**Lesson 18** **Revelation 10:1-11**

**Revelation 10:1-11 (NASB)**
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,
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."

**1. The Introduction Of The Angel Holding The Scroll (**[**10:1-4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A1-4)**)**

[Chapter 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+7) dealt parenthetically with the 144,000 and the many martyrs, without advancing chronologically the events of the Great Tribulation. Similarly [10:1-11:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A1-11%3A14) give additional information as a background to the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.

Another angel was introduced, apparently not one of the seven angels sounding the trumpets. Some believe this angel was Christ, pointing to the angel mentioned in [8:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+8%3A3) as also probably a representation of Christ as a priest. But though Christ appeared frequently as the Angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament (e.g., [Gen. 16:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+16%3A13); [24:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+24%3A7); [31:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+31%3A11), [13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+31%3A13); [Jud. 6:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Judges%206:22)), there is no evidence that this person was other than a mighty angel (cf. [Rev. 5:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+5%3A2)), perhaps Michael the archangel.

[**10:1-4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A1-4)**.** This **angel,** however, was pictured dramatically as **robed in a cloud,** having **a rainbow above his head,** his face brilliant with glory **like the sun,** and with **his legs... like fiery pillars.** John added that the angel held **a little scroll** and stood with **his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.** At the same time he shouted **like the roar of a lion.** The scene is certainly one to inspire awe, and when this angel **shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.** John was forbidden to record **what the seven thunders** said. While Revelation is primarily designed to reveal and not to conceal God's purpose and future events, some revelation was kept hidden as illustrated by God's prohibiting John to write what "the voices" of the seven thunders said.

In contrast with the seven-sealed scroll (*biblion*) held by the Lamb ([5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+5%3A1)), this angel held a small scroll (*biblaridion*, also used in [10:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A9-10)). This scroll apparently contained the angel's written order for the mission he was about to fulfill.

**2. The Announcement Of The Impending End (**[**10:5-7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A5-7)**)**

[**10:5-7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A5-7)**.** The dramatic introduction of this angel (in [vv. 1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A1-4)) was a preparation for the pronouncement which followed in [verses 5-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A5-7). Solemnly swearing by God the eternal Creator, the angel declared, **There will be no more delay!** The kjv rendering, "There shall be time no longer," has been mistakenly interpreted as an abolishment of the present time system with its sequence of events. But this is not the thought of the passage, as the niv translation is accurate. The clear reference to God as Creator (cf. [4:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+4%3A11); [14:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+14%3A7)) answers evolutionary speculation as to the origin of the earth, and it also affirms the omnipotence of God in dealing with the world in judgment when the time is ripe.

Announcement was made that **the seventh... trumpet** would bring about the accomplishment of **the mystery of God.** This mystery had been previously announced to God's **prophets.** The reference, therefore, is not to hidden truth but to the fulfillment of many Old Testament passages which refer to the glorious return of the Son of God and the establishment of His kingdom of righteousness and peace on the earth. While God's purposes are not necessarily revealed in current events where Satan is allowed power and manifestation, the time will come when Satan no longer will be in power and the predictions of the Old Testament prophets will be fulfilled. Then all will know the Lord and the truth about Him ([Jer. 31:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+31%3A34)). Here again is evidence that the seventh trumpet introduces the seven bowl judgments of God's wrath described in [Revelation 16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16).

**3. The Eating Of The Scroll (**[**10:8-11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A8-11)**)**

[**10:8-11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A8-11)**.** John obeyed the angel's instruction to **eat** the scroll, and though it was **sweet** (like **honey**) in his **mouth,** it soured in his **stomach.** The angel then added that John would **prophesy again.**

What does this incident mean? Though no interpretation was given John, it is evident that in partaking of the book he was appropriating what the book states (cf. [Jer. 15:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+15%3A16)). The scroll seems to symbolize the Word of God and divine revelation in general, for John was told to deliver the Word faithfully.

To John the Word of God was indeed sweet with its revelation of the grace of God and its many precious promises that belong to believers. As such it sharply contrasted with his circumstances on Patmos Island. David stated, "The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb" ([Ps. 19:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+19%3A9-10)). Though the Word is sweet to believers, it will be bitter to unbelievers when it brings divine judgment on them.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open It**

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 1 being ghastly and 10 being great), how good are you at keeping secrets?
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2. What is something for which you have waited a long time?
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**Explore it**

3. After the first six trumpets of judgment, what did John see? ([10:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A1))
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4. What did the mighty angel do? ([10:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A2-3))
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5. What command did John receive from heaven? ([10:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A4))
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6. How did the angel describe God in his oath? ([10:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A6))
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7. What did the voice from heaven tell John to do? ([10:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A8))
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8. What did the angel tell John to do with the little scroll? ([10:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A9))
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9. What happened when John ate the scroll? ([10:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A10))
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10. What is the last thing John was told at this time? ([10:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+10%3A11))
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**Get it**

11. Why is it significant that the angel called God "him who lives for ever and ever"?
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12. In what situations has God’s Word ever tasted sweet at first hearing but then sour as you "digested" it?
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**Apply it**

13. What step can you take this week to help you internalize what you have heard from God’s Word?
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14. How can you practice patience and trust today in an area of your life where God’s working seems to have been delayed?
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**Revelation 8:3 (NASB)**
3  Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.

**Genesis 16:13 (NASB)**
13  Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"

**Genesis 24:7 (NASB)**
7  "The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.

**Genesis 31:11 (NASB)**
11  "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.'

**Genesis 31:13 (NASB)**
13  'I am the God *of* Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.'"

**Judges 6:22 (NASB)**
22  When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD, he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."

**Revelation 5:2 (NASB)**
2  And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"

**Revelation 5:1 (NASB)**
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.

**Revelation 10:9 (NASB)**
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."

**Revelation 10:10 (NASB)**
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.

**Revelation 10:1 (NASB)**
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;

**Revelation 10:2 (NASB)**
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;

**Revelation 10:3 (NASB)**
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.

**Revelation 10:4 (NASB)**
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."

**Revelation 10:5 (NASB)**
5  Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven,

**Revelation 10:6 (NASB)**
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,

**Revelation 10:7 (NASB)**
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.

**Revelation 4:11 (NASB)**
11  "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

**Revelation 14:7 (NASB)**
7  and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

**Jeremiah 31:34 (NASB)**
34  "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

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

**Psalm 19:9 (NASB)**
9  The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

**Psalm 19:10 (NASB)**
10  They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.