 ‘How long Lord will you refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth’---** **Dilemma**-if Jesus is messenger how is it He swears by *Him who lives forever who is creator?* **First** to impress upon the reader the seriousness of the matter. **Second** *Heb 6:16 ‘Man swears an oath by one greater than themselves’ – swear on mothers honor or swear to God not swear on pet turtle Oscar.* ‘NLT *Heb 6:16 Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. 17 God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. 18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie.*

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*7<sup>th</sup> trumpet about to sound* – all the prophets prophecies of final judgment are about to be completed – filling up just penalty for sin--out of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet comes 7 bowl judgments & a declaration from heaven after the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl *'it is finished 16:17*

*Mystery* sacred secret revealed-Gods kingdom, evil, Redemption, reign.

HA Ironside The mystery of God's long tolerance of evil, will be finished. Everything will then be made plain. The mystery of retribution--the mystery of predestination--the mystery of the great struggle between light & darkness & good & evil--all will be explained then. There will be no more secrets in God's ways & dealings & man need no longer question; the dispensations of faith will have come to an end & the dispensation of sight will have dawned. Are you often troubled by questions as to God's purpose, His counsels His judgments, His apparently strange dealings w/ you & w/ the world? To the man who has not the secret of the Lord, His ways may seem contradictory. Learn from this scripture to wait in patience until God Himself makes all clear in the day of the voice of the seventh angel.

***Rom 8:21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.***

***1Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.***

***8 And 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 And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, "Take it, and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.***

A Chicago radio station WKOX sponsored a contest asking it's listeners 'What's the most outrageous thing you'd do for \$10,00 cash?' Out of 6,000 responses Jay Gwaltney won the prize. He ate a 11 foot birch sapling, leaves, roots, bark, and all. For the event he set an elegant table w/ fine china, sterling silverware, candelabrum, rose vase and Jay sat down dressed in tuxedo. Armed w/ pruning sheers in hand he started chomping from the top of the tree working his way down branch by branch to the roots. His only seasoning was French dressing for the big birch leaf salad. It took him 18 hours over a period of three days. When it was all over, Gwaltney complained of an upset stomach. Apparently the bark was worse than the bite.

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Eat the book, scroll—Papyrus reeds pounded into paper, written and rolled up—John eats & was sweet to taste-*sweet roll*-because it's God's word but bitter in stomach/soul I because of its content of judgment upon a world in rebellion to God. Ezekiel--grief & righteous anger born out of the sweetness of God's word & burning desire to deliver it. Bitterness because of peoples sin & obstinacy which he was to denounce & their unwillingness to listen.

When God speaks we are to devour the message--take in—assimilate--let it become part of you-*not merely casual glance*-a take it or leave it attitude.

***Jer 15:16 Thy words were found and I ate them, And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts.***

Disciples on road to Emmaus ***Luke 24:13-35 “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”***

Hearts like dry kindling ready to burst into flames w/ burning desire for God and His word.

***Ps 39:3 My heart was hot within me; While I was musing the fire burned; Then I spoke with my tongue:***

***Ps 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.***

***Amos 8:11 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord God, “When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.***

***11 And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”***

Johns work is not done but must prophesy concerning...Gentile nations...A great revelation as to what is about to transpire w/ these world powers that have rejected Jesus and have become their own god.