

October 30, 2024

First Baptist Church ~ Covington, Louisiana

Waylon Bailey, Pastor

Revelation 10:1-11

An interlude or pause between the sixth and seventh trumpets.

An interlude also occurred between the breaking of the sixth and seventh seals (Rev 7:1-17)

"John may have needed this respite. Seals of suffering had been opened – suffering for the church! Trumpets of warning had been sounded for the godless world, and there was no repentance!" – Roger Ellsworth.

[1] Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire.

John described a different angel – a mighty angel with a rainbow over his head. His face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire! This angel is closely associated with the Christ.

This verse is a picture of judgment (the cloud is always one of the symbols of judgment). The rainbow is a symbol of mercy.

[2] He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land,

The "Little scroll" obviously depicts the Word of God which John will eat as Ezekiel had done (Ezekiel 2:9-3:4). The little scroll will describe what is to come.

The sea and land in apocalyptic literature refer to the source of two kinds of evil among men – the sea referring to human government and the land with false human religion.

The right foot on the sea and his left on the land reflects God's total sovereignty over all things. God exercises absolute power and dominion. We have nothing to fear. God is in control!

[3] and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring; when he called out, the seven thunders sounded.

[4] And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

The seven thunders are a mystery not to be revealed. They were personal to John and had to be "sealed up."

[5] And the angel whom I saw standing on sea and land lifted up his right hand to heaven

[6] and swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there should be no more delay,

The angel swears by him "who lives for ever and ever." It is thus a message for man.

John was told not to write because writing takes time. There must not be any further delay. It is time for the seventh trumpet to sound. This refers to God's time not that of man. It may seem like a long delay to humans.

[7] but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God, as he announced to his servants the prophets, should be fulfilled.

The blast of the trumpet by the seventh angel will reveal the mystery of God and bring its fulfillment.

The blast of the seventh trumpet will answer the prayer of the martyrs beneath the altar (Rev. 6:10) and will signal the total triumph of the kingdom of Christ (Rev 11:15-19)

"Then God's people will receive their final glorious inheritance, their full salvation as promised to his servants, the prophets" - Hendriksen

[8] Then the voice which I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

The scroll is open. This is not the scroll of judgment which only the Lamb was worthy to open (Daniel 5:6-10)

The "little scroll" is the Word of God. "How sweet are the words of my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth" (Ps 119:103). Compare Jer 15:6 and Ezekiel 2:9-3:4

Verses 10:8 – 11:13 describes the present time when godless people fail to heed the warning of God revealed in the six plagues (see 9:20-21). The world also rejects the clear testimony of the two witnesses (Rev 11).

[9] So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll; and he said to me, "Take it and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach, but sweet as honey in your mouth."

God's Word is sweet, but we soon learn that the Word which blesses also divides us from the world, often including friends and family. This is what was happening to the early churches.

The bitter result may indicate the coming judgment against the world.

To be God's mouthpiece is satisfying and fulfilling but also difficult and troubling because all will not believe.

John experienced the bitter taste of exile and wrote to believers undergoing persecution.

[10] And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.

[11] And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

John must prophecy concerning people and nations and tongues and kings.