

The Little Scroll *Revelation 10:1-11*

“All the pain, sorrow, suffering, and evil in the world cause the godly to long for God to intervene. A day is coming when He will break His silence, a day when all the purposes of God concerning men and the world will be consummated. At that time, the Lord Jesus Christ will return and establish His earthly kingdom. He will rule righteously, with ‘a rod of iron’ (Ps. 2:9), and ‘the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea’ (Isa. 11:9). All the atheists, agnostics, and scoffers who mocked the thought that Christ would return (2 Pet. 3:3-4) will be silenced. The millennia of sin, lies, murders, thefts, wars, and the persecution and martyrdom of God’s people will be over. Satan and his demon hosts will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3), unable any longer to torment, or accuse believers. The desert will become a blossoming garden (cf. Isa. 35:1; 51:3; Ezek. 36:34-35), people will live long lives (Isa. 65:20), and there will be peace between former enemies at all levels of society—and even in the animal kingdom (Isa. 11:6-8). The ravages of sin—broken hearts, broken relationships, broken marriages, broken families, broken dreams, broken people—will be healed. Sorrow, sadness, mourning, and pain will vanish like the morning mists before the noonday sun (cf. Rev. 7:17; 21:4).

The sounding of the seventh trumpet, which heralds the imminent return and reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, will usher in that long-anticipated day.” MacArthur.

- I. The voice of God can be heard throughout the earth. He speaks through His creation (general revelation), as well as through His infallible Word the Bible (special revelation). Yet, His voice can only be heard by those who are willing to listen. That is why He says in so many places in the Bible, *he who has an ear, let him hear*. A willingness to hear God’s voice opens the heart to receive the message He desires to convey. His voice reveals to us His heart and mind. It is full of wisdom and guidance for those seeking knowledge, understanding and change. Through it, we understand our need for a Savior and through it, we understand how to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ as we wait for His imminent return (Heb. 2:1-2). In Revelation 10, God’s voice is compared to the roar of a lion and the deafening rumble of seven thunders. He’s shouting above the din of a godless world to listen to what He is saying before it’s too late.

Rev. 10:1-4

2 Kings 6:14-17

Job 37:5

Deut. 29:29

Dan. 8:26

Rom. 11:33-36

Ps. 85:8 *I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.*

- II. The mighty angel with his right foot planted on the sea and his left foot planted on the land speaks of God's sovereign control over the fulfillment of His prophetic Word. There isn't one thing that occurs outside of His sovereign will, not one. Satan is given free will to do as he pleases, the unbound demons are given free will to do as they please, man is given free will to do as he or she pleases, but only under the sovereign control of God. He has designated a time when rebellion and wickedness will be dealt with without further delay. It will be an abrupt awakening for those who refuse to repent when they realize that things are not going to get better. In fact, it is about to get a lot worse. *"God has instigated the final events of world history, and nothing can delay them."* Osborne

Rev. 10:5-8

Gen. 14:22-23

Rom. 11:25

Eph. 3:2-6

Eph. 1:10

Joel 2:30-32

χρόνος Chronos = *time either long or short. of uncertain derivation; a space of time or interval. Strong's*

- III. When John ate the scroll that was sweet to the taste yet bitter in the stomach, he ingested God's truth concerning the fate of mankind. He was given special insight into the mystery of God concerning the end times. The sweetness comes from evil finally being eradicated from God's creation, and the bitterness comes from the price man pays for their refusal to repent and be saved. God has been preaching the gospel through John and others for approximately 2000 years. John was given a special commission to do so while in his nineties. We have been given the great commission to live and preach the gospel until we are called home to be with Him. During the tribulation, the preaching of the gospel, no doubt with more compassion and boldness than few express today, will remain relevant up to the second coming of Christ and throughout His millennial reign. God's grace keeps the doors of heaven open for anyone willing to repent and turn to Him.

Rev. 10:8-11

Ps. 19:9-10 *The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.*