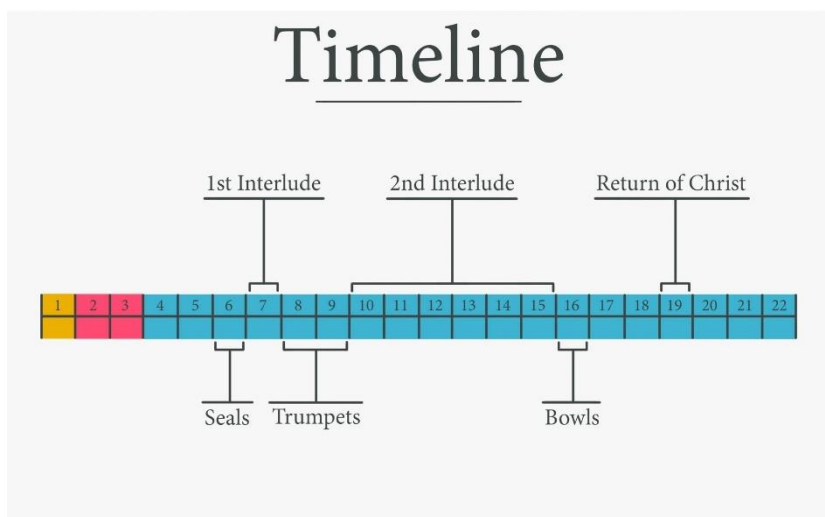


THE ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK OF REVELATION 10

INTRODUCTION

- Taking the chapters in Revelation as sequential (progression) rather than simultaneous (recapitulation), we understand that the 7 seal, the 7 trumpet, and the 7 bowl judgments move the action forward in a chronological fashion, while the intervening chapters (chaps. 7 and 10-15) form interludes which describe things happening during those judgments but not necessarily in a chronological way



- These interludes explain certain things that are transpiring in, and between, the main order of events
- “These parenthetical passages, simply, contain explanatory matters about things that will transpire, but were not contained in the revealing of the seal, trumpet and vial judgments. However, understanding the reason for these parenthesis-interruptions is necessary in order to bring the reader up to date on what else is taking place during the revealing of these judgments in the Revelation.”¹
- Revelation 7 was the first parenthetical chapter, dealing with the 144,000 and the martyrs (between the 6th and 7th seals)
- Revelation 10:1-11:14 provide additional parenthetical material (between the 6th and 7th trumpets)
- Revelation 16:15 also describes a brief interlude (between the 6th and 7th bowls)
- These interludes give readers the opportunity to “catch their breath” in the midst of all the devastation and be reminded of the fact that God is sovereignly orchestrating these events
- “During the interludes God comforts His people with the knowledge that He has not forgotten them, and that they will ultimately be victorious. That is especially true in the longest...of the three interludes, this one between the sixth and seventh trumpets...Believers alive during that time will endure the unimaginable horrors of a demon-assaulted, sin-mad world...they will fear being swept away by the divine judgments that are ravaging the earth. God will comfort and reassure them that He has not forgotten them and that He still controls events and protects His own.”²

¹ http://www.netbiblestudy.com/00_cartimages/Revelation-lesson%206.pdf

² John MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11*, 278.

CHAPTER 10

The Introduction of the Angel

Revelation 10:1 ~ I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;

- Some have taken the “another strong angel” as a reference to Christ, especially those who assume the angel mentioned in Rev 8:3 is also a reference to Christ, because of the similar description with Christ in 1:12-17
- But the word “another” (*allos*) refers to another of the same kind (as opposed to *heteros* which refers to another of a different kind)
- This angel is not one of the angels responsible for sounding the seven trumpets
- Most likely this is another high-ranking angel similar to the ones mentioned in Rev 5:2 and 8:3 to whom has been given great power and authority
- That this angel “comes down from heaven” also points to a high-ranking angel, not Christ, since there is no evidence that Christ comes to earth during the Tribulation
- Also, although Christ did appear in the OT as the Angel of the Lord, nowhere in the NT is He referred to as an angel
- The description John provides of this strong angel indicates that he was glorious in appearance:
 - “clothed with a cloud” = clouds are often associated with the appearance of someone from heaven (Dan 7:13; 1 Thess 4:17) and the judgment associated with Christ’s return (Matt 24:30)
 - “rainbow upon his head” = represents God’s covenant mercy in the midst of judgment
 - “face like the sun” = brilliant, radiant glory
 - “feet like pillars of fire” = unmoved, firm resolve to stamp out His judgment on the earth



Revelation 10:2 ~ and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land

- Although some take it to be different from the scroll previously mentioned, the little book (*biblaridion*, the diminutive form of *biblion*, used in 10:8) is most likely the same scroll in Rev 5:1 (*biblion*) from which Christ removed the seals and unleashed the judgments seen thus far in the book
- The scroll needed to be seen in smaller form since John was to eat it (vv. 9-10)

- The fact that the little book “was open” indicates that the nearly all the judgments contained in it have been unveiled
- His “right foot on the sea and his left on the land” implies a position of power and authority over the entire earth
- “This seems to present an image of conquest and to relate the angel and his ministry to God’s purpose of taking possession of the entire world (land and sea), which will be worked out in the tribulation period.”³
- Although the usurper, Satan, has temporary reign over the earth, God will indeed take back the entire earth from him

Revelation 10:3-4 ~ and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. 4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.”

- The “loud voice, as when a lion roars” speaks of the strength, might, and authority of God
- The OT often connects the roar of God with judgment:

Jeremiah 25:30 ~ Therefore you shall prophesy against them all these words, and you shall say to them, ‘The LORD will roar from on high And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth.’

Hosea 11:10 ~ They will walk after the LORD, He will roar like a lion; Indeed He will roar And His sons will come trembling from the west.

Joel 3:16 ~ The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

- The “seven peals of thunder” signifies judgment as thunder is often associated with judgment in the Scriptures:

Exodus 9:23 ~ Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt.

Isaiah 29:6 ~ From the LORD of hosts you will be punished with thunder and earthquake and loud noise, With whirlwind and tempest and the flame of a consuming fire.

Revelation 8:5 ~ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

- The text does not say what the thunder said, but it must have been a message about further judgment
- John had previously been told to write down what he saw in his visions (cf. Rev 1:10-11, 19; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14)
- And, he will be commanded to write down future visions (cf. Rev 14:13; 19:9; 21:5)
- However, in this case, he was forbidden from writing about what he had heard, perhaps because it was too terrifying to record
- There are some truths that God has chosen not to reveal (cf. Deut 29:29; 2 Cor 12:4)

The Announcement by the Angel

³ Charles Ryrie, *Revelation*, 94.

Revelation 10:5-7 ~ Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer, 7 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.

- The angel took an oath
- John recorded a marvelous description of God, by whom the angel swore:
 - He “lives forever and ever”
 - He “created heaven and the things in it”
 - He created “the earth and the things in it”
 - He created “the sea and the things in it”
- This description points to God’s power and omnipotence in dealing with the world in judgment
- It also corroborates what the rest of the Scripture teaches about the origin of the universe, namely that it was divinely created out of nothing as opposed to evolved (cf. Gen 1-2; Psalm 19; Rom 1:18-20; Rev 4:11; 14:7)
- The crux of the angelic announcement is that “there will be delay (*chronos*) no longer”
- Some have misunderstood this to mean that time will cease; however, it should be taken to mean that time has run out and there will be no further delay
- The fulfillment of God’s judgment will occur “in the days of the voice of the seventh angel,” a reference to the sounding of the 7th trumpet which will unleash the final series of bowl judgments

Revelation 11:15 ~ Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

- When these series of judgments are complete, “the mystery of God is finished,” namely the establishment of His kingdom
- This is what was “preached to His servants the prophets,” a reference to the fulfillment of many OT passages which anticipate the glorious return of Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom of righteousness and peace on the earth
- This is what believers have been longing for:

Matthew 6:10 ~ Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Acts 1:6 ~ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

Excursus on the OT Teaching About the Kingdom

Israel Will be the Focus

- The purpose of the millennial kingdom is to fulfill the covenant promises made to Abraham and his descendants

Jeremiah 31:31 ~ Behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

Jeremiah 33:15 ~ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 ~ For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

- Jerusalem will be the world center for worship

Isaiah 2:3 ~ And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 60:2-3 ~ For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Micah 4:1-2 ~ And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the Lord Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Christ Will Rule and Reign on Earth

- Christ will serve as the supreme, absolute ruler on earth

Isaiah 9:6-7 ~ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

- Christ will be king over Israel in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)

Isaiah 24:23 ~ Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 ~ “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. “In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The Lord our righteousness.’”

Micah 4:7 ~ I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.

- Israel and Judah will be united under the kingship of Christ

Ezekiel 37:16-17, 22 ~ And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.’ Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand...and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.

- Christ will be king over the Gentiles

Psalms 2:8 ~ Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

Daniel 2:35 ~ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- Christ's reign will be a universal one

Daniel 7:14 ~ And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him.

Zechariah 14:9 ~ And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.

A Time of Great Blessing Because Earth Will be Supernaturally Renewed

1. NO MORE WAR

Isaiah 2:4 ~ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

2. THE CURSE ON THE GROUND WILL BE REMOVED; THE LAND OF PALESTINE WILL BE FERTILE AND PRODUCTIVE

Isaiah 30:23-25 ~ Then He will give *you* rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread *from* the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous; on that day your livestock will graze in a roomy pasture. 24 Also the oxen and the donkeys which work the ground will eat salted fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork. 25 On every lofty mountain and on every high hill there will be streams running with water on the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

Isaiah 32:13-15 ~ For the land of my people *in which* thorns *and* briars shall come up; Yea, for all the joyful houses *and for* the jubilant city. 14 Because the palace has been abandoned, the populated city forsaken. Hill and watch-tower have become caves forever, A delight for wild donkeys, a pasture for flocks; 15 Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fertile field, And the fertile field is considered as a forest

Isaiah 35:1-2, 7 ~ The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 2 It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, The majesty of our God...The scorched land will become a pool And the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass *becomes* reeds and rushes.

Isaiah 41:18 ~ I will open rivers on the bare heights And springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water And the dry land fountains of water

Ezekiel 36:6-9 ~ Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations.'" 7 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults. 8 But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown.'

Ezekiel 36:29-30 ~ Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.

Ezekiel 36:35 ~ They will say, 'This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified *and* inhabited.'

Joel 2:21-27

Zechariah 8:11-12 ~ ‘But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ declares the LORD of hosts. 12 ‘For *there will be* peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these *things*.

3. SICKNESS AND DEATH WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED

Isaiah 29:18 ~ On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see

Isaiah 33:24 ~ And no resident will say, “I am sick”; The people who dwell there will be forgiven *their* iniquity

Isaiah 35:5-6 ~ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah.

Ezekiel 34:16 ~ I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment

4. PEOPLE WILL BE HEALTHY AND LIVE TO OLD AGE

Isaiah 65:20, 22 ~ No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed...They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, *so will be* the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.

5. PEACE AMONG ANIMALS AND WITH HUMANS; ANIMAL WORLD WILL BE TAMED

Isaiah 11:6-8 ~ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den.

Isaiah 65:25 ~ The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD

6. PERFECT JUSTICE WILL BE EXECUTED BY CHRIST

Isaiah 11:3-4 ~ And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

Jeremiah 23:5 ~ “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.

7. AN OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:27 ~ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Joel 2:28-29 ~ It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

8. A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED PROSPERITY FOR HUMANITY

Jeremiah 31:12 ~ They will come and shout for joy on the height of Zion, And they will be radiant over the bounty of the LORD – Over the grain and the new wine and the oil, And over the young of the flock and the herd; And their life will be like a watered garden, And they will never languish again.

Ezekiel 34:26-29 ~ I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. 27 Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. 28 “They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make *them* afraid. 29 I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore.

Amos 9:13-15 ~ “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved. 14 Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.

Temple Worship and Sacrifices

- Numerous passages speak of a reinstatement of a millennial temple worship and sacrificial system

Isaiah 56:6-8 ~ Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, “Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered.”

Isaiah 66:21 ~ I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites,” says the Lord.

Jeremiah 33:15-18 ~ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness.’ For thus says the Lord, ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.’ ”

Zechariah 14:16 ~ Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

Ezekiel 40-48

- “To believers living at that time in a world overrun by demons, murder, sexual immorality, drug abuse, thefts, and unparalleled natural disasters, the realization that God’s glorious plan is on schedule, the promised kingdom is near....will bring great comfort and hope in the midst of judgment.”⁴

The Eating of the Scroll

Revelation 10:8-10 ~ Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, “Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” 9 So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” 10 I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

- This could be compared to the similar experience of Jeremiah (cf. Jer 15:16)

⁴ MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11*, 286-287.

- Though no interpretation of this event is given, it is clear what God's intentions are: John was to partake of the book's contents and appropriate all that was contained in it
- As John absorbed and assimilated God's Word, he was both delighted and distressed
- This is meant to demonstrate what the response on the part of believers should be to the coming of Christ
- On the one hand, it should produce a sweet anticipation of God's promises fulfilled and our victory (cf. Ps 19:9-10)
- On the other hand, it should produce a bitterness, knowing that God's wrath will be poured out on unbelievers
- "All who love Jesus Christ can relate to John's ambivalence. Believers long for Christ to return in glory, for Satan to be destroyed, and the glorious kingdom of our Lord to be set up on earth, in which He will rule in universal sovereignty and glory while establishing in the world righteousness, truth, and peace. But they, like Paul (Rom. 9:1-3), mourn bitterly over the judgment of the ungodly."⁵

Revelation 10:11 ~ And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

- John was recommissioned to write the rest of the prophecies God would give him
- He was to write them as a warning of the judgment to come to everyone everywhere, all "peoples and nations and tongues and kings"
- This is also a reminder to us to warn people today about the coming day when God will judge godless men

⁵ Ibid., 288.