

## Revelation Chapter 10

In the previous chapter of the Apocalypse of St. John the Theologian we covered the 2nd woe of the 6th Trumpet Judgment. where 4 of the most evil demons were loosed to lead 200,000 demonic horsemen to slay 1/3 of mankind -- what means were used are not specified, and those that repented not of their devil / satan worship, murders, sorceries, fornications, nor thefts were left to face more woes, but before that we have the first of 2 interludes in Heaven before the 7th plague arrives in which the Antichrist makes his appearance on the world stage :

**Revelation 10:1** *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a [the] rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a ~~little book~~ [scroll] open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, 3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered ~~their voices~~. 4 And 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. 5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And 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:** 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God ~~should be~~ [is] finished, as He hath declared [the good news] to his servants the prophets. 8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the ~~little book~~ [scroll] which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the ~~little book~~ [scroll]. 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. 10 And I took the ~~little book~~ [scroll] 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. 11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*

**Revelation 10:1.** *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a [the] rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a ~~little book~~ [scroll] open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, 3a And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth:*

Averk: "Some think that this angel is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, or the Holy Spirit, but St. John calls him *an angel* and St. Andrew of Caesarea considers that this is precisely an angel ... [He appears as a mighty angel to strengthen the faithful, to keep them from losing heart because of all these plagues we have been reading about. Another significant feature is that this angel comes down from heaven. The rainbow upon his head is a symbol of peace and reconciliation just as it was to Noah and a promise that the world will not be destroyed by water. Being clothed by a cloud is symbolic of divine protection as it was for Moses and the children of Israel during the exodus from Egypt and their 40 years in the wilderness/desert. His face as the

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sun symbolizes divine grace, the uncreated light, just as St. Seraphim of Sarov's face turning as brilliant as the sun in the presence of N.A. Motovilov was the grace of the Holy Spirit.] His standing on the sea and on the earth signifies the dominion over the elements of the earthly world ...” [God is sovereign over all! The powers of darkness and the devil, no matter how mighty they may appear to be, are powerless before our Lord -- Who only allows them a specified measure of freedom to act. According to St. Arethas the angel's feet as “pillars of fire” serve no other purpose than to punish the impious.]

“The [scroll] which he holds in his hand ... contains in general the prophecy concerning the future fate of the world.”

[The angel's loud voice like a lion's roar, is frightening -- its purpose being to instill fear on the earth, a fear that leads some to repentance, and a fear that condemns to the impious.]

**Revelation 10:3b** *and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered ~~their voices~~. 4 And 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.*

Averký: “St. Andrew of Caesarea supposes that these seven thunders should be understood as either ‘seven voices of one thundering angel or of seven other angels who declare concerning the future.’”

Archimndrite Athanasios: “God tells the Evangelist that the information is only for him; it is not for the rest of the world and must not be written. The love and the wisdom of God withholds it. This is not weakness; it was not revealed so that we will not give into unhealthy curiosity. When the proper time comes this revelation will take place ... A similar thing happened with Daniel the Prophet. *Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end* (Daniel 12:9).”

**Revelation 10:5** *And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And 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:*

Averký: Here it is important that the angel swore *by Him that liveth for ever and ever*, i.e., by God Himself. Consequently those sectarians are wrong who consider that no oath whatsoever is to be allowed. “*There should be time no longer*, i.e., the usual cycle of the elements of the world is to cease; there will be no time as measured by the sun and then should eternity begin.

**Revelation 10:7** *But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery of God** ~~should be~~ [is] finished, as he hath declared [the good news] to his servants the prophets.*

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Averkys: “That is, there shall soon begin the last of the seven epochs of the existence of the world, and the seventh angel shall trumpet. Then there will be finished *the mystery of God* prophesied by our prophets, that is, the end of the world and everything that is to occur in connection with it.” [But what is this mystery of God.]

Archimandrite Athanasios: “St Paul talks about the first mystery of God during the First Presence of Christ, *according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages* (Romans 16:25). This mystery is that God becomes man. God became a human being! ... The mystery was [also] that God is Triune, Three Persons, and that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity would become incarnate ... the second mystery involves the time of the Second Coming of Christ and the presence of the Antichrist. And it [still] remains a mystery.

**Revelation 10:8** *And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the ~~little book~~ [scroll] which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the ~~little book~~ [scroll]. 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. 10 And I took the ~~little book~~ [scroll] 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.*

Archimandrite Athanasios: “The voice advising the Evangelist what to do is the voice of Christ. St. John is [being] commissioned to possess and to become knowledgeable about the scroll which contains the [will] of God.

“There is an expression we use: I devoured that book. In other words, I read it. I mastered it. It is a most creative image showing that the knowledge, the understanding, and the awareness of all these things that will happen are given to St. John. The same thing happened with the prophet Ezekiel where he is instructed to eat a scroll [Ezekiel 3:1, *Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this scroll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. 2 So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that scroll. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this scroll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. 4 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.*] So this is not at all that strange of a request; it is not a first [there is a precedent in Ezekiel]. What is strange is that while the taste of the scroll is sweet in the mouth, it turns bitter in the stomach [for St. John, but not for Ezekiel]. It means that the knowledge of the mystery of God and the fulfillment of this mystery along with everything coming to an end lends a certain sweetness [to what is a very bitter and eternal punishment for the ungodly] ... Or as the wise Solomon writes, *For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow* [Ecclesiastes 1:18].

**Revelation 10:11** *And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*

Archimandrite Athanasios: “It means that the rest of the **Book of Revelation** will be

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filled with prophecies ... prophecies ... of a universal dimension, and they will begin immediately after the next chapter [the second interlude].

So we can rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is all powerful, all-knowing, and in full control of everything that happens -- and of time itself. Here in Revelation, He allows us to have a view of the future to comfort us and encourage us through the most difficult of times.

*Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen*