

**Chapter 10:** *'And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:'*

God's angels are powerful, mighty, eternal beings... this one's face is like the sun; his feet are like pillars of fire; he's clothed in a cloud with a rainbow upon his head... this is not someone, on the wrong side of whom, you want to be... God created huge numbers of angels of many classes: we know of cherubim, seraphim, messengers, guardians, singers, worshippers and, surely, warriors with only one angel ever called: Archangel. That one is Michael; he guards over Israel. Make no mistake: they are all powerful, mighty beings; they are all men in that they are called, 'sons of God' and they are always referred to in the masculine, never in the feminine. There are no female angels; there are no baby angels; Catholic art, throughout the centuries, has often done great disservice to angels in how they have been painted... as it has so often done demonically inspired disservice in how the Lord Jesus Christ has been depicted: so often as a sissified puff among His disciples or as an emaciated, corpse on a cross; it's little wonder that Catholics are so messed up in their religious thinking.

The Lord Jesus Christ is mighty; His angels are mighty; we will be mighty in our soon coming glorified, eternal bodies which will be like Jesus Christ's own eternal Body.

Throughout Scripture we see several different classes of angels. It will be an amazing experience when we finally see them all, when we meet them all and become friends with them all; remember, forever is a very long, long time, time enough to meet and know every angel and every saved human from all time.

For us, God's children, the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, no angel should be feared although they are certainly fearsome and if one presented himself before us, we would surely be shocked... but always remember what we're told about angels in Hebrews: *'Are they (angels) not **all** ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?'* Heb 1:14 This says that they are all sent forth, by God, to minister for us; I understand that to mean they are here, surrounding us, protecting, defending and guarding us. *'For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.'* Psa 91:11 This says that they protect us not just in simple things like stubbing our toe on a rock but, rather, in all things all the way down to dashing our foot against a rock. Probably, we all can look back over our lives and recognize times we've been protected by an angel.

Something else about this mighty angel John sees: he has a rainbow upon his head. We've seen an emerald rainbow around God's throne and a rainbow on this angel's head. We first saw the rainbow after the flood as God said it was to be a sign of His promise to never again destroy the World by water.

It is no accident or mistake that today's world of debauchery takes for itself the sign of the rainbow; Satan always seeks to take for himself an imitation of what God has done. Remember, in Isaiah: *'How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! <sup>13</sup> For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.** <sup>15</sup> Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.'* Isaiah 14:12

Surely, it would be a tiny fraction of today's World that knows the truth of the rainbow and how it has been hijacked by heresy and debauchery.

**Verse 2:** *'And he (the mighty angel) had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,'*

To this point, all 7 of the seals on the Scroll which the Lord Jesus Christ is the only One worthy to open, have been opened by Him. When He opened the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, it initiated the 7 Trumpet judgments of which 6 have, to

this point, been sounded. In reality, all of God's judgments are contained within the Scroll; the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal contains all that follows.

The mighty angel sets one foot upon the land and one upon the sea signifying that the judgments in the opened Scroll... all that have been and all that will follow, are judging all of Earth's created order because all of it became cursed when Adam sinned. All Creation is being judged.

The open book in the angel's hand is likely that Scroll which only the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was worthy to open.

**Verse 3:** *'And (the mighty angel) cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup> And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.'*

These 7 thunders, like the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets and the 7 bowls, and 7 judgments were thundered by the voice of God. Thunder, in Scripture, often represents God's voice of judgment: *'The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth...'* 1 Sam 2:10, *'The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.'* 2 Sam 22:14, *'The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.'* Psa 18:13

As John is about to write what the 7 thunderings of God said, he was commanded to not write but to, rather, seal up what the 7 thunders said. These judgments are never revealed in Scripture so we really can't even speculate on them but it would seem that this section of God's judgment upon the wicked World that spurned His Son and His loving offer of forgiveness and salvation is so terrible, from God, that it could not be revealed. This set of judgments is the only part of The Revelation which is sealed; everything else is open and revealed.

**Verse 5:** *'And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, <sup>6</sup> And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: <sup>7</sup> But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.'*

There should be time no longer: no more delay! All of God's fury is now about to be poured out and finished. What is the Mystery of God, declared to and revealed by His Prophets?

Paul wrote that his mission was that we would know *'...the mystery of God, and of the Father, **and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**'* Col 2:2

*'Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:'* Col 1:26

The mysteries of God are those things hidden but hinted, in the Old Testament, as told through His Prophets, but never fully revealed until they were given to Paul, to be unveiled for us. *'... How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, <sup>4</sup> Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) <sup>5</sup> Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; <sup>6</sup> That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:'* Eph 3:3

Here is the heart of the mystery of the Gospel: it was always God's plan to offer salvation to the Gentiles, that they, we, would be fellowheirs with Jesus Christ, that we are special and precious to Him, as are Israel. There is no Hebrew root to the Gospel; there is only the Gospel which was first revealed in, and to, Israel but rejected, and then taken, as was always His plan, to the Gentiles. Here is the mystery of the Gospel: 'Christ in you, the hope of Glory!' There is nothing Hebrewish about it. God was pleased to take it to Israel first but then, every bit as much and importantly to Him, to the Gentiles.

The Kingdom of God includes everything. The Kingdom under the Lord Jesus Christ, includes all creation. It is not the Kingdom of Israel; it is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of Israel, ruled by David, is but one part of the Kingdom of God, albeit a very important part, but still, one part; Israel will be the 'Head of the nations; they will be, by far, the most blessed of every nation on Earth during Jesus Christ's Millennial Kingdom but this is what is so missed by so many: we are not part of the Earthly Kingdom of God; we are the Heavenly people of God and we, unlike Israel, unlike every other nation filled with mortal humans, we will rule and reign over the Earthly Kingdom; we are not the subjects of King Jesus... we are the Bride of King Jesus. (Obviously, we are His subjects but not in the same sense as are all the mortal humans in His Millennial Kingdom.) None of these promises to the Church came through Israel; they came, mostly, through Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.

The Word tells us that Israel are the 'natural' olive branches whereas we, the Gentiles are the wild branches grafted into... not grafted into the natural branches but grafted into the Root which is the Lord Jesus Christ... the same Root from which the natural branches grow. Israel didn't produce the Root, the Root produced Israel. The Root is not Israel, the Root is God Almighty Who had no beginning and no end. He chose us, as He did every Elect Israelite, long before He ever created Israel.

New Jerusalem is not named for Earthly Jerusalem, but the reverse. Do you think God would pattern any part of His Kingdom after something of sinful Earth? Remember, Moses was told to build the Tabernacle after the pattern he was shown... the Tabernacle was fashioned after the throne room of God... not the reverse.

The Gospel is not fashioned after Israel; Israel is fashioned after the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Everything began with God; nothing began with Israel; Israel was given as the Earthly model of the reality of the Kingdom of God. This is one of the mysteries which is still so much misunderstood which gives rise to the 'Hebrew Roots' movement which, in essence, is like the Judaizers of whom Paul so sternly warned the Galatians.

This angel declares that in the sounding of the 7th angel's trumpet, *'the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.'*

The mystery of God is not just love, forgiveness and Salvation; it is also judgment, punishment and retribution! This is what is revealed in this Book of the Revelation; the Glory and Majesty to be revealed in God and His children and the judgment and retribution to be poured out on Satan and his children. *'Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.'* John 8:44

Satan's work is to hide, lie and deceive the Lost; he hides the truth of Salvation unto Eternal Life through the Lord Jesus Christ and he hides the truth of everlasting damnation in the Lake of Fire.

God's Word reveals the truth of Salvation unto Eternal Life through the Lord Jesus Christ and It reveals the truth of everlasting damnation in the Lake of Fire.

This is the Mystery of God, being finally finished, to be culminated in a New Heaven and New Earth, for the children of God and His angels but the Lake of Fire is for Satan, his children and his angels.

Here, in the judgments of Revelation, in the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets, the 7 unrevealed thunders and the 7 bowls, God is revealing the mystery of all that awaits all those who rejected the revelation of the mystery of God, in the Lord Jesus Christ, as our only avenue to relationship with God Almighty, our only hope of Salvation.

***Verse 8:*** *'And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.'*

Once before, a prophet is told to eat the Word of God and to then go and prophesy to the rebellious. God told Ezekiel: *'And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.'*<sup>8</sup> *But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that*

*rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. <sup>9</sup> And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; <sup>10</sup> And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe... Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. <sup>2</sup> So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. <sup>3</sup> And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. <sup>4</sup> And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.... But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.' Ezekiel 2,3*

Here, John is given God's Word for Israel and the World. It tells of horrendous judgments upon the God-rejecting World for how they have treated Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Bride, the true Church, and, also, the final harsh discipline, by God, of His precious possession, Israel.

John would, in fact, prophecy before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings through this, his final prophecy, The Revelation and, yet, this book, God's final message to the World, is often the least read, least understood and least preached of all God's Word even though God promised a special blessing to everyone who read or heard it... every time they read or heard it. It really makes me wonder, of what, so many people are so afraid.

It is sweet to eat and prophesy Judgment against evil; it is what Jonah wished he could have done; but, then, it is bitter to prophesy and tell what awaits rebellious Israel before they are finally saved when Jesus returns.