

Youth Weekly Devotion



Revelation 10-11

Monday, 10th June – Sunday, 16th June 2024





The Angel and the small scroll - Revelation 10:1-4 (ERV)

1Then I saw another powerful angel coming down from heaven. The angel was dressed in a cloud. He had a rainbow around his head. The angel's face was like the sun, and his legs were like poles of fire. **2** The angel was holding a small scroll. The scroll was open in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. **3** He shouted loudly like the roaring of a lion. After he shouted, the voices of seven thunders spoke.

4 The seven thunders spoke, and I started to write. But then I heard a voice from heaven that said, "Don't write what the seven thunders said. Keep those things secret."

Some things to think about when reading this text:

The Angel is likened to characteristics we see in Christ and God, using imagery already used in revelation. For example the rainbow around the head or the face like the sun. But we have to remember they are likened they are not the exact aspects that we see in Christ so we have to remember that this is an angel who is likely to be high in authority and sent from heaven so He comes with Gods power and authority sent by Him.

The scroll is like the one previously mentioned in revelation but it is open for people to see and sent to the earth from heaven. It being small means that it isn't like the normal sized scroll and it is later shown the significance of its size. We also have to see that as John is saying the angel has come from heaven then it is likely John is commenting on what he sees coming to the earth.

The angle having a foot in the sea and land show that he has authority over all given to him from heaven and his voice is linked to the lion of Judah which again brings the connection of authority given to him by God.

The seven thunders is not clear as to what it is exactly. But in parts of the bible we read Gods voice being similar to thunder and it being seven continues with the theme of seven in revelation and the completeness.

The voice stopping John from writing we can see as Gods voice and that it is something that will happen but not for the reader of revelation to know now.

What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?



The one who made it all - Revelation 10:5-7 (ERV)

⁵ Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ The angel made a promise by the power of the one who lives forever and ever. He is the one who made the skies and all that is in them. He made the earth and all that is in it, and he made the sea and all that is in it. The angel said, “There will be no more waiting! ⁷ In the days when the seventh angel is ready to blow his trumpet, God’s secret plan will be completed—the Good News that God told to his servants, the prophets.”

Some things to think about when reading this text:

The angel here is making an oath or swearing that by God as the creator of the heavens and the earth. The one who is outside of time, that Gods plan will come to completion.

His raising of the right hand is something that showed authority and allegiance in roman culture. Which the original readers of this letter would have understood.

The description of the one who lives forever and ever and made all things shows that He is swearing that it will happen by God not because of man or the earth and so it is unstoppable as it is in the authority of the one who has authority overall.

The comment of there being no more waiting means that there won’t be a delay that as soon as the seventh trumpet is blown it will happen and take place in the earth. It also means that Gods plan for the current earth and creation will come to completion.

The prophets spoken of are not fully defined and they could be either the prophets of the Old Testament or prophets speaking now living in the New Testament. It is more likely to be the New Testament as many of the prophets in the Old Testament were pointing to Jesus and Gods redemptive plan for humanity through Jesus.

What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?



Eating the scroll – Revelation 10:8-11 (ERV)

⁸ Then I heard the same voice from heaven again. It said to me, “Go and take the open scroll that is in the angel’s hand. This is the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

⁹ So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take the scroll and eat it. It will be sour in your stomach, but in your mouth it will be sweet like honey.” ¹⁰ So I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. In my mouth it tasted sweet like honey, but after I ate it, it was sour in my stomach. ¹¹ Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many races of people, many nations, languages, and rulers.”

Some things to think about when reading this text:

The voice that commands from heaven is the same voice in verse 4 that thunders, giving an impression that it is God speaking and directing him.

The scroll itself now appears to be the message of God about what is to come. Its essentially God saying that He is giving John the prophesy about the end times of the earth and that He must prophesy it to people, telling people what will happen.

Him eating it is a metaphor for how it will be received both by John and those hearing it. The message will be a sweet reminder that when the end times come God is in control and ruler over all that those who know Him will be protected but there will also be sourness or bitterness in the tribulation and evil that will come upon the earth. It also shows that for believers the end times wont be something easy to stomach or take in that what will be seen and witnessed will be difficult but we have to hold onto the hope and plan that God has for us as believers.

The line about races, nations, languages and rulers means that it needs to be shared to everyone across the earth.

Some commentators would say that the next few chapters are what is written on the scroll.

What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?



The two witnesses- Revelation 11:1-6 (ERV)

11 Then I was given a measuring rod as long as a walking stick. I was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the people worshipping there. ² But don’t measure the yard outside the temple. Leave it alone. It has been given to those who are not God’s people. They will show their power over the holy city for 42 months. ³ And I will give power to my two witnesses. And they will prophesy for 1260 days. They will be dressed in sackcloth.”

⁴ These two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

⁵ If anyone tries to hurt the witnesses, fire comes from the mouths of the witnesses and kills their enemies. Anyone who tries to hurt them will die like this. ⁶ These witnesses have the power to stop the sky from raining during the time they are prophesying. These witnesses have power to make the water become blood. They have power to send every kind of plague to the earth. They can do this as many times as they want.

Some things to think about when reading this text:

This text can seem a bit odd but it mainly links to prophecies in Ezekiel, and as we read it some parts can be easily explained as to what is happening.

The measuring is not of an earthly temple but of a heavenly temple or it is thought to be that. It is more a measuring or numbering of the people rather than of a physical building and points to parts of the bible that explain that the temple of God in the New testament is the people of God not a building.

The two witnesses are prophets essentially who will come to bring repentance or a time of repentance as signified by the sackcloth. They will cause the worship of God to continue and point people to worshipping God, symbolised by the olive trees and lampstand.

The fire from their mouths is not necessarily literal but a metaphor and means that these witnesses will cause those who come against them to be convicted by the power of God on the earth.

The power they have points to the fact that they are sent by God and it is his power that they hold.

The plague is similar to that of Egypt in Exodus, and so they are sent to bring people to a place of repentance before God. The witnesses can call them to being to cause people to repent and they can do this as many times in order to get more and more people to repent.

What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?



After the 2 witnesses – Revelation 11:7-12 (ERV)

⁷ When the two witnesses have finished telling their message, the beast will fight against them. This is the beast that comes up from the bottomless pit. It will defeat and kill them. ⁸ The bodies of the two witnesses will lie in the street of the great city. This city is named Sodom and Egypt. These names for the city have a special meaning. This is the city where the Lord was killed. ⁹ People from every race of people, tribe, language, and nation will look at the bodies of the two witnesses for three and a half days. The people will refuse to bury them. ¹⁰ Everyone on the earth will be happy because these two are dead. They will have parties and send each other gifts. They will do this because these two prophets brought much suffering to the people living on earth. ¹¹ But after three and a half days, God let life enter the two witnesses again. They stood on their feet. All those who saw them were filled with fear. ¹² Then the two witnesses heard a loud voice from heaven say, “Come up here!” And both of them went up into heaven in a cloud. Their enemies watched them go.

Some things to think about when reading this text:

The beast that comes up is signified in other parts of revelation and is often seen to either be Satan or persecution against the people of God. The witnesses are seen to be martyrs and the bodies not being buried is a sign of public humiliation or disgrace but also a taking away of their identity. As in roman times and even today the legacy of a person identity is remembered or known from their burial.

The city that is spoken of is often thought to be Jerusalem because of it being “where the Lord was killed” but people think it is actually linked to Rome and other powerful cities of the time. Essentially it is the city of influence and where places of evil and greed are. It isn’t a specific city but where people have turned their back on God and are against the people of God.

The length of days can be linked to Christ and the resurrection, it can also be linked to many cultures in biblical times of 3 days being the point in which someone is fully dead and unable to be mistaken for being dead. The breathing of life is similar to that in Elijah vision and the dead bones coming alive again. This signifies that God will raise up those that had been martyred.

What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?



The Great earthquake – Revelation 11:13-14

¹³ At that same time there was a great earthquake. A tenth of the city was destroyed. And 7000 people were killed in the earthquake. Those who did not die were very afraid. They gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second terror is now past. The third terror is coming soon.

Some things to think about when reading this text:

The earthquake mentioned here is similar to others mentions of earth quakes in revelation but it looks at it meaning Gods judgement on people. And so those that aren't killed turn to God in repentance out of fear and reverence for Him, seeing and knowing His full might and power.

We also begin to see that the city mentioned is not a physical one back in biblical times as by the texts indication of a tenth, this city would be made up of 70,000 people which is less than large cities in the Roman empire.

Another aspect to think about is the 'terrors'. We will often read revelation and the things that happen in chronological order. This may not be the case of the reality as we know that this is a heavenly vision and heaven does not conform to our mindset of chronological time.

But we also see that these terror's are not easily linked. The second one appears to be linked with the sixth trumpet mentioned in previous chapters. The third terror is often linked to the seventh trumpet in mind but revelation doesn't actually do this. Instead this third terror is linked to Jesus dying on the cross and being raised again and as a result the devil losing his power. So a conclusion we can make is that the third terror is the time we live in now as being between the cross happening and Jesus coming again.

What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?



The Seventh Angel – Revelation 11:15-19

The seventh angel blew his trumpet. Then there were loud voices in heaven. The voices said,
“The kingdom of the world has now become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah.

And he will rule forever and ever.”

¹⁶ Then the 24 elders bowed down on their faces and worshiped God. These are the elders who sit on their thrones before God. ¹⁷ The elders said,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God All-Powerful.

You are the one who is and who always was.

We thank you because you have used your great power and have begun to rule.

¹⁸ The people of the world were angry, but now is the time for your anger.

Now is the time for the dead to be judged.

It is time to reward your servants, the prophets, and to reward your holy people,

the people, great and small, who respect you.

It is time to destroy those people who destroy the earth!”

¹⁹ Then God’s temple in heaven was opened. The Box of the Agreement could be seen in his temple. Then there were flashes of lightning, noises, thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

Some things to think about when reading this text:

The seventh angel and trumpet is a change in what we read in the rest of revelation. It marks the beginning of Gods final judgement on both the devil and the earth. It also marks Gods full reign coming to the earth just like where Jesus speaks about the kingdom of God near so this will be the mark of the Kingdom becoming fully known on the earth.

The text is self explanatory really, the elders worshiping links to revelation 4 where we read about heaven. This symbolises heaven coming down to the earth.

It also shows that God will judge sin and be angry at sin. Which is just because we have to remember that He himself is holy and is against sin. So

his wrath is him showing punishment for sin but also to those who have turned away or denied Him.

But there is also hope for believers of Christ as it speaks of the reward coming to the holy people both great and small. Meaning everyone in who is a believer not just a select few.

The temple opening and the flashes of lightening, noises thunder, earthquake and hailstorm, signify that the throne of God will be made known. The separation between the heavenly temple and earth that we know of the physical and spiritual will be taken away and the earth will see Gods throne fully.

As we read the rest of revelation we see the final judgements happening but also the things of heaven becoming more real in the earth. The seventh trumpet is the beginning of the final stages of this coming earth coming to an end and Gods plan for this earth becoming completed.

What do you think God is saying to you and us today about this text?