

He's Got the Whole World at His Feet

JOKE: There must be a pony in here somewhere!

I am not pessimistic but optimistic, because God is on His throne!

There are a lot of things happening on earth I don't like, but I serve a big God, and in The Book of Revelation we learn everything we do matters, and we will give an account to that big God for everything we have done.

These are especially important days to remember this, because all around us people are acting like they are big and God is small.

When people act like they are big and God is small...

Angry homosexuals mock a Miss USA candidate for simply believing and stating that marriage is only to be between a man and a woman.

When people act like they are big and God is small...

Governments begin thinking backwards, that the people are of the government, for the government, and by the government.

When people act like they are big and God is small...

Churches become country clubs for people just like us, rather than lighthouses for all who desire to turn from sin to God.

When people act like they are big and God is small...

Things that God clearly calls sin in His Word are tolerated because "everybody does it."

But as we will see today, God is not small; He is big, much bigger than we imagine!

We are used to singing, He's got the whole world in His hands!

Well, today's passage teaches us He's got the whole world at His feet!

Read Revelation Chapter 10 PRAY!

V. 1-4 The Mighty Angel Roars Like a Lion!

This angel is either Jesus Christ Himself or a mighty angel representing Him!

About half of commentators think it's Jesus, about half think it's an angel!

I personally think this is Jesus!

If it's not, that's okay, because if this angel representing Jesus is this big, imagine how big Jesus must be!

I can tell you this, though: I am so glad for chapter ten through fourteen!

The seals of chapter six were intense, but then God gave us the interlude of chapter seven to show us that He will be at work saving many during the tribulation.

The trumpets of chapters eight and nine were even more intense than the seals, and the bowl judgments of chapters 15 and 16 will be uber-intense!

But before we have to go there, we get this amazing interlude in chapters ten to fourteen that fill in things we need to know about the Tribulation.

I especially like chapter ten, because the language here transports us back to the great image of Jesus we got in chapter 1.

There we learned in 1:1 that this is the revelation of Jesus Christ!

The Book of Revelation is about Jesus before it is about events! The first purpose of Revelation is for Jesus to increase in our life while the false god of self we have enthroned decreases!

The Book of Revelation makes clear what we need to tell ourselves when we look in the mirror: it's not about me, it's about Jesus!

As John the Baptist said so well in John's gospel:

"He must increase, but I must decrease." -John 3:30

Say that with me: HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE.

Things the scriptures repeats are very important!

Three times it says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble!”
God loves it when people realize they are nothing without God in their life!

If we’re not careful, we leave the trumpets of chapter nine obsessed with understanding events and details we really can’t understand.

So what do we see in chapter ten?

A vision of a Mighty Angel reminding John and us of our job as simple messengers of the gospel!

I believe that chapter ten is like a piano tuning fork to get us back to the mindset we started with in chapter one!

If you tune one piano by another they both will be out of real tune before long.

If you tune your life by another person’s around you you’ll be heading down the same path they are.

But when you tune a piano by a tuning fork, it gets back in proper tune.

When two pianos are tuned by the same tuning fork, they both are in tune!

“If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” -I John 1:7

If Jesus grows bigger in your eyes while He’s growing bigger in my eyes, oh what fellowship we’ll have!

But if either you or I is tuning our lives by the small people of this world who think they are big, we will never have fellowship with each other.

Read verses 1-4 again!

Several times in the Old Testament Christ appeared as the Angel of the Lord.

Chapter one told us Jesus is coming with the clouds, with a face shining like the sun, and feet like pillars. Chapter four told us a rainbow surrounded God's throne.

Chapter five called Jesus the Lion of the tribe of Judah. And here the voice of this exceptional person is like a lion roaring!

In Isaiah 66:1 God said, "Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool!"

Now look at these two verses:

But this Man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. He is now waiting until His enemies are made His footstool. -Hebrews 10:12-13

Verse two tells us that John sees this Mighty Angel put His right foot on the sea, and His left foot on the land. He's so big those things are just his footstool!

What is that all about?

In Bible times, when a conqueror overthrew a nation and occupied a piece of land that had a shoreline, he would put one foot in the water and another foot on the land and raise his hand in victory. This gesture meant that he had conquered the area. Rogers 128

And then He roars!

Why does a Lion roar? To terrify His foes!

**When we think of Jesus, we should have two sights ever before us:
The Lamb of God who takes away our sins!
The Lion of Judah who roars to put the fear of God into us!**

The reality is that for those who don't receive Him as Lamb, they will meet Him as Lion!

When He roared, seven thunders spoke their voices with His! WOE!

Somehow John regained composure enough to write, but the voice from heaven said, "Don't write that down – preachers would never know how to preach *that!*"

V. 5-7 The Mighty Angel Announces God's Plan is almost Complete

Good gracious, there's so much here!

There are two key things said here.

In verse six we learn "there will no longer be an interval of time."

And then in verse seven we read that when the seventh trumpet is blown, and the seven bowls are poured out, God's hidden plan will be complete, the plan announced to His servants the prophets.

Now as we have gone through this study I have freely told you when I don't understand what is being said.

But the good news is that this can be understood by us all right here today.

Turn to Daniel 9:20-27.

Seventy weeks here means 490 years, with each week referring to 7 years.

Genesis tells us Jacob worked a week, or seven years, for his wife Rachel.

Verse 24 says at the end of the 490 years everlasting righteousness will be brought in, with no more sin and rebellion (The millennium described in Revelation chapter 20).

Verse 25 says after the decree is made to rebuild Jerusalem 69 weeks, or 483 of the 490 years, will go by and then Messiah will be cut off.

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost has demonstrated that exactly 483 years elapsed between those two signal events. Using the Jewish calendar of 360 days, the edict from Artaxerxes was issued on the first of Nisan (March 14, 445 B.C.). Christ rode into Jerusalem on the back of a colt (See Matthew 21:1-11) on the tenth of Nisan (April 2, A.D. 32). Factoring in some of the irregularities of the Jewish calendar, Dr. Pentecost demonstrated that the time between those two signal events was exactly 483 years. -Robert Jeffress, *As Time Runs Out*, 73

But what does that leave us missing?

The seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy, the last seven years before the millennium. It is also called the tribulation.

Verse 27 tells us the coming Antichrist will make a covenant with many for that week, but in the middle of the week, or 3 and a half years in, he'll desecrate the Jewish Temple. But then his destruction is decreed!

So what is the interval of time spoken of in Revelation chapter ten?

The interval of time was the time between the first 483 years of Daniel's prophecy and the end of the 490th year when the Desolator is destroyed. When the bowls are poured out, they will be poured out in rapid fire succession and then Jesus Christ will return to earth!

Now if the mighty angel is not Jesus, maybe it's Gabriel, the same one who made the announcement to Daniel! That would be cool!

Now think of these things in terms of a stopwatch counting up to 490 years.

When Artaxerxes made his decree to rebuild Jerusalem, the stopwatch started counting and got to 483 years when Christ was crucified.

"After Israel rejected Christ and crucified the Messiah, God hit the 'pause' button of that imaginary stopwatch. 483 years had elapsed, only 7 remained... This 'pause' in God's program with Israel is the time we are living in now: the Church Age. During this time God has *temporarily* turned aside from Israel to allow Gentiles to become heirs of the Abrahamic Covenant. But God is not through with Israel yet." -Jeffress, 73

"For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." -Rom. 11:25

Are the lightbulbs going off in your heads, folks? WOW!

We're getting to hear about what Revelation chapter ten calls God's Hidden Plan!

Praise you, Jesus! You muse increase, but I must decrease!

V. 8-11 John Digests the Little Scroll

What is on the little scroll the Mighty Angel gave John?

Bottom line: we don't know! But...

The little scroll seems to contain the sum of Revelation's message so far – comfort to those who believe, terror to those who won't repent.

The message is sweet as honey because of what happens to believers when we eat it: forgiveness of sins, eternity in Heaven, the indwelling Holy Spirit, joy, peace, purpose in our lives.

But the message is bitter because there are those who won't repent, and instead of life with God they will spend eternity in Hell, which didn't have to happen because of Christ's death for sinners. In rejecting Him they'll continue on their highway to hell.

Now I hope you understand one thing here.

What John did here, eating the scroll, each of us is called to do also!

John is told here that Patmos is not the end here, that he will prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.

The message John received is for everybody, and John was to be a messenger to everybody!

And so are we!

Whatever else we are called to do for God, we are to be messengers of this bittersweet message. We are each to take up the little scroll and act on it!

I have given you each a little scroll today.

It's in the chair in front of you, pull it out!

Here's the verse that is on there:

It is appointed for people to die once- and after this, judgment – so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

-Hebrews 9:27-28

Sinner's Prayer