

“TIME SHALL BE NO MORE”

Revelation 10:1-11

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter we not only get a glimpse of the ultimate success of God’s plan and program, but we also see invaluable truths concerning prophecy: its origin, limitations, certainty, and transmission. We also get a glimpse of the responsibility of the man of God to cheerfully perform his unpleasant function. It is not always easy to serve God and God’s way.

YOU MUST ACCEPT AND PERFORM GOD’S TASK FOR YOU WHETHER PLEASANT OR DIFFICULT.

I. THE DIVINE ORIGIN OF PROPHECY (1-2)

A. The Description And Identity Of The Angel (1-2)

For the strong angel, see 5:2; Daniel 10:5-6; 12:7-- all of these refer to the same angelic person. *If this person is not Christ, then he is a messenger of the highest rank who comes as a representative of God.*

The Identity of the Book

Possibilities:

- “Scripture of Truth (Dan. 10:21)
- Book of Revelation
- The scroll of Revelation 5 now open
- The title book of inheritance (Seiss)

Best explanation—the details that follow:

- John’s prophetic commission which still remained
- Here we see the divine origin and authority of the prophecy.
- Prophecy does not simply supply the student of Scripture with pieces of a puzzle, but primarily calls his attention to the sovereign power of God.

II. THE LIMITATION OF PROPHECY(3-4)

For the **7 thunders**, see Psalm 29; cf. Rev. 8:5; 4:5; 11:19; and 16:18

- John had intended to write the content of each voice (cf. 1:19 where John is told to write what he has seen and the things that he would see).
- Notice that prophecy does not supply man with all the pieces to God’s puzzle: Dt. 29:29; cf. II Cor. 12:4
- **The purpose of prophecy is NOT to supply zealous pastors and evangelists with materials for schemes and charts that make them appear as exegetical wizards and biblical geniuses.**
- Rather the purpose of prophecy is:
 - A. To show God as the sovereign Lord who determines and controls the future. His purposes cannot be thwarted [note the picture of the Angel’s feet on both the sea and the land (v. 2)].
 - B. To encourage believers—
 - All is well; God is in control!
 - The righteous are rewarded; the wicked are punished.
 - C. To move men to respond to God—repent and turn.

III. THE CERTAINTY OF PROPHECY (5-7)

A. The place where the Angel stands (5)

- The sea first and also the land
- Mentioned 3 times in this passage

B. The Person by Whom He Swears (6)

- Notice the raising of the right hand in a solemn oath.
- The hand is raised toward heaven—that is the highest One by whom a person can swear.
- This person is the Eternal One—the one “who lives forever and ever”
- This person is the Creator of all—in the heavens, the earth, and the sea.

C. The Particulars of His Oath (7)

- “Time shall be no more.” There shall be no more delay—II Pet. 3:9. Time for man’s wickedness is running out.
- This statement is an answer to the question of 6:10—“How long?”

1. It’s time—the 7th trumpet is about the sound (11:15-19) [“the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound”]

2. It’s Truth

- The “mystery of God”—cf. Rom. 16:25-26.
- The “Gospel”—good news
- Preached by “his servants the prophets”—both OT and NT.

3. It’s termination—“is finished.”

IV. THE TRANSMISSION OF THE PROPHECY (8-11)-- command of the voice from heaven [cf. v. 4]

A. The Word must be appropriated by its messengers (8-10)

1. Take the book from the hand of the Angel (words from Heaven; 8).

2. Take the book and eat it (words of the angel; 9).

- Cf. **Ezekiel 2:9-10; 3:1-3; 3:14**
- cf. Jeremiah 15:16

1. Sweetness as honey in the mouth—cf. Psalm 19:10; 119:103

2. Bitterness of stomach: “The enormity’s of the devastations that were about to fall on man gave John indigestion and a bitter stomach. His Alka-Seltzer was the sure knowledge of God’s world” (Lindsey).

- Bitterness of subject
- Bitter results for the life of a prophet

B. The Word must be preached to the Earth’s peoples (11).

- **There must be a faithful declaration of truth at all costs!**

CONCLUSION

Why study Revelation?

- So that we accept and understand God’s plan.
- So that we urge others to respond to the God who is sovereign and certain to fulfill it!
- So that we learn from the example of John and accept our responsibilities before God.

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