

**The Book of Revelation**  
**Revelation 10 (NIV)**  
**“The Mighty Roar, The Mystery Revealed, and The Message Relayed ”**

**Introduction**

*Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”*

*Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”*

*Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”*

*So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’” I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”*

When we come to **Revelation Chapter 10**, we find another pause between the sixth and seventh trumpet, much like the pause between the sixth and seventh seals, and later on between the sixth and seventh bowls of wrath (**Revelation 16:15**). One can only speculate as to why the text has a break before the final act in each of these three series of judgment (seals, trumpets, bowls). I personally believe that it is because our Heavenly Father is not anxious at the thought of concluding His judgment upon mankind. Even during the Great Tribulation, there will be many opportunities for this sinful world to turn to Christ in repentance.

**“Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’ Ezekiel 33:11**

We know that it is God’s desire to see men come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (**1 Timothy 2:4**). And yet, we also know that once the final judgment has been passed, God’s saving grace will be no longer available to those who have repeatedly refused to hear the truth. No one understands this reality more than God Himself. So every sequential outpouring of wrath that is unleashed during the tribulation shall bring this world one step closer to the end, and therefore eternal damnation for those who

are lost. God The Father takes no pleasure in His judgment upon the wicked. The Apostle Peter explained The LORD's long suffering with man in this way:

**The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.** **2 Peter 3:9**

Here in **Revelation Chapter 10**, we are introduced to a mighty angel, who appears with a final warning for all who would listen (**vs. 11**). Let us look together and see what John saw and heard: *The Mighty Roar, The Mystery Revealed, and The Message Relayed.*

### **The Mighty Roar (vs. 1-3)**

John sees a mighty angel come down from heaven robed in a cloud. There are various schools of thought as to the identity of this mighty angel. I will attempt to reveal two of the most predominate opinions to you and allow you to decide what you believe for yourself. Because of the Greek word used for "another" (*allos*; meaning another of the same kind) in **verse 1**, some say that he is another of the mighty angels we have already seen in earlier chapters, such as **8:3** or **7:2**. If this is the case then this angel in **Revelation 10** is mighty indeed, for his characteristics are symbolic of the power of the Almighty God Himself. We will explore each of these characteristics in detail shortly. If this is indeed just "another" angel, then he is truly a terrifying spectacle to behold!

The second school of thought is that this "angel" is actually symbolic of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. To understand the reasoning behind this, we need no more than to look in detail at His mighty description. He is, according to John:

#### **1) Robed in a cloud.**

Being concealed in a cloud has been a well known description of God throughout scripture. God descended on Mt. Sinai in a cloud (**Exodus 19:9**). He led Israel in a "cloud" by day (**Exodus 16:10**). Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud (**Acts 1:9**), and He will return in a cloud (**Revelation 1:7**). To be robed in the cloud, this messenger is very symbolic of God Himself.

#### **2) A rainbow above His head.**

The Greek word used for rainbow (Iris) is actually where the idea of the halo originates. A circle of light around the head of someone who is holy. A rainbow has long been a symbol of the covenant of God (**Gen. 9:13-15**). There is a complete circular rainbow around the throne of God in **Revelation 4:2-3**.

#### **3) His face shown like the sun.**

This angel shines like the "Glory of God". When God would appear to Moses in *The Old Testament*, Moses face would shine for days after the encounter (**Ex. 34:33; 2 Corinthians 3:13**). Jesus face shown with the Glory of God on the Mount of Transfiguration (**Matthew 17:2**).

#### **4) His legs were fiery pillars.**

This, as well as the cloud mentioned earlier, is a reference to God during the Exodus. He led the children of Israel with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

#### **5) He is holding an open scroll (vs. 2).**

Most scholars believe that this is the same scroll in **Revelation Chapter 5**, that only Christ was found worthy to open. It now lies in the hand of this Mighty Angel.

**6) He planted one foot on the sea, and one foot upon the land.**

In other words, He has been given dominion over all the earth.

**7) He roars like a lion and seven thunders answer Him.**

Jesus is called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (**Rev. 5:5**). In **Psalm 29**, the “voice” of the Lord is mentioned 7 times. Read for yourself the Psalmist’s words about the “sevenfold thunder” produced by the voice of the Lord.

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.**
- 4 The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is majestic.**
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.**
- 6 He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,  
Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the Lord strikes  
with flashes of lightning.**
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the desert;  
the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.**
- 9 The voice of the Lord twists the oaks  
and strips the forests bare.  
And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”**
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord is enthroned as King forever.**
- 11 The Lord gives strength to his people;  
the Lord blesses his people with peace.**

**Psalm 29:1-11**

Many very well established theologians differ as to the identity of this particular angel. Since this is the case, I will not insist as to his identity. I think the **Tenth Chapter of Revelation** is by its very nature intended to be “mysterious”. That being said, now that you have the full description of the “Mighty Angel” who stands upon the land and the sea and hand delivers a message to John in **Chapter 10**, who do you say that He is? As a famous news organization used to say, “We report, you decide”. I can certainly see how the case could be made for both arguments. But I think that we all would agree, that the angel that John saw in **Revelation 10** is both mighty and terrifying indeed.

**The Mystery Revealed (vs. 4-7)**

When the angel roars, “There will be no more delay! The seven thunders respond with a message of their own. John is commanded to keep silent as to what these thunders say so there is no point in speculating on something that God doesn’t want us to know. What we are told, however, is that all of the things that God has revealed to His prophets through the ages, the mysteries of God as it were, are all about to be both revealed and fulfilled (**vs. 7**). All throughout the scriptures, God has sent His servants to warn fallen man of the wrath that is coming. Now sadly, for all who have refused to listen, that time has come. All the scoffers Peter talks about (**2 Peter 3**) shall be finally, and forever, silenced. The prayers of the saints of all the ages, **“Let Your kingdom come”** are answered. The mystery of God is revealed!

Throughout the Scriptures, the plans and purposes of God are often referred to as “*mysterion*” (pronounced moos-tay-ree-on) in the Greek. Paul writes of “the great mystery of Christ”, when he speaks of God’s plan to merge Jews and Gentiles into one body through the gospel (**Ephesians 3:1-13**). So in

this same context a “mystery of God” is simply the revealing of a part of His eternal plan that was formerly unknown or has yet to be revealed. The angel in **Revelation Chapter 10** is sent to announce that God’s judgment upon this fallen world is about to be made manifest. Those who before have been scoffers of such things were now about to be silenced as this particular “*Mysterion*” becomes a grim and undeniable reality.

### **The Message Relayed (vs. 8-11)**

John is now commanded to eat the “little scroll” that is given to him by the Mighty Angel. This is reminiscent of **Ezekiel 2:8** and **Jeremiah 15:16**. When men of God are commanded to “eat” His word, it means to totally consume the word, until it becomes a part of you. John takes the truth of God’s revelation into himself. It is sweet to the taste, but then afterward makes him sick to his stomach.

Every true preacher who has ever lived understands this phenomenon. You love the Word of God, and the God of the Word, but when you stand and preach of His coming judgment, you are sickened and heart-broken for those who you know will refuse to hear. Sometimes it feels like you are trying to rescue people from a burning building, as they ridicule you and refuse to leave. They subsequently perish, as you look on. It can be a feeling of utter helplessness.

Still, just like John, we have been commissioned to relay the message of God to all who will pay it heed. For, on several occasions, someone will actually listen and repent. This makes the sometimes disheartening burden of preaching, a glorious honor. So be willing to relay the message of the gospel of Christ. Warn of the coming judgment upon the disobedient. And then leave the results in the hands of God. This is the command given to all of God’s people!

John became a willing participant in the vision, and took the scroll, and ate it as he was commanded. And just as he was promised, the Word of God was sweet to him, but the bitterness of the coming wrath was sickening. In this present age of grace, no true follower of Christ should want to see God’s judgment upon those who are lost. The mission of the church remains the same so long as we are still here on earth... to see the world saved. Remember Christ’s words given in the sermon on the mount.

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.”**

**Matthew 5:9**

To be born again is to long to see a world reconciled to Christ. We no longer have a desire for those who oppose us to “get what’s coming to them”, but rather, we long to find a way to reconcile them to God. A true “peacemaker” of Christ will be devastated by the coming wrath upon the disobedient. The time is soon coming when it will be too late for redemption. So take serious the great commission of Christ to rescue as many as you can with the truth, while the grace of God is still available to all mankind. Make every effort to share the good news so that many will hear, repent, and be saved... for the mystery of God’s wrath is soon to be revealed.

And let all the blood-washed saints say... TRUTH!!