

REVELATION - THE FINAL VICTORY

(Lesson 5)

Intro: What is the overall and reoccurring theme of this book?

- *Jesus revealed to John that though efforts were being made to destroy faith and wipe out the Christian church, and that this infant church could expect to experience such things, the church would win the final victory*
- *two passages sum it up - "we must go through much tribulation to enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22) & "the gates of hell shall not prevail against" the church (Matthew 16: 18)*

- The Third Vision: The Seven Trumpets

1. The Angel with the Little Book (10:1-7)

- *What sounds familiar about this "angel"? (cf 1:12-16; 4:3) - indicates that it's more than a created angel-face shone as the sun, feet bronze glowing in a furnace; throne of God encircled by a rainbow; also clothed with a cloud (Lord in pillar of cloud and fire- Israel); Jesus called the angel of the Lord messenger of the Father; roar of lion - the Lord (Amos 3:8; Hosea 11:10)*
- *What is the significance about the position of this angel? - right foot on the sea, left foot on the land – all things under Jesus feet, complete control over the world (after vision of false teachings - locusts from hell, army from the Euphrates and agents of Satan)*
- *For whom was the little book laid open? - the little book lay and has laid open for believers to see, it is revealed at the end of this chapter, unlike the seven seals which only the Lion from Judah could open in chapter 5, this is not a secret, continues to be laid open; little perhaps meaning not as important*
- *What purpose do the seven thunders serve? - thunders announce God's judgment, add a divine reminder that we should take the seven trumpets to heart, but these thunders remained sealed - not for us to know*
- *Why does the angel swear by God who created all things? - seems to point against the angel as the Son, but God swears by himself (Hebrews 6: 13), the ultimate promise - no one higher to swear by*
- *What will the seventh angel announce so that "there will be no more delay"? - mystery of God all things God has prepared for those who love him, the eternal goal God promised for his people, fulfillment of all God's promises; also no more time for repentance of those who worship false gods*

2. John's Commission to Preach (10:8-11)

- *This vision is reminiscent of Ezekiel's vision when he was called by God (Ezekiel 2:1-3:11) - Ezekiel saw a hand holding a scroll, commanded to eat the scroll and to prophecy, scroll was sweet as honey, also speaks of bitterness and anger he experienced as a result of the vision*
- *Why was it important that John eat the little scroll? - this sets forth the doctrine of inspiration - the prophet was to make God's word on the scroll his own and share those words with the people*
- *What's the good news that tasted as sweet as honey? - the word of the gospel is sweet - the hope, joy, comfort and forgiveness that God's grace in Christ Jesus brings in the hearts of people*
- *What's the bad news that turned John's stomach sour? - the message of the gospel is not compatible with the false teaching and false philosophies of the world, because of people' impenitence, it is not easy to preach God's grace, it results in hardship, persecution, invites bitterness, discouragement*
- *What must John do with this message of the little scroll? - he must prophesy, preach it - previous chapter spoke of delusions and destruction from false teaching and worldly philosophies, this chapter assures John and us that gospel will be preached "for" not "about" many people, nations etc., though it will in some cases turn bitter*

3. The True Church in the Visible Church (11:1-14)

- What does the temple in the holy city signify which John was told to measure? (cf. Hebrews 12:22-23) - *(still in the sixth trumpet - 200-million horsemen from Euphrates, little book assures us that gospel will be preached alongside heresy) reminiscent of Ezekiel who measured temple (Ez 40-48) - vision of N.T. church, temple of God in Bible is either body of Christian or the body of the whole Christian church, holy city is Jerusalem where O. T. temple was, Jerusalem used as figurative name for the church*
- What does God impress upon us when he tells John to exclude the outer court? - *God