

1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them." 5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."

And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Not a particular current events based study - because the book is a revelation - unveiling - apocalypse of Jesus

But isn't it amazing what is going on in the world - ISIS- Iran - blowing up Nimrod the ancient Assyrian Capital - M³ - fully autonomous computer - input, output - edge of a nickel - rev 20 talks of those beheaded for Christ in the tribulation - WHAT!!! Few years ago - hard to believe - **VIDEO - Prayer**

We are Almost halfway through the book. The book of Revelation - written during a time of persecution - and the tribulation is going to be a time of unprecedented persecution of believers in Jesus Christ

John is given a vision of the future and the ultimate ending - the new heavens and the new earth - the renewal of all things.

The first thing God showed John in the vision - in the midst of his own personal persecution in Patmos - **He sees Jesus on the throne in Heaven.**

The church is going to have issues - but Jesus is in the midst of the church.
The world is going to be seemingly out of control - God is in control.
God is sovereign - the future is secure.

John saw Jesus - first as a lamb that was slain - then as a lion of justice.

Lamb first - because **God extended His love, mercy, and grace toward us, by coming to take our judgement upon Himself on the cross.** Jesus brought God's grace and mercy to the world - first coming.

Because Jesus brought the mercy of God - He alone is uniquely qualified to bring the Justice of God upon earth.

Jesus alone was **worthy to open the seals on the scroll** - every seal brought more judgement, wrath, and justice was being poured out on the world.

Jesus opened up 6 seals then He opened up the 7th seal - and like a firework it bloomed into 7 trumpet judgments - every time a trumpet is blown - more wrath is released on earth.

God's confrontation against wickedness increases through the tribulation, against those who perpetuate wickedness - rejection, and defiance of the Lord - assault on His kids

We Get to the 7th trumpet - bloom again - 7 bowls of judgement, wrath, and justice.

All of God's wrath being poured out on a Christ rejecting world is a horrific thing to read about.

Sin is a serious thing - wickedness is a real thing, and it is a real problem. God will one day confront sin, evil, and wickedness in a very real and ultimate way.

We have also learned that God has loving always left room for repentance - because he lets everyone know in advance - and he patiently and progressively pours out His wrath - it is spread over time and increases in intensity.

God would rather extend mercy to humanity than justice. Mercy always comes before justice. Incarnation before final consequence.

We are in the midst of all that messiness. We are between the 6th and 7th trumpet - and we have an interlude - a moment for the readers to catch their breath - to adjust and keep proper perspective.

Just like there was an interlude between the 6th and the 7th seal on the scroll. Chapter 7 - first interlude - we saw the 144,000 sealed by God - protected by God.

We saw those who had been murdered for their faith during the tribulation - under the altar - covered by God - rewarded by God— gifted the righteousness of Christ and - told to hold on - be patient.

On earth - Hell belched out demons - torment - then 200 million demonic/human army is unleashed - kill 1/3 world population

Need to be reminded of - refocused on - Jesus on the throne - the motive and purpose for this wrath - the winner in the end - the one who is in control.

Huge Angel - Sight the Savior in suffering look to a higher power, to keep perspective that perseveres

1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

imagery = majesty and power of God - looks a lot like Jesus in Chapter 1 - because it is to remind us of Jesus and look forward to His return in the midst of great persecution - kind of like a movie trailer.

Powerful arrival - riding on the clouds - book of Revelation and Matt 24 - Jesus will come with great clouds - STORM - power = judgement of God

Rainbow = covenantal mercy and grace of God - after the Flood - there was a rainbow in the sky to say, never again judgement by flood - hung that bow up. - Judgement and Mercy
Face is like the sun - light of the world - Feet like Fire - authoritative judgement - and this angel is BIG

2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

straddling the earth - BIG - impressive - powerful - grace and truth - light of the world and Justice

3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars.

not only looks big - sounds big - lot of power! - like a movie trailer - sound is always louder - thunderous - base - get excited - Good News - Jesus is coming. **It's going to be alright, turn around and let back in the light, and joy will come back in like the morning light, all will be made well once again.**

Two messages to be communicated by this angel.

1. The message we get from the little book
2. The message we get from the seven peals of silenced thunder - **Silenced thunder speaks volumes**

When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

In this chapter there is a revelation and a mystery - and unveiling and a concealing. Something we are meant to hear, and forbidden to hear.

4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write;

That is what John has been doing for the whole book - writing down what he sees.

but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

Just like a movie trailer - incredible drama, insight, excitement, focus, then right in the midst of it - **cliff hanger - come on - what did they say.** You are going to have to go to Heaven to find out - so give you life to Jesus today.

