

# Revelation Chapter 10

## 10:1-2 The Omnipotent Christ

*“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth.”*

This chapter begins another interlude, a parenthetical section between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgements in order to present to us additional details of events happening during the coming tribulation. The sounding of the trumpets will resume in chapter 11:15.

As stated in the chapter heading, I believe this mighty angel to be an appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Here are the reasons:

**A.** He is clothed with a cloud and a cloud is a well known badge of Jehovah's presence.

(1) A cloud was connected with Jehovah's presence with the children of Israel, Exodus 13:21, 24:15-16, 34:4-5, and Numbers 12:5.

(2) A cloud or clouds were connected with the ascension of Christ in heaven, Acts 1:9-11.

(3) A cloud or clouds will be connected with the rapture of the church, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

(4) A cloud or clouds will be connected with the second coming of Christ, Matthew 24: 30, 26:64, Revelation 1:7.

**B.** His head is encircled with a rainbow. Another token of Jehovah's presence.

(1) A rainbow encircles the throne of God, Rev. 4:3.

(2) A rainbow was given by God as a comforting promise to earth, Genesis 9:13-17.

**C.** His face was as it were the sun. And the sun likewise is a symbol of God's presence, Malachi 4:2, Psalms 84:11, Revelation 1:14, 16.

**D.** His feet were as pillars of fire. Compare Rev. 1:15.

**E.** He has in his hand a little book open. This also leads us to believe that this is an appearance of Christ. In chapter 5:1 God the Father had a seven sealed book in his hand, and Christ took the book into his hands, chapter 5:5-8. Then, in chapters 6:1-8:1, Christ opened the seven sealed book. And here in chapter 10:2 it would rightly be called a little book open.

**F.** He has his right foot set upon the sea and his left foot set upon the earth. This area would be the Mediterranean Sea and the land of Palestine. And, this is considered to be

the geographical center of the earth, the place from which all the kingdoms of the earth came. We have already called this book the title of the world, and, it is now open and in the Lord's hand. He stands upon the sea and earth to denote his ownership of it. You see, this earth is presently under the domain of the devil, II Corinthians 4:4, but Jesus is going to change all that!

**G.** He cries with a loud voice as when a lion roars. And the Lord Jesus Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Juda, Rev. 5:5.

**H.** Still another reason for concluding that this an appearance of the Lord himself lies in chapter 11:3 where this same angel (there isn't a change in speaker from chapter 10:3) says to John "I will give power unto my two witnesses". You see, we do not belong to any ordinary angel, we belong to God. So, it seems that the Lord Jesus Christ will make an appearance on earth sometime during the tribulation. And it seems that this is for assurance to the tribulational saints that very soon the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ, Revelation 11:15.

## 10:3-4 The Omitted message

*“And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. 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.”*

I've entitled these verses the omitted message simple because that is exactly what they are about.

The seven thunders uttered voices and messages which God forbade John to record. Here's some interesting things about it:

**A.** God speaks through thunder, Psalms 77:18, 81:7, 104:7. Job said, "Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?" Job 26:14. Here in Revelation 10:3-4 God is thunder speaking.

**B.** What did the seven thunders say? Well evidently John knew what they said because he was about to write it down. But no one else except he and God knows because God forbade him to record the messages. Now this is very significant because some have professed to know what they said, and some have attempt to preach what they thought the Lord showed them they were, but that is a terrible mistake and would be a deception from the devil because God purposely for his own purposes omitted the message from the pages of his word.

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## 10:5-7 The Oath uttered

*“And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 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: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.”*

A. Those who do not believe that this mighty angel is Christ, but only a mighty angel, see support for their position in verse 5. They feel that since this angel lifts up his hand and swears by him that liveth for ever and ever and created all things, that that in itself differentiates him from God. However, this overlooks the fact that God swears by himself, Hebrews 6:13. And it seems to me that here Christ, because there is no greater, simply swears by himself that there will be time no longer.

B. The oath he makes is that, in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished. This seventh angel sounds his trumpet in chapter 11:15, and when he does there is voices in heaven that announce that it is now time for the Millennium on earth. So, in considering the verses together, which evidently we must do, we see that when he speaks of “the mystery of God being finished” it is a reference to the fact that for centuries man has wondered why God allows things to continue as they do, the sin and injustices on earth, heartache, sickness, hurting, and death. We’ve wondered why don’t God stop it and change things. Especially since the golden age of the Millennium has long been declared by the prophets. Obviously there are too many old testament references to the Millennium to attempt to list. But a couple of the great ones come to mind, Isaiah 11:4-10, Micah 4:1-5, Zechariah 14:1-21. One day my friend our wondering shall cease and our questions shall be answered. We will understand and be satisfied.

## 10:8-11 The Orders given

*“And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, God and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. 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. And I took the little book 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. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.”*

A. John hears a voice from heaven, verse 8, it seems to be the same one he heard in verse 4. Christ is on the earth and sea and the Father’s voice is heard from heaven.

B. We have already called this little book the title deed to the world and appropriately so because it contains all the information surrounding the claiming of the kingdoms of this world. The voice tells him to take the book out of the hand of the angel and then to eat the book! A very similar thing happened to Ezekiel the prophet, Ezekiel 2:8-3:3. Compare also Psalms 119:103, Proverbs 16:24, and Jeremiah 15:16. This is a reference to assimilating the word of God into his life, understanding it and being prepared to impart it to others. John has already been told to write all the things of the Revelation down, now he is told that he will prophesy them to many people, nations, and tongues, and kings. John is still preaching and prophesying to many people, nations, tongues, and kings, because the book of Revelation is being preached and taught all over the place.