

The Little Book

Revelation 10:1-11

Before we read this chapter, I need to remind you of two things. First, only the Lord God knows the future. The Lord says in the book of Isaiah, *“I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, **and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.**”* Only the Lord can tell the future with 100% accuracy.

And the next thing I want to remind you of is closely related to this first point. The point is this: *predictive prophecy confirms the existence of the one, true God.* The God revealed in the pages of Holy Scripture is the true God and fulfilled prophecy confirms it.

Be careful my friend. Your soul is at stake. Your eternal destiny hangs in the balance. Do not follow one of the false gods of our day. Turn to the Lord, the God of the Bible and be saved.

Perhaps someone is asking the question, but can I trust the Bible? My friend, there are many reasons you can trust the Bible, but again carefully consider the subject of prophecy. With the passing of nearly six thousand years of human history many of the prophecies in the Bible have found literal fulfillment across the centuries. Those fulfilled prophecies serve as a mighty confirmation that the Bible is the Word of the living God. You can trust the Bible because God’s Word always comes to pass!

As Jesus says, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word will never pass away.”* Again, Jesus says, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven*

and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Fulfilled prophecy confirms the existence of God and the trustworthiness of the Bible. Now remember, the book of Revelation is focused primarily on the theme of prophecy. Everything written in this book will come to pass in time.

It is also interesting to note that while Daniel’s prophecy was sealed until the time of the end, the Lord specifically tells John NOT to seal the words of the book of Revelation for the time is at hand (22:10).

This book is not sealed, rather it tells us plainly what is about to happen! In fact, this book unseals the book of Daniel and expounds upon the truth of Daniel’s prophecies. My friends, the things spoken of are at hand and many of you are unsaved. It is time to surrender your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ before it is too late.

Now let’s read chapter ten together:

1And 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:

2And 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,

3And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

4And 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.

5And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

6And swore 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:

7But 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.

8And 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.

9And 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.

10And 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.

11And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Now look again at verse one. John sees another mighty angel come down from heaven. This angel is on assignment from the Lord Jesus Christ who in this future time administers the various judgments destined to fall upon the earth. Remember, all the angels in heaven are ministering spirits who serve at their Lord's discretion. During the days predicted in this book more than one angel is assigned various tasks as the Lord moves in judgment.

Now look again at verses 2, 3, and 4:

2And 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,

3And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

4And 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.

Verse four is very interesting. While this book reveals many details about the coming tribulation period the Lord does not reveal to us the things uttered by the voices of the seven thunders.

Now, will you allow me to teach you something? This may not be what you want to hear but understand this: *God does not tell us everything!* We do not know the message contained in the seven thunders. Clearly, one of the lessons here is this: *some things belong only to God, and he is not going to tell us right now.*

A lot of Bible teaching in my lifetime has become distorted. Many Bible teachers in good churches seem to think they can figure everything out. This is especially true when it comes to the subject of physical healing. Many good Bible teachers seem to insinuate that healing is always available. However, while the Lord often heals our bodies, he obviously does not always do so. And when he does not heal us, he does not tell us why.

In fact, there are many things that happen for which God offers us no explanation. For example, why was I born in 1958 instead of 1858, and why was I born in America into the Yost family? My friend, you cannot answer those questions because those answers belong solely to an infinite, all-wise Creator. Shall I go on with other examples?

Here is what I have learned so far in my journey. I choose to trust the Lord. I rest in his guidance and his care. I am contented to allow Him to be the God of my circumstances. While I have certain responsibilities that affect my temporal life, He remains in ultimate control. Truly, my times are in His hands. I have already lived 65 years with many blessings, but I am not better than faithful believers who only lived half those years for various reasons known only to God.

Now look again at verse four. John did hear and understand the message of those “thunders,” but he could not write those messages down. I believe when this prophecy is fulfilled the church will be in heaven and we will hear and understand the message of those thunders at that time. Think about that.

Conclusion

Now I conclude with two more thoughts. First, notice the continuity of God’s message to the world in verse seven:

7But 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.

God has spoken by his servants the prophets. This is a reference to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the other OT prophets. My friends, during the tribulation period all that God has spoken concerning Israel and Gentile power will be fulfilled. Then the predicted Kingdom of his dear Son will manifest on the earth.

And now look again at verses 8-11:

8And 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.

9And 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.

10And 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.

11And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

God's Word is sweet to the believer, but it is also bitter in as much as we must digest all of it. Salvation is sweet, but judgment is bitter.