There is no place in the scripture that gives us insight into what was said. God knows, John knew, and never told - we'll just have to wait to find out.

Most likely it was God speaking - Psalm 18:13 - The Lord thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire.

Psalm 29

3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters; The God of glory thunders;...

4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, ...

7 The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire. (*boom box that puts out fires*)

8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; ...

9 The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare

When God speaks it is important - thunder - radical being said

7 thunders - comprehensive -complete information - very important

John was told - not to tell us - what do we do with that - don't speculate - never seems to be helpful

God didn't want us to know. Can I trust God with what I do not know? Do I trust God with what He is not telling me.

So much of life is lived in the unknown - apart from abiding in Christ - **it is really anxiety producing.**

The more I know - the more I don't know. The more I realize how little control I have. So much of life is beyond our comprehension - and Google and ASK.FM doesn't have all the answers.

Life's most difficult moments, often don't have answers - more unknowns than knowns - we have to fall back on God knows, and He doesn't have to tell us.

"If knowing answers to life's questions is absolutely necessary to you, then forget the journey. You will never make it, for this is a journey of unknowables,— of unanswered questions, enigmas, incomprehensibles, and most of all, things unfair."

— Madame Jeanne Guyon

21 Christians beheaded on a beach - Where was God?

In the book of Revelation - full of people doing evil things like this -

Rev 6:9 - those slain because of their testimony - belief in Jesus - they asked How Long - or Where are you? - Why aren't you doing anything? - Why allow this evil to continue? - Wait - no explanation - wait until the number of fellow martyrs is completed - more difficulty to come.

We observe that our world is full of perversity and injustice - on the news - in the book - in just a little while - God's justice is coming - Hold On - in the difficult day it feels so much longer than it is.

How much longer will life be so unfair? How much longer do we have to live with so much unknown? - **Revelation gives us something to hold onto in difficult days**

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Jhn 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

There is coming a different day, a better day a new day - those who died horrifically - will live and reign with Jesus - evil will not prevail - physical death is not ultimate - Jesus wins

When there is things that we don't know, we need to run to the things that we do know!! God is on His throne! Doesn't seem that way, kind of the point of the book of Rev - to let you know things are always as they seem.

Jesus is on the throne - He is sovereign - He is in control - and He never loses His ability or authority to be the one in control.

Jesus is on the throne - and He is the lamb that was slain - because of Jesus your righteousness is in Heaven - you are forgiven, sins forgotten, accepted, adopted, and adored by God through Christ's finished work on the cross.

Our salvation is secure - our hope is living - our life is eternal. Hold on to what you do know - where's your anchor? There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

Rev 21:1 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

This is what you need to know - the answer we do have - Jesus - is more than enough to sustain us when we don't have answers - you've got this answer JESUS

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

compare - determine which is better - unfair sufferings aren't to be compared to the happy ending.
The Glory outweighs the Gory.

5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

This is what we need to know - we are in a turning point - lot more to come - but we are at a bend in the road - **there is great hope coming** - The Kingdom of God when He reigns forever and ever is coming soon - we can endure the unknowns and **obey what we do know**.

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The book is God's Word - there is a sweetness and bitterness to God's Word.

God's judgement - is sweet - evil crushed and wiped away from the face of the earth - no more sickness, shame and sorrow - BUT those who are not in Christ - devastating - disturbing - HEAVY

God's word is like this in our lives -

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross**, and **follow Me**."

Mat 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Mat 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Sweet call of Christ - selflessness - deny, die, leave, let go, lose

We want sweet places of Honey - but we are called to digest the word - assimilate the word - nourish our spirit and train our soul with the Word - obeying can be bitter to your flesh -

Parable of the sower and the seed - Mark4:3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." 9 And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

when the call of discipleship - call of obedience - is hard to stomach - contrary to my will - costly - upsetting your tummy - the cure for an upset belly - obedience

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Ezek 3:1 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.... 10 Moreover He said to me: "Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears."

Jer 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

Obedience to the word - greatest sin in America is listening to sermons - be does not merely hearers of the word - Don't just swish and spit God's word - Saul

We ought to obey Jesus without question - get into the word - to get it into our belly - ache - and work it out until it no longer makes us feel nausea.

Somethings we need to forget, forsake - someone need our forgiveness because we are not telling them the Gospel - there is a real bitterness if God will confront your friends and family members sin, then they will suffer in Hell apart from Christ - Judgement is coming - sin is not a joke - wrath is real - there are people that we care about that need to know - hear the gospel - keep the main thing the main thing and tell people about your savior.

11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Not sharing - we don't love them or we don't believe Him. Encourage the people with these words