

REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING

Sermon no. 14 A CHANCE FOR MERCY

Revelation 10:1-11:14

After the grim chapters about the Six Trumpet Judgments, the earth (and the reader of Revelation) is given a respite, an intermission between the 6th and 7th trumpets. From chapters 10 to 14, there are two kinds of intermissions: an Intermission in Time (between the 6th and 7th Trumpets) and an Intermission in Thought (detailing the history of Satan and the rise of the “unholy trinity”).

The Intermission in Time, we take up today, is really a chance for mercy. Even in judgment there is mercy. While the 144,000 are evangelizing Israel and perhaps the rest of the earth, we look at how John and the Two Witnesses remind us of two things – God’s mercy and our responsibility to tell that to others:

1. The COMMISSIONING of John: Chapter 10

a) **A majestic angel affirms the content of John’s message:** “. . . the [revelation] of God will be accomplished, just as He announced to His servants the prophets” (vv. 1-7).

- For skeptics, visions of judgment seem too fantastic for them to take. For believers, it may be too painful to consider. So God commissions an angel to declare with a heavenly oath, that the revelation is about to be completed.

How do you take the Word of God when it speaks to your life? Do you think there are coincidences when it speaks to you clearly?

b) **God affirms the calling of John:** “ take the scroll...and eat it. . . you must prophesy again” (vv. 8-11).

- John was told “It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey”. John’s physical reactions demonstrate what every believer’s proper response to God’s judgment should be – sweet anticipation of God’s glory and our victory, and at the same time, the bitterness of seeing God’s wrath poured out on those who reject His Son.

For some here today, this is a chance for mercy. So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts” (Hebrews 3:7-8).

2. The **CALLING** of the Two Witnesses: Chapter 11:1-14

- a) **Background: The command to measure the temple** (vv. 1–2)
- b) **The Rise, “fall” and Resurrection of the Two Witnesses** (vv. 3–14)

1) Their Rise (vv. 3–6)

2) Their “fall” (vv. 7–10)

- Incredibly, we now have CNN, BBC, et. al. to make the worldwide viewing of their death possible. We also now have 24-hour delivery systems for gifts by way of jets and internet.

3) The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses (vv. 11–14)

1) Their rising from decay (v. 11)

2) Their ascension (v. 12)

3) The scene of terror and repentance (vv. 13-14)

- The Two Witnesses remind us of two things, among many:
 - o God will always raise a witness for Himself. He always will. You are not in that family, that workplace, that career, that neighborhood, that clan, that school, by accident. If you belong to Christ, you are His witness. He put you there. There is as much purpose and intention in your life, as there is in these Two Witnesses.

The mercy of God is always offered through us. Let the people around you, who know you, believe that a merciful God exists because somebody tells them about second chances, a new life, a new heart, a new birth. Let that person be you.

- o If you are here today, listening to this message, you are being witnessed to. The words you hear today about Christ and His forgiveness, if believed in, will save you. But if today, you hear His voice and you choose to harden your heart, there will come a time when God will grant you exactly what you wish. And no tragedy can be greater.

Final Thoughts:

Every Christian’s life is mirrored in the life and message of John and the Two Witnesses. We are given the Word of God to enjoy for ourselves, and to share. God’s promises are sweet, but when you realize that those who reject your message bring judgment on themselves, it can make you sick to your stomach.

And just like the Two Witnesses, you may “fall” in the eyes of the world: temporarily in this life, permanently through death. And the world may secretly rejoice than mourn. Yet the God you have declared allegiance to, will not only make you rise again, but make your life a miracle the world can only gawk at. When that happens, hopefully the outcome is the same “the survivors...gave glory to the God of heaven” (v. 13). May that also be the outcome of your life!