

# CHAPTER 10

Chapter 10 begins a period known as the Mid-Tribulation. This period is an important time of great changes on earth. The book of Revelation devotes four chapters to this time period plus two chapters introducing and concluding it, so chapters 10 - 15 are all dedicated to the Mid-Tribulation period.

This is just a brief time dividing the first 3.5 years and the final 3.5 years, but when we say Mid-Tribulation we are talking about the time period surrounding this middle of tribulation.

As we cover the next several chapters (10 - 15), we need to remember that these events are happening roughly at the same time. Outside of chapters 10 and 15, we will find a reference to this Mid-Tribulation moment. It will either be times, time and half a time, 42 months or 1,260 days. Each of these comments means 3.5 years and it indicates that we are in the middle of the tribulation.

## Revelation 10:1-7

**[1] Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. [2] He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, [3] and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.**

# CHAPTER 10

**[4] And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.” [5] And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven [6] and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, [7] but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.**

## Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

John says another mighty angel came down from heaven. It is important to note John's use of the word another because it was distinctive from the angel that descended previously in the book in chapter 7. He was like the previous angel, but his appearance was different. This angel carries a small scroll in his hand and so large that he places one foot on the sea and the other on land.

## CHAPTER 10

This angel's voice is so loud that it sounds like a lion roaring. In response to his voice, voices from heaven respond with seven voices of thunder.

Whatever these voices responded with must have been something that caught John's attention, but John is told not to write it down. This scene needs context which takes you back to Daniel 12. Daniel 12 opens with the statement "Now at that time..." connecting this chapter to Daniel 11 which describes the rise of the Antichrist. At that time, a prophecy is made about a powerful angel named Michael who will arise and take his station during this time period that is referred to as a great time of distress. Jesus refers to this period as the Great Tribulation which is the second half of the tribulation.

In Daniel 12:5 we see a description very similar to John's description of the angel in Revelation 10. There are other similarities including Daniel hearing a prophetic word but being told to seal it up. Specifically he is told about the wonders that will go on for a time, times half a time so there is the reference to 3.5 years or the middle of tribulation.

So what we can see here is that Daniel has part one of a conversation with the same angel to that John has part two of a conversation. Daniel is told to seal up what he has heard, meaning write it on a scroll until the end of the age of the Gentiles. Most likely this is the little scroll that has a message that is to be given to John.

John hears things spoken he can't speak of yet concerning the very end of Tribulation. We see the angel standing on the sea and land to praise the Lord for not delaying longer in the fulfillment of these things.

# CHAPTER 10

What is this delay? It's the delay that has ensued since the day of Daniel. The events of the Great Tribulation were revealed to Daniel so long ago, but they were sealed. As they were later revealed to John, they are still yet to be complete, but in a future day, that great angel will arise and when he does, the events of the Great Tribulation will finally take place. These things will be fulfilled when that seventh trumpet is blown and the bowl judgments come to pass. So it falls to John to reveal the details of the Great Tribulation that Daniel heard so many years earlier.

## Revelation 10:8–11

**[8] Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is 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 told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." [10] And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. [11] And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."**

## Notes:

---

---

# CHAPTER 10

---

---

---

---

John is told to take this scroll and eat it. This seems like an odd request, right? John obliges the angel and the angel says that when he eats it, it will make his stomach bitter but it will be sweet in his mouth.

The point being made here is the bitter-sweet nature of prophecy about God's judgment and the end of the age. It's an attractive, exciting topic. But as this truth of what it speaks of sinks in, there is a bitterness to it. How many will die on earth through these judgments. John is told to prophecy what he received from the scroll that was written by Daniel. Revelation 11-19 are events that come from this scroll and what Daniel wrote. There is one other item to note from Daniel 12.

## CHAPTER 10

In Daniel 12:7 we know that the events Daniel wrote down happened at the mid part of tribulation. The tribulation was started by the signing of a covenant between Israel and the Antichrist in Daniel 9 allowing the people of Israel to return to sacrificing in a new temple. Daniel 12 confirms that the mid point of tribulation comes 1,260 days after the signing of a covenant. Daniel 12:11 confirms that at the mid-point of tribulation, the Antichrist abolishes sacrificing in the temple. Daniel 12:11 also speaks of 1,290 days following this mid-point which means there are 30 extra days in here. So over the next few weeks we will talk about what goes on in the middle of the tribulation and how it relates to the covenant being broken. The extra thirty days we will return to in a future chapter.