

## **Lesson Thirteen**

### **Eating the Scroll & Measuring the Temple**

#### **(10:1-11:2)**

Before John sees the events of the 7<sup>th</sup> and final trumpet an interlude is necessary to add detail and clarity. The message of this interlude addresses the need for John and Believers of all times to continue bearing witness to the gospel. The proclamation of the gospel results in the salvation of Israel which is described with detail in chapter 11.

#### **The Angel and the Little Scroll (10:1-11)**

10:1. John sees “another strong angel.” This distinguishes him from the angels of the trumpet judgments. God is associated with clouds and rainbows. God lead Israel by a cloud (Ex.16:10) and we have already seen that the rainbow surrounds the throne of God to signify His promise (4:3). John’s previous visions occurred in heaven. Now the vision has John on earth. This angel has other characteristics like Jesus. His face shines like the sun (1:16) and his feet are like pillars of fire (1:15). While the strong angel has the appearance of Christ, he is not Christ. The strong angel testifies of Christ (10:6).

10:2. The word “little book” is different from the main scroll in chapter five. The little scroll may reference the Scriptures that contain the mission and message of Believers. The angel stands on the land and sea,

signifying that what is to be revealed relates to the entire earth.

10:3-4. The message came from the angel with great authority. Seven claps of thunder are heard, similar to what we have seen in the seven trumpets. A heavenly voice tells John not to write what he saw. This voice is most likely the voice of Christ or God. John witnessed the vision but was not to record its contents. While we are not told of the contents of the seven thunders, we may assume they contain a series of judgments. There are some events that will come to earth that God chose not to reveal in Scripture.

10:5-7. The angel raises his hand in the appropriate posture for taking an oath. The angel's oath proclaims the sovereignty of Christ and that there is no longer to be a delay in the End. The End is to come "at the days" of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, like all trumpet and bowl judgments, does not describe an event but events that occur within a period of time. The hidden "mystery of God" is found elsewhere in the NT and references the redemptive plan of God. Evil will be judged and the full number of God's people will be saved. This message began with the prophets and is to continue until the End.

10:8-11. Once again the voice from heaven, Christ or God, instructs John to take the book from the angel. Eating the scroll suggests that John consumed or understood the message. Its message was both sweet

and bitter. Bitter is suggestive of the harshness of God's judgments on unrepentant mankind. Sweetness is suggestive of the pleasantness of salvation and promises to the saints. John was to preach this message to the world. While John saw the events that were to come quickly, he had a mission to fulfill. **WE SHARE THIS SAME MISSION!**

### **The Measuring of the Temple (11:1-2)**

Before the final trumpet sounds a message of salvation and hope is revealed. A very necessary part of evangelism must occur. Israel must be saved. This vision assumes a rebuilt Jewish temple and Jews worshipping and sacrificing in it. Measuring the Jewish temple clearly distinguishes the Jews from the Gentiles. The outer court of the Gentiles is not to be measured. Gentiles represent unbelievers who tread upon the temple. Jesus called this the Abomination of Desolation (Mark 13:14).

“Tread under foot the holy city for 42 months.”

Whereas “temple” is used in the NT for the true people of God (I Cor.3:16; II Cor.6:16; ph.2:21), the holy city is always a reference to Jerusalem. Persecution will come to the saints of God for 42 months. Forty two months or 3 ½ years is a common designation for short period of time in Revelation. Daniel 9 identifies a seven year period for the confirming of the covenant. The clearer part of interpretation is that half of this time is the period for the domination of evil before the end

(Dan.7:25; 12:7). Forty two months is found in Revelation for:

- The time of oppression of Jerusalem (11:2)
- The time for the ministry of the two witnesses (11:3)
- The time of preservation of the woman from heaven (12:6,14)
- The time the beast assumes authority and persecutes the saints (13:5)

Forty two months or 1260 days is the short period of time when the world is under the control of evil and its forces. This is also known as the Great Tribulation.

These two verses provide the background for understanding how the salvation of Israel comes to pass. The remainder of this chapter describes the events that lead to the salvation of Israel.