

"So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, *Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter but, in your mouth, it will be sweet as honey.*" (Revelation 10:9)

I. The Angel (vv.1-2, 5-7)

- a. Who is the *mighty angel*? Some scholars believe it to be Jesus Christ, and others do not.
 1. This glorious description is like Rev. 1:12-16. The angel brings light into darkness.
 2. The rainbow on His head is a sign of God's covenant. His face was like the sun (unveiled glory).
 3. His feet were like pillars of fire. *Pillars* refer to strength and *fire* refers to judgment.
 4. Authority over the earth; His right foot was on the sea and His left foot was on the land. (v.2)
- b. The word "angel" (Gr. *aggelos*), means a messenger from God; *Another mighty angel* (Dan 8:16)
- c. Angels are God's army (*the heavenly host*) sent to accomplish His purposes on earth. (Heb 1:14)
- d. Angels are not creatures who lounge around on clouds playing lazily on harps.
- e. Why was John given this revelation and then told not to reveal it to his readers?

II. The Seven Thunders (vv.3-4)

- a. The Lion of Judah roars to proclaim victory (Ps 2:6-9), but Satan roars like a lion to scare prey. (1 Pet 5:8)
- b. According to verse 4, the *seven thunders sounded*, meaning something was spoken, but John was not allowed to record it.
- c. The nearest biblical parallel is probably Psalm 29, where thunder is called the *voice of God*, and is mentioned seven times.
- d. Six trumpets have already blown to represent every possible chance for repentance which God has offered to man. The time has now come for God judgement. (Daniel 12:7)
- e. Humanity will harden their hearts beyond the possibility of repenting. It is then that the angel swears that the blowing of the 7th trumpet shall be no longer delayed.

III. The Little Scroll (vv.8-11)

- a. The scroll contained the rest of the prophetic message that John will deliver.
- b. John ate the scroll so that he would *receive* it into his inner being. God's Word contains sweet promises and assurances, but it also contains bitter warnings and prophecies of judgment.
- c. The prophet Ezekiel (2:8-3:4) knew what it was to *eat* the *Word* before he could share it.
- d. The angel declares, *There will be no more delay*, meaning there has been enough time for people to come to turn to God and repent. (v.6-7)
- e. God will not force His *Word* into our mouths for us to receive it. He hands it to us, then we must take it. The Word is the Bread of Life.

IV. The Application of the Word

- a. The *Word* must *become flesh* before it can be given and *received* by those who need it. (John 1:14)
- b. We have the responsibility to "take-in" the Word of God and make it part of our inner man.
- c. The message of Christ becomes a bitter pill for those who reject the truth but is sweeter than honey to those who practice its teaching. (Psalm 19:1; 119:103)
- d. Our testimony about Christ is sweetness to the soul, but it is bitterness to an unbelieving world who will not repent.
- e. The Word will bring sorrow, joy, bitterness and sweetness. It is all joy when we are saved, but when friends/family do receive Jesus' joy from us, it sorrows our hearts.