

sermon study summary

Revelation Part 14 – Living in the End Times

Dr. Ashwin Ramani

March 16 / 17, 2024

Revelation Chapter 10 is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets, giving us time to catch our breath after the graphic portrayal of judgment and reflect on what Christians should be doing now as they wait for Jesus' return.

The Book of Revelation inspires us to remain rock-solid in our convictions, to live our lives fully devoted to Jesus and follow Him faithfully no matter the times. Revelation issues a reminder, just in case we forget, that Jesus has already won the victory and we belong to the winning side. Christians are called to live confidently in light of the end times.

John saw a mighty angel with one foot planted on the sea and the other on the land holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. The angel was not Jesus, but he spoke with the authority of Jesus, in a loud voice like seven thunders. John was eager to write them down what he heard, but he was explicitly told not to.

There are things that we don't know about the future, which God intentionally withholds so we will depend on Him. God has purposefully not made everything plain to us. We are called to walk by faith.

Rather than speculate about dates, we should live as though He may return any moment, and focus on living for God while we wait. God has a pre-determined future when everything will come to an end. Jesus will return at the right time. There will be no delays. Evil will be defeated, Christ will be exalted, and we will soon stand in His presence.

The heavenly voice asked the Apostle John to take the little scroll and eat it. It was sweet as honey in his mouth, but it turned sour in his stomach. God was confirming the Apostle John's prophetic role. He received the word of God which was sweet, but then he had the unpleasant task of declaring to others the message of justice and judgment coming upon the world.

The scroll is symbolic of the Bible – the written revelation of God that shows us His plans. How else will we learn about God's purposes for the world if not through the Bible?

John was told to eat the book. That's another way of saying dwell on the Word of God, ruminate on it, let it influence the core of your being. We need to fall in love with the Word and make studying it a priority.

The Word of God is sweeter than honey. It has the power to sustain you in the most challenging times, and it offers joy and delight. But the book is bitter because it's message is counter-cultural. If you believe and uphold its teachings, you will face opposition, pushback, and be labelled 'judgmental'.

John was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings." John had tasted the word of God; then he was commissioned to be a prophetic witness to the world – to tell others about what is to come. We too are encouraged not to keep the Word of God to ourselves. It has the power to transform the world.

Rather than being drowned by fears and anxieties, we must place our faith on the Word of God and let that change everything. Hold on to the truth of God's Word, believe what it says and proclaim its message with passion and conviction. Live confidently in light of the end times, not by attempting to decipher every detail or predict dates, but by resting in the blessed assurance that Jesus has won the victory.

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What technology are you currently using that you are at peace not knowing how it works?
2. How do you respond to people talking about the return of Jesus/end times? Do you yawn and walk away, eagerly engage in the talk, become anxious, or something else?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Revelation 10:1-11.

3. In the Bible, there are things that God has not revealed to us like the seven thunders. Why? Read Deuteronomy 29:29. Why might John be told not to record them? What is the mystery of God, and what things will be accomplished?
4. Look at Revelation 10:8-11. Compare this with Ezekiel 3:1-4 and Psalm 119:103 & 105. How do the authors describe taking in God's Word? Why are they sweet to the taste but then turn bitter? What were John and Ezekiel to do?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Share with your group how you 'eat' Scripture. What might you do to have a deeper experience of God's Word?
6. If someone you knew were preoccupied with the end times or worried about the condition of the world, how could you focus their thoughts on the fact that God is Sovereign and that Jesus has won the victory?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Pastor Ashwin asked, "How do we live as God's people in light of the end times?" Take some time this week to ponder this question. Meditate and reflect on Scripture during the day to draw deeper personal meaning for your spiritual growth.

THE WORD (NIV)

Revelation 10:1-11 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ² He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. ⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."

⁵ Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay!" ⁷ But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies 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 asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but 'in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.'" ¹⁰ I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. ¹¹ Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Ezekiel 3:1-4 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

³ Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴ He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them.

Psalm 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

This week's writers: Elsa Henderson, Sandi Somers, Mark Eckstein, Gene and Karen Gibbs, and Jorel Quemuel