

Revelation 10

The Angel and the Little Scroll

I saw another strong angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was on 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 scroll, 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 raised 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 no longer be a delay, 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 announced 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 scroll 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 scroll. 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 scroll from 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, nations, languages, and kings."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. 'John saw' – now did he see with his eyes or did he see with his spirit?
2. What is it to see with your spirit?

3. He saw a strong angel. What is John trying to convey to his readers when he uses the word strong?
4. Does 'coming down from heaven' mean a good thing or a bad thing?
5. What is it to be dressed with a cloud upon his head?
6. Does the rainbow above the head of the angel have any significance?
7. 'A face like the sun' is reflective of the glory and the aura of God's holy presence.
8. Peals of thunder represent strong and powerful.
9. Up till now everything John described has been big, strong and powerful, but now John sees a little book in his hand.
10. Why is it a little book and why was it open?
11. The angel put his feet on the sea and the land, what does this represent?
12. With a loud voice, like the voice of a lion, the angel cries out – what is John saying?
13. The angel cries activate the seven peals of thunder to speak.
14. John attempts to write down what the seven peals of thunder said, but is instructed not to write. Why do you think that is?
15. Why has God chosen to keep this information undisclosed?
16. With his feet on the sea and the land the strong angel held up his hand to heaven – why?
17. What is it to swear by something?
18. Who has lived forever and ever? Who has created all things?
19. There will be no more delay the judgement has begun!
20. After the seventh angel gave the message 'it is all over' and the restraint of God is all over.
21. John heard the voice speaking to him from heaven,
22. The voice told him to take the little book and eat it.
23. This means digest its' contents.
24. John asked the angel for the little book. Do you think you would have had the courage to do this?
25. The angel reiterates to John what God has told him to do, 'Take it and eat it', but he warns him of the consequences of eating the book.
26. 'It will be sweet in your mouth' – what does that mean?
27. 'It will be bitter in your stomach' - what does that mean?
28. John took the book and ate it.
29. Sweet as honey in your mouth and bitter in your stomach!
30. The angel invites John to prophesy for every people, nation, and tongue.
31. What is the mystery of God?