

Link to Lonnie Woodruff's *Revelation for Christians Today*, online:

<http://www.abiblecommentary.com/howtounderstandthebookofrevelation.htm>

A Study of Revelation 10

I. Outline.

1. The Mighty Angel (Revelation 10:1-7).
2. The "Little Book," and the Prophet (10:8-11).

II. Summary.

THE LITTLE BOOK OPEN

The lessons of this chapter are built around the symbol of the "little book open." There are several ideas among commentators about the meaning of this symbol, but we believe the only plausible explanation is that it represents the New Testament. We offer the following reasons for this interpretation.

- (1) This little book is always open. God's Word is always open to anyone who is willing to read and obey it.
- (2) John was told to take the book from the angel (v.8). He asked the angel to give it to him, but he was again told to take it. God's Word is always open and available to us, but we must take it. No one can obey the Word for us. It is each individual's responsibility.
- (3) John was told to eat the little book. This shows we are to study and consume the teachings of the Bible. We must completely digest it.
- (4) After John ate the book, he was told he must prophesy again. To prophesy means to teach God's Word, and in order to do that, we must first study and digest it.
- (5) This vision comes between the sixth and seventh trumpets. The trumpets warn of events which could cause man to lose his spiritual life, but we may prepare ourselves to overcome these events by studying God's Word.
- (6) Verse 7 says that when the seventh angel sounds, the "mystery of God" will be finished. The "mystery of God" is a reference to the gospel of Christ.

We believe these explanations are logical and biblically sound, thereby allowing us to accept the interpretation that this "little book open" is the Word of God.

One possible objection which we might attempt to answer is, the Word of God would not be referred to as a "little" book. **We believe this refers to the fact that God's Word is understandable.** Man has the ability to study and comprehend its message. If God's Word were a "large" book, it would be difficult to read and understand. God's book is a "little" book. It may be understood by any man who seeks to know its message.

--Lonnie Woodruff, *Revelation for Christians Today*

III. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

If you are not familiar with the **15 Bible Periods**, please click here:

<https://maplehillchurchofchrist.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/15bibleperiods.pdf>

IV. Words/Phrases to Study

10:1... **AND I SAW ANOTHER MIGHTY ANGEL...**--"Some think the angel was Jesus Himself, but this is unlikely: (1) Jesus is never called an angel anywhere else in the book. (2) The word 'another' is

- translated from the Greek word *allos*, which means ‘another of the same kind.’ (3) It is difficult to conceive that the glorified Lord would swear as the angel did in verse 6. ... The combination of judgment symbols (the cloud, the sun, the burning pillars) and a mercy symbol (the rainbow) relate to the message which the angel brought: a bittersweet message (vv., 9-10) of judgment and mercy” [David Roper, TRUTH FOR TODAY COMMENTARY, *Revelation 1-11*, p., 391].
- 10:2... **AND HE HAD IN HIS HAND A LITTLE BOOK OPEN....**—“Since the passage does not reveal the exact contents of the little book, one cannot be dogmatic on the matter. One can, however, be dogmatic in regarding this: The small scroll contained a message from God—and therefore was of the utmost importance. Whenever God speaks, people should be ready to listen (Ps 81:8, 11, 13)” [Roper, p. 393].
- 10:3... **...SEVEN THUNDERS UTTERED THEIR VOICES**—“There have been seven churches, a book with seven seals, and seven trumpets. Now there are ‘seven thunders’” [Roper, p. 394].
- 10:4... **...I WAS ABOUT TO WRITE....**—“Apparently, even as John was experiencing the visions, he was writing down what he saw and heard. This response was natural. After all, he had been told to ‘write in a book what you see’ (1:11), and, by implication, ‘what you hear’” [Roper, p. 394].
- 10:7... **...THE MYSTERY OF GOD SHOULD BE FINISHED,....**—“Michael Wilcock summarized the angel’s words like this: ‘The next event in God’s calendar will be Trumpet 7, and that will be the end.’ The angel was announcing that the promises of God are sure. The Roman government’s schedule of injustice would take second place to God’s calendar of justice. Let the enemies of God do their worst; they could not nullify the Lord’s decrees. The promises of God are still sure. God’s Word will never pass away (Mt 24:35; 1 Pet 1:23)” [Roper, p. 399].
- 10:8-11... “When the church faces perilous times, what should it do? Go into hiding? Wait, trembling, for God to intervene? Soften its message so it will offend no one? Revelation 10 and 11 declare that in trouble times, the church is to be bold, courageous, even outspoken. Chapter 10 stresses that the church can meet such a difficult challenge by first *appreciating* the Word (vv., 1-7), and then *appropriating* it (vv., 8-11)” [Roper, p. 399-400].
- 10:11... **...THOU MUST PROPHECY AGAIN BEFORE MANY PEOPLES, AND NATIONS, AND TONGUES, AND KINGS**—“God’s revelation of His plans and purposes is not for the chosen few. It is for ‘all the world’ (Mk 16:15), for ‘all the nations (Mt 28:19), for ‘all men’ (1 Tim 2:4; Titus 2:11)” [Roper, p. 393].

V. Lessons & Applications.

- **The Little Book** (Chapter 10). As previously noted, chapter 10 has two main points: (1) Appreciate the Message, and (2) Appropriate the message. Another way to divide the chapter would be: (1) The Character of the Message, and (2) The Demands of the Message. ... Chapter 10 fascinates writers. Here are possible titles for lessons on the passage: ‘The Abiding Word,’ ‘The Finished Mystery,’ ‘The Mystery of Mercy,’ ‘The Gospel of Redemption,’ and ‘The Rainbow Angel.’ Other possible titles include: ‘The Angel and the Little Book,’ ‘A Big Angel and a Little Book,’ and ‘A Little Book Opened.’
- **2God’s Truth (10:1-7)**. Whatever else the little book was, it was a message from God and thus took on the characteristics of every word that comes from His mouth. This message was magnificent, universal, succinct, and immutable. John, therefore, was to appreciate, admire, accept, and acknowledge it—even as we should respond to God’s message for today, the Bible. Today the world is engaged in a mad search for what is called ‘truth,’ not realizing that real truth is to be found in an old Book which has often been cast aside. A poet has said,

We search the world for truth;
We cull the good, the pure, the beautiful,
From graven stone and written scroll
And all old flower fields of the soul;
And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from our quest,

To find that all the sages said
Is in the Book our mothers read.
[John Greenleaf Whittier, in *Miriam*].

- **Eating the Little Book** (10:8-11). Possible titles for a lesson on 10:8-11 include: ‘The Bittersweet Message,’ ‘The Joy and the Sorrow of Being God’s Messenger,’ and ‘A Job that is Never Finished.’

VI. Questions.

True or False

01. ____ Creation is mentioned in chapter 10.
02. ____ The angel refused to give to John the “little book.”
03. ____ The mighty angel who was clothed with a cloud had a helmet on his head.
04. ____ At the sounding of the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be finished.
05. ____ In this chapter thunder had a voice.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. ____ Which of the following was NOT part of the group to whom John was to prophesy: (a) kings; (b) tongues; (c) locusts; (d) nations.
07. ____ What is described in this chapter as being OPEN: (a) a door; (b) heavens; (c) a little book.
08. ____ The face of the mighty angel in this chapter was like: (a) the sun; (b) 10,000 stars; (c) a child’s.
09. ____ That which the mighty angel swore was: (a) false; (b) that time would be no more; (c) destruction doubled.
10. ____ In reaction to the voices of the seven thunders, John was about to: (a) turn away; (b) write; (c) speak.

Fill in the Blanks

11. The mighty angel’s _____ was on the earth; his right foot was upon the _____.
12. Regarding what John heard, he was told to _____ them up, and _____ them not!
13. Prophets are spoken of here as _____.
14. John took the little book and _____ it up.
15. The mighty angel lifted up his _____ to _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Revelation 9 Questions... **01**—True (9.4); **02**—False (10); **03**—False (16); **04**—False (20); **05**—True (7); **06**—H (17); **07**—E (2); **08**—A (13-14); **09**—F (20); **10**—G (8); **11**—murders,

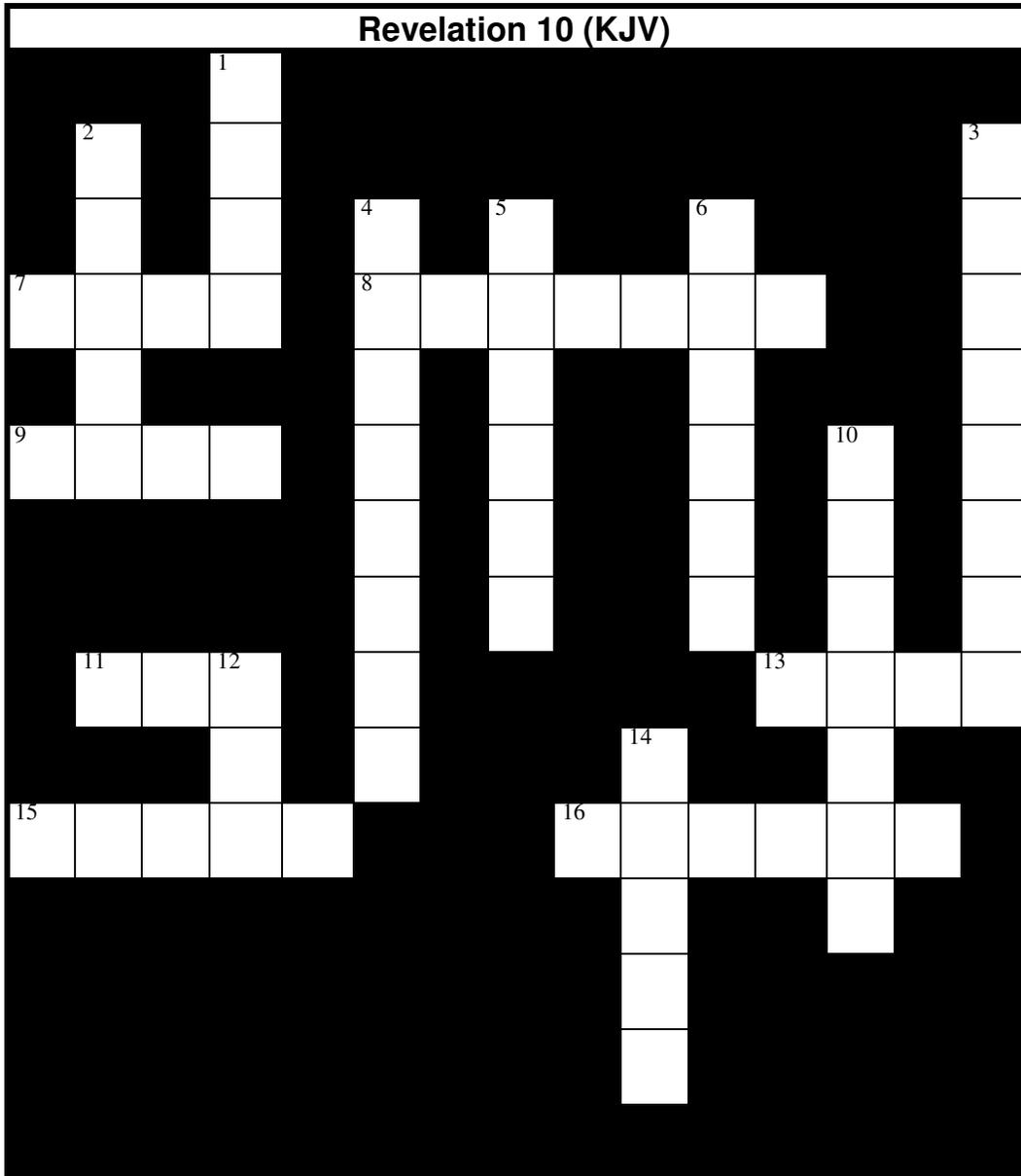
sorceries, fornication, thefts (21); **12**—key, bottomless (1); **13**—golden, before (13); **14**—death (6); **15**—Abaddon, Apollyon, bottomless (11).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. –DRL



AGAIN	ANGEL	ANOTHER	BELLY	BITTER
BOOK	C.OTHEd	CLOUD	COME	CRIED
EARTH	EVER	FACE	FOOT	HAND
HEAD	HEARD	HEAVEN	HONEY	LITTLE
MIGHTY	MOUTH	OPEN	RAINBOW	SAID
SEVEN	SWEET	TAKE	THEREIN	THINGS
THUNDERS	UTTERED	VOICE		

VIII. Crossword Puzzle.



- | <u>ACROSS</u> | <u>DOWN</u> |
|--|--|
| 07) The angel swore there would be this no longer. | 01) John is told to ____ the book from the angel's hand. |
| 08) The angel John saw had this on his head. | 02) John was about to do this, but was told not to. |
| 09) Instead of writing, John was to ____ what they said. | 03) At the sounding of the 7 th angel, the mystery of God would be... |
| 11) The right foot of the angel was here | 04) John was told he must do this again |
| 13) The angel lifted this up to heaven | 05) The book in this chapter was... |
| 15) Bitter in the belly, but in the mouth sweet as ____. | 06) The seven thunders had... |
| 16) The little book would make John's belly ____. | 10) The angel swore by the one who did this. |
| | 12) John ____ the little book. |
| | 14) One of the groups to whom John must do #4 down. |