

Revelation 10

Interlude: The Unutterable Thunders & the Little Book (Scroll)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This section is a part of the blowing of the seven trumpets (Revelation 8:1 -11:19) which completes the opening of the seventh seal (Revelation 8:1-2).
1. This 10th chapter is part of an interlude (similar to chapter 7) which gives encouragement to the Christians
 2. This particular interlude extends from Revelation 10:1 through 11:13.

THE SEVEN UNUTTERABLE THUNDERS

Verses 1-3 -

- A. We are introduced here to a very big, strong and awesome angel!
1. He had one foot on the land, and one foot on the sea. I
 2. In his hand was a small open scroll, and he cries out with a loud voice.
 3. When he cries out SEVEN THUNDERS sound.

Verse 4

- A. John is ready to write down these warnings; but is instructed not to write them.
- a. God reveals what He wants revealed and conceals what He wants to conceal.
 - b. Man must abide by the revealed will of God.
- B. The warning is over!
- a. Judgment is going to fall!
 - b. It is significant to note that because these warnings were not announced, they were “sealed up” (hidden, not revealed).
- C. Later, at the end of Revelation, John is instructed NOT to seal up this book of Revelation because the time was “AT HAND” (near, Revelation 22:10)—not to be hidden, but revealed.
- a. Revelation, then, must have been for their time.

Verses 5-6 - Next this big, strong angel announces that TIME SHOULD BE NO MORE—or no more time for warning or delay.

- A. Proceed with JUDGMENT.
 B. **LET IT FALL!**

Verse 7

- A. This would finish the mystery of God!

B. The Revelation would now (then) be made known (revealed . . . what God was going to do to those who were so oppressive to His saints upon the earth at that time) to the seven churches!

Verses 8-10

- A. John is told to go and take the little book (scroll) out of the big angel's hand and EAT it.
- B. He is told it would be sweet in the mouth, but bitter in the belly. John does as commanded, and the predicted results follow.

Verses 11

- A. The meaning of this event is now explained (revealed):
1. **JOHN MUST CONTINUE TO PROPHECY** (inspired preaching) to all the people, and keep on prophesying and never **never quit!**
 2. Although judgment will fall on these people, and though they never repent, John's obligation and calling is to continue to prophesy!
- B. Listening friends, can't we all see a lesson in this?
1. Some have asked, "What good does it do to preach, send out missionaries, distribute tracts; teach on TV and radio; and offer Bible correspondence courses if people don't respond."
 - a. The "good" is in the doing! We are doing what God said.
 1. **Matthew 28:19-20** - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.
 2. **2 Timothy 4:2-5** - Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
 - b. **Our taking the Gospel to others is our faithfulness and obedience.**
 - c. **The people not accepting it is their unfaithfulness and disobedience.**

Let's take time here to do a little study about the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecy. Consider this carefully.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

A. It has been well-said:

**THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT CONCEALED and
THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEALED!**

- B. Many of us may remember one very aged and famous radio preacher (Garner Ted Armstrong) repeatedly saying “Fully two-thirds of the Bible is prophecy!”
1. Then he would urge you to write in to get his booklets concerning **The World Tomorrow**, which would tell you when Old Testament prophecies would be fulfilled, such as:
 - a. When the lion would lay down with the lamb.
 - b. When Christ would return to rule on David’s throne.
 - c. When the world would be at peace for 1,000 years.
 - d. When the nations would beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks.
 - c. And when the nations would learn war no more.
 2. Driving back to David Lipscomb College Sunday nights after preaching in a rural area, would hear this program. A strong radio signal. It would help keep me awake.
- C. Likewise, perhaps some present can remember reading from some Jehovah’s Witnesses’ old literature (Studies in the Scriptures) that promised by 1917 there would be no more bad things in the world; no more gambling, banks, and brothels, etc.
1. They were wrong.
 2. They missed it, as they have repeatedly missed predictions since that time!
- D. Many seminary leaders, and radio and TV preachers constantly and erroneously (not to mention unscripturally) continue to spew out Old Testament passages from Ezekiel, Daniel, Isaiah, Amos, Zechariah, etc. to try to prove their millennia mania madness theories.
1. What they don’t know, or if they “know,” they do not “reveal” is **that by AD 70, ALL Old Testament prophecy had to be fulfilled.**
 2. Jesus was to come and fulfill the law and the prophets. **Matthew 5:17** - **Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** (complete it)
 - a. This He certainly did, and said so by proclaiming, “**it is finished,**” at the cross (**John 19:30**).
 1. Certainly His physical life was finished.
 2. Certainly His teachings and preparations had been delivered to His apostles.
 3. Certainly the Law of Moses was being finished.

4. Certainly the prophecies of the prophets were being fulfilled, thus finished.
 5. Certainly the great prophetic statements in the Psalms were now realized and finished.
- b. According to our Lord's own words, because of His death, burial, and resurrection from the grave, He fulfilled the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms.
1. **Luke 24:44-47** - Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

E. One other passage of scripture that needs special and close understanding and acceptance is found in Luke:

1. **Luke 21:20-22, 32** - But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

2. Events were fulfilled within the time frames established by God Himself.
 - a. **Mark 9:1** - And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."
 - b. **Luke 22:32** - Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

F. The Lord says ALL Old Testament prophecy must be fulfilled by the fall of Jerusalem (this would include Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos, and Zechariah).

1. That happened in AD 70, so, **ALL OLD TESTAMENT prophecies HAVE BEEN FULFILLED**, and any New Testament prophecies dealing with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; the establishment of the kingdom and the destruction of Jerusalem have also been fulfilled!

2. Note:

- a. Many Bible commentators do not acknowledge Jesus' simple statement in Luke 21:20-22, 32 and Matthew 24:34—these things are to be fulfilled in this generation (the generation that lived during the time of Jesus).
- b. Nor are they faithful to the parameters (scope) given in Revelation 1:1-3 and 22:10-12, 20, of “shortly come to pass,” “quickly,” and “the time is at hand.”

G. There are some New Testament prophecies yet to be fulfilled that involve the return of Christ, resurrection of the good and evil, destruction of the world, and final universal judgment. Here are a few:

1. The Lord will return in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11).
2. The Lord will return to destroy the world as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:8-12).
3. He will return in flaming fire to render vengeance upon all who know not God and obey not the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; see also John 5:28-29).
4. The dead in Christ and those faithful who are left alive will rise to meet Him in the air, and so shall they ever be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Not on earth, but In Heaven.
5. We will all stand before the Lord (Matthew 25:31-46).

H. Really, Christ could come today or 10,000 years from now. It is not meant for us to know when He will return. It is meant for us to be faithful, serve the Lord, and always be ready!