

Glory Between the Trumpets (Message #23)

Revelation 10: 1-11

Tonight we encounter another parenthetical passage, a parenthesis between judgments. There was one of these between the 6th and 7th seal and this one comes between the 6th and 7th trumpet. These are refreshing passages amidst the wrath of God. They allow us to regain our focus, reminding us that God is in control. They allow a fresh glimpse of the glory and power of the Lord.

The world desperately needs to see Jesus as the risen Lamb, Savior of the world, and King of kings. Many admit His existence, but deny His excellence. Muslims regard Jesus as simply a prophet. Liberals view Him as a philosopher and example to follow. He was a prophet, setting a perfect example, but He is much more than that. I know Him as the risen Christ, Redeemer of my soul. With Christ in mind, let's consider this time of: [Glory Between the Trumpets](#).

I. The Majesty of the Angel (1-3a) – [And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: John sees another mighty angel come down from heaven.](#) This isn't unusual; John has experienced many angels, but this one appears to be different from the others.

- There is no specific identity given for this angel. The verdict is still out; some believe it to be just that, another angel, while others believe it to be Christ Himself. This is the view I hold.
- Jesus appeared several times in the OT prior to His birth. He appeared to Abraham at his tent door in the plains of Mamre; Jacob wrestled with Him in Peniel; Joshua met Him as the Captain of the Lord's host; and the Hebrew boys found Jesus in the fire. These are known as Theophanies. As we look at these verses, you can decide whom you think the angel is. I believe He is none other than our blessed Lord. Let me show you why.

A. His Deity – He is [clothed with a cloud](#), a garment of deity. God led the Israelites in the wilderness in a cloud. He met Moses clothed in a glory cloud on Mt. Sinai. The Shekinah glory filled the Temple when Solomon dedicated it. Jesus ascended back to the Father, received in a cloud. He will call the church out standing on a cloud! This has the appearance of Jesus!

B. His Mercy – He is seen with a [rainbow upon His head](#). This is a symbol of the mercy of God. Noah saw the rainbow as a promise of God's unfailing mercy. We encountered an

emerald rainbow around the throne of God in [Chp.4](#). Here we see Jesus once again revealing His mercy and desire that men would come to Him in salvation.

C. His Glory – [His face was as it were the sun](#). This isn't the first time we've heard this description pertaining to Jesus. Most who knew Him upon the earth never saw His glory, but a few did. On the Mt. of Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw His face shine as the sun. Paul described Him as shining brighter than the noonday sun.

- I've never seen His radiant glory, but one day I will! He will light the heavens with His glory. There will be no need for the sun or stars; He will be the light of the city.

D. His Authority – His [feet were as pillars of fire](#), [V.1](#). We saw them as fine brass burned in a furnace, [1:15](#). Once again we see Jesus coming to judge the sin of this world. He came as a humble babe in Bethlehem, but He will return as the sovereign King!

- [He set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth](#). He stands upon the sea and the earth, [V.2b](#), revealing His authority over all creation. All that men see and know is under His control, from the depths of the sea to the highest mountain peaks.

- [And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth](#): His voice sounded as a roaring lion, [V.3](#). He is no longer seen as a sacrificial Lamb, but the Lion of Judah. He reveals to all that read and hear these words, I am the Lord! He is coming again to judge sin and Satan.

I. The Majesty of the Angel (1-3a)

II. The Message of the Angel (3-7) – As Jesus stands upon sea and shore; He delivers a message to John. What can we discover about His message?

A. A Confident Message (3) – [And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices](#). As the Lion of Judah roared, the heavens sounded its affirmation as seven thunders uttered their voices.

- Here we are reminded that the will of God always has been and always will be carried out. We serve a risen Lord who has already defeated the power of sin, hell, and death. The redeemed can rest in full assurance of the Lord's power.

B. A Concealed Message (4) – *And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.* As the thunders spoke, John was about to write what he had heard. For some reason the Lord stopped John and told him to seal up the things he had heard.

- I can't explain why the Lord didn't want the message revealed to men. We will never know and understand the whole being of God. *Is.55:8 – For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.* There are some things that God just doesn't intend for us to know.

- We all have questions that we can't find answers for. Why do good people suffer? Why do young children die? Why do we face so much trouble while trying to live for the Lord? Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer? These questions have been asked as long as man has existed. We will never understand it all and the best thing to do is hold on to that which we do know.

- I know there's a God in heaven who loves me. I know that Jesus died for my sin and saved my soul. I know that He's preparing a place for me in heaven. I have plenty to rejoice in that I do know without worrying about the things I don't. If we could know and understand all of God, what kind of God would He be? I'll just praise Him for what I know and trust Him for what I don't!

C. A Confirmed Message (5-7) – *And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.* John sees the Angel lift His hands toward heaven and promise by the power of God that all things will soon be finished. The suffering and waiting for those who've trusted Christ will soon be over. Satan and all who follow him will be judged and cast into the lake of fire.

- John may have wondered how much longer the suffering would last, but he is reminded that things are going according to God's plan. The world may think that Satan has gained the upper hand, but one day the trumpet will sound as Jesus returns and this will all be over! Every promise and prophecy of God will be fulfilled. Satan's influence won't last forever; time is short.

I. The Majesty of the Angel (1-3a)

II. The Message of the Angel (3-7)

III. The Motive of the Angel (8-11) – And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. [9] And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. The Angel is seen holding a little open book. Now John has been instructed to take the book and eat it. It will taste sweet, but bring bitterness to his belly. Let's consider this little book.

A. The Consumption of the Book (10) – And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. John did as he was told and sure enough, it was sweet and bitter.

- In this we find a reminder of the nourishment of the Word of God. **Mat.4:4 – It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.** The Word has sustained many weary souls throughout the ages. It provides rest for the weary, comfort for the hurting, and strength for the growing Christian.
- We need a continual diet of the Word of God! Without it we become malnourished Christians. But why was the book both sweet and bitter? John found both within its pages. The Bible contains much that is sweet. There are passages on grace, mercy, love, salvation, deliverance, hope, heaven, and the beauty of our Lord. John was reminded that in the midst of tribulation there is hope.
- However, the Bible is also a Book of bitterness. It speaks of the lost and rebellious, those who rejected the tender mercies of God. It speaks of chastisement, judgment, and wrath. It reveals a place of eternal separation for those who die without Christ.
- I enjoy the sweetness of the Bible, but I have to be thankful for its bitterness as well. Those passages convict me and remind me that all are not saved. Men need to hear of Jesus. The Bible helps us keep a proper focus on life. Jesus can restore our failures and save the lost! Let those bitter pages challenge and change us for the Lord.

B. The Obligation to the Book (11) – And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings. After John had eaten the book he was told he must share it with others.

- It is a tragedy when men consume the Bible, gleaning from its truth, and fail to share its great riches. **Mk.16:15 – And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.** We have spent many weeks studying the horrors of the Tribulation. There are millions who would face this judgment if the trumpet were to sound today! We have the truth of salvation at our fingertips.

- There is a world that needs to hear the message that Jesus saves! Are we doing our part to reach them? Are we sharing the goodness of God to a lost and dying world? The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.
- [Lu.12:48b](#) – For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. This verse convicts me every time it comes to mind. Church we have been given much, much shall be required! Are we the salt and light of the earth that Jesus commanded? We need to tell of His great love and salvation wherever we go!

I'm glad to be reminded that my Lord is on His throne and in control of this world and our lives. We can rejoice in the power of Jesus. Do you know Him as Savior? Will you hear His call as He calls for the church? Christian, are you living as if you believe He will return? If you have a need, I'd come!