



“The Bittersweet Ministry of the Word.”

August 10, 2025

David Hinkle

Revelation 10

¹ Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. ² He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, ³ and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. ⁴ And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.” ⁵ And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven ⁶ and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, ⁷ but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” ⁹ 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.” ¹⁰ And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. ¹¹ And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

SUMMARY

As God's people, we are called to take His Word into our hearts and minds, apply it, and declare it to others. The Bible is a living and active book that has the power to teach, convict, and correct us about our God and our lives before Him. Our ministry is to proclaim His word even when it isn't popular or safe to do so. Our God has called us to be faithful, which requires that we trust Him to accomplish His will, especially in difficult circumstances or when we must deliver difficult truths.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Ignorance is _____.

Knowledge is _____.

With Great Power Comes Great _____.

PASSAGE OUTLINE

- The Angel's Authority - 10:1-14
- The Angel's Announcement - 10:5-7
- The Angel's Commission - 10:8-11

THE TRUTH FOR US IS:

God's People are Called to Stand and Deliver the Whole Truth of God.

Daniel 8:26-27

²⁶ "The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now." ²⁷ And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

Ezekiel 3:1-3

¹ And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel. ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³ And he said to me, Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey."

Acts 20:24-27

²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am

innocent of the blood of all of you,²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

THE CHALLENGE FOR US IS:

The Whole Truth of God is Bittersweet.

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

THE CHARGE FOR US IS:

Tell God’s Truth Especially When It’s Hard to Say.

Ezekiel 3:4-11

⁴ And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵ For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— ⁶ not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷ But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.”

⁸ “Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹ Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” ¹⁰ Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹ And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the angel who announces the coming of the seventh trumpet?
2. Why would John be forbidden to record the words of the seven thunders (see 2 Corinthians 12:4)?
3. What purposes have the disasters of the first six trumpets served? What do you anticipate the seventh trumpet will bring forth?
4. What is the “mystery of God” (Revelation 10:7, Romans 11:25-36, Romans 16:25-27, Ephesians 1:9-14)?
5. What happens to the small scroll? How can a revelation from God be both sweet and bitter?
6. What was your takeaway from this week’s passage?

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*Discussion Questions adapted from The Serendipity Bible.