

Lesson 14
Revelation 10

Testimony of a mighty angel

Memory verse: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Mk. 13:31 NIV)

Many people through the years have asked why God allows sin to run wild. Why God allows sinners to prosper and succeed? Why God allows Satan and his demons to deceive and to destroy? That is an age-old question. It's been asked since the very beginning.

And it is a puzzle that finds a spot in everyone's heart, in everyone's thoughts. If God is there and He is holy, why doesn't He stop all the carnage, all the corruption, all the confusion? If God loves His people, why does He allow them to suffer? When will God destroy the wicked? When will God halt Satan's enterprise? When will Jesus come and make the world the way He wants it? When will the righteous be avenged and the wicked punished? To put it in the words of the prophet, "How long, O Lord, how long?" Men have been crying and crying and crying for God to intervene. All the pain and all the horror and all the disease, the destruction, the lies, the deceptions of the world and they accumulate and they get worse and worse and worse, and we continually ask when will God speak? When will God break His seeming silence?

As we come to chapter 10 we find ourselves in the longest of the interludes, the interlude between trumpet number six and trumpet number seven. And here perhaps comes the answer to that age-old question

The Lord also has promised that the day will come when the mystery of His silence will be broken. And that day is connected to the seventh trumpet. Please notice in verse 7 of chapter 10, "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."

There is coming a day and that day is in the time of the seventh angel blowing the seventh trumpet that the great mystery of a supposedly silent God will end. All the counsels and all the purposes of God concerning men and the world will be consummated. Christ will come. The Kingdom will be established on earth. Satan will be halted, bound in chains and delivered to a prison and with him, his demons. Righteousness will rule, knowledge will fill the earth, Christ will be King and God will speak.

At that time, the Bible tells us, the curse on the earth will be lifted. The desert will blossom like a rose. Life will be long. Enemies in all strata will become friends. Holiness will prevail. And the last of all mysteries will be revealed. Sin with all its carnage, broken hearts, broken friendships, broken dreams, broken hopes, broken marriages, broken families, broken towns, broken cities and broken nations will all be healed. Tears, blood, sweat, sorrow and death will find their proper place without despair. And all the mockers who said, "Where is God?" the agnostics, the atheists, the unbelievers who scoffed and said, "Where is His coming?" will be silenced. Those, like the Jews at the foot of the cross who sarcastically said, "Where is your God to deliver you?" will go stone silent. The thousands of thousands of years of sin, death, prevailing false teachers, lies, murders and thefts, Christians being maligned and martyred will be over.

And what signals this? The seventh trumpet will introduce it. In chapter 11 look at verse 14, "The second woe is passed, behold the third woe is coming quickly, and the seventh angel sounded and there arose loud voices in heaven saying, 'The Kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He will reign forever and ever.'"

Revelation 10 to 14 describes the events that will occur at the middle of the seven-year tribulation. This explains John's repeated mention of the three-and-a-half-year time segment in

one form or another (Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5). At the beginning of this period, the Antichrist began to make his conquest by promising to protect the Jews and assist in their rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. But after three-and-a-half-years, he will break his agreement, invade the temple, and begin to persecute the Jewish people.

However depressing the events of this middle segment of the tribulation may be, God is not without His witness to the world. Here, in this chapter, a mighty angel bears witness that God is in control and still cares for the world.

Things to learn: 1) Witness of the mighty angel 2) Opportunity to repent. 3) Taking responsibility of God's Word.

Discussion questions:

1) Check out the mighty angel in verse 1 to 4 and compare that with the fallen angel, Satan who inspired the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28:11-15.

Q2. There seemed to be an interlude in this chapter before the seventh trumpet is sounded. What is the purpose for this interlude?

Q3. How much do we know about taking an oath and the mystery of God and His Word from the declaration of the mighty angel in verses 5 to 11?