

10-14-01

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"No Longer Delay"

Revelation 10:1-11

Introduction

1. Following the Rapture of the Church (Rev. 4:1), scenes in heaven are revealed about God's throne (Rev. 4) and God's Lamb (Rev. 5).

2. Then the Scriptures unveil God's governmental wrath on the rebellious humanity. The first wave of judgment is the seven seals (Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1). The second wave is the seven trumpets (Rev. 8; 9; 11:15-19).

3. Before the seventh angel sounded, there is an interlude in the judgment series. Here is a "briefing" giving some information as to how Christ is proceeding as He expels the usurpers of His property (cf. John 1:11). Moreover, here is an answer as to how much longer will God allow rebelliousness to continue.

4. Read for yourself the report recorded. There are three facets to it:-

1. The MESSENGER of God vv. 1-4

a. His Identification v. 1

Here is another (ἄλλου ALLOU) mighty angel whom John sees (cf. vv. 1, 5). The present tense verb (καταβιβύοντα καταβαινωσα) points to the process which took place before John's eyes. He is not one of the seven angels who sound trumpets (cf. 11:15). This one has delegated authority.

b. His Description vv. 1, 2

1) His Body The perfect passive verb (περιβραλημένων PERIBRALĒMENON) shows the angel is completely wrapped around with a cloud.

2) His Head "Rainbow" is only used here and 4:3 in this Book. It points to mercy in the midst of judgment (cf. Gen. 9:13). How like God!

3) His Face To show that this angel is a true delegate of Christ. The Holy Spirit uses a different noun (προσώπου PROSĒPON) from the one used of our Lord (1:16, ὄψις OPSIS).

4) His Feet Pillars of fire speak of judgment. This angel is set for it.

5) His Hand The imperfect verb "had" (εἶχεν EICHEN) notes continuous action. The little book is the diminutive form. It is entirely opened as the perfect passive verb connotes (ἀνεωχμένω ANEŌCHMENŌ). Christ is, therefore, ready through His agents, to take over the title deed of the universe.

6) His Stance The colossal size of the angel is seen by his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the earth. This is a bold graphic figure of the Lord taking possession of what is His by right and title (Jn 1:11, cf. Josh. 1:3; Deut. 11:24).

7) His Mouth ("Cried" ἐκραζε EKRAZE). Since the roar was like a lion, force could be used if necessary to claim the Lord's rights. The cry is not unintelligible, but it is loud. It is followed by seven thunders. This may be like the seven times in which the voice of Jehovah is heard (Ps 29:3-9). No matter what -- this matter is not to be lightly considered.

c. His Action vv. 3, 4

Clearly John intended to write what he had seen and heard, but a voice from heaven stopped

him. Two aorist imperatives order John to "seal at once" (σφραγίσσον σφραγίσσον) and "write not" (μὴ γράψῃς μὴ γράψῃς). This is the only part of Revelation in which truth is sealed. It is useless to speculate, but thunder certainly gives the sense of judgment.

2. The MYSTERY of God vv. 5-7

a. Guaranteed vv. 5, 6

The verb "stand" is perfect tense (ἑστῶτα ἑστῶτα) noting the position of the angel is permanent. His mission is so critical that he raises his hand and swears to witness to the absolute veracity of his statement. It should be observed that the angel called upon God to witness his mission. God is the One Who created (aorist ἔκτισε ἔκτισε) the heaven, earth, and sea and the "things" in each of them. The definite article in each instance makes the fact of direct creationism totally Biblical. So, what the angel said is guaranteed by the eternal God Himself.

b. Explained v. 6

What is at issue is the time for taking action in judgment. The KJV says "time no longer," but the reading should be "no longer delay." "Men's day," which commenced with the ascension of our Lord, and is closed by His revelation in power, is drawing to an end. There is to be no longer delay in bringing the present secret age of providential dealing with evil to an end. God's plan for the total take over of the universe by Christ and the final adjustments to His rule must now take place. God's hour has finally come!

c. Identified v. 7

God's plan is called "the mystery of God." This means that 1) God is now going to unveil something which had previously been hidden. 2) It was declared only to the initiated. 3) But now it is fully made known. "Finished" is a futuristic aorist (τελεσθῆναι τελεσθῆναι) and "declare" means to "announce good news" (εὐαγγελίσαι εὐεγγέλισαι). This is exactly what God did for the O.T. prophets concerning the final revelation of the Messiah at the close of the Tribulation with a view to the establishment of Christ's rule on earth -- this is the mystery. So, the answer to how long will God allow sinful activity to go on -- until this critical point in His program. Hallelujah!

3. The MESSAGE of God vv. 8 - 11

a. Addressed v. 8

John was commanded by the voice from heaven with two imperatives "go" "take." The instruction concerned the little book which was in the hand of the "mighty angel" (cf. v. 1). What a command for a human being!

b. Received v. 9, 10

John did as he was told. Then the angel commanded John to "take" and "eat" (both imperative verbs) the little book. Of course this means to digest its message (cf. Jer. 15:16). By doing this, John's stomach would be bitter from the book, but his mouth sweet. It appears the sweet indicates the day of judgment against the enemy is just that. Regretfully as God moves against the wicked, those precious (like Israel) will suffer -- this is bitterness.

c. Furthered v. 11

Here is responsibility for John. He cannot rest with the events recorded. He must continue to prophesy. The preposition (ἐπι ἐπι) denotes prophecy "concerning" and not "to" peoples, nations, tongues, and kings." As one reads the remainder of the Book of Revelation, this is precisely what John does write about. There is more to make known. John does just that.

Conclusion The Bible affirms that the Lord Jesus Christ will exercise His divine right to His universe. Those who reject Him as Lord and Saviour will face Him as Judge and Ruler. Oh, to turn from self now and believe that Christ died for your sins. This is God's only remedy for the forgiveness of sin. Believe with all your heart right now. Amen.