
Eat the Scroll

Revelation 10:1-11

Introduction:

“When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more!” written by James M. Black and published in 1894 after a young girl could not answer the “roll call” in Sunday school with the traditional recitation of a Bible verse. 10 days later, the girl died of pneumonia.

- What do you think of when you hear those words?
- We often speak of “the last trumpet.” What do we mean? The last of how many trumpets?

Context of the interlude

- Within the trumpet judgments. The excursus comes before the seventh trumpet sounds.
- Similar in structure to the seal judgments. 1-4, 5&6 expanded, excursus dealing with the people of God (what happens to them, what are they doing as the judgments fall?), then the seventh in the series commences

Prophetic transmission

- Revelation 1:1 (five-fold transmission) God → Jesus → angel → John → churches (servants)
 - God holds the scroll in 5:1
 - Jesus takes the scroll in 5:7 (and opens its seals in 6-8)
 - A mighty angel delivers the “open” scroll to John in 10:1-2
 - The angel commands John to take and eat the scroll (10:8-9)
 - John is told to prophecy (10:11)
- This completes the prophetic transmission and finally brings us to the content of the scroll, which I have said all along details the plan of God for redemption and judgment (chs.12-22).
- Ezekiel 2:8-3:3

The Mighty Angel

- Described with imagery of God and Christ because he is on a divine mission. (Not Christ because of the five-fold transmission, but also because he swears by him who lives forever)
- He set one foot on land and sea – Sovereign over everything that comes from land and sea (cf. 13:1,11)
- His loud voice is like that of a lion – probably royalty

The Seven Thunders

- Veiled in secrecy, they accomplish two purposes:
 - They demonstrate that the prophet must utter only what God allows. (cf. 2 Cor 12:4)
 - They emphasize that there will be no endless cycles of seven, there will be no delay – they angels oath.
- The seventh trumpet will be the last trumpet (cf. 1 Cor 15:52). There will be no further opportunity for repentance.

No More Delay

- The point of this entire chapter is that with the sounding of the sixth trumpet, there is no more delay. The end is here! With the sounding of the seventh trumpet, Christ comes in rescue and judgment. This brings us to the end of time.
- “Time shall be no more” – KJV
- Rehearse the seventh in series:
 - Seal 8:1,5
 - Trumpet 11:15,19
 - Bowl 16:17,18

Mystery Fulfilled

- The word “mystery” occurs 27/28 times in the NT, predominant theme for Paul.
- Current usage means either something mysterious – beyond our comprehension, or a “who done it” where everything comes together at the end.
- 1st Cent. usage meant something that was hidden in times past but now revealed. (May not have been absolutely hidden)
 - Eph. 3:3-6
 - Col. 2:2
 - Rom 16:25-27 – tension: on the one hand, something prophesied in the OT and fulfilled in the NT; on the other hand it is hidden in the OT and revealed in the NT.
- Many texts insist that the coming of Christ fulfilled antecedent antecedent Scriptures – they should have seen it; they are castigated for not seeing it. Who saw it?
 - Priest
 - Sacrifice
 - Temple
 - Sabbath
- The mystery will be fulfilled just as he “announced” or “gospelled.” – This brings us to the consummation
- Fulfilled – finished – cf. 15:1, 17

Sweet and Sour

- The purpose for God in history’s consummation can be good news - Psalm 19
- The purpose of God in history’s consummation for his enemies is judgment –
- Isaiah 6
- You must tell it like it is. Can we preachers of the gospel of Christ without also being preachers of judgment? How do you preach judgment with tears of compassion as you thunder forth – “Thus says the Lord.” As we study the word of God, it sweet to our taste, but as we contemplate what it means for our society, it gives us a stomach ache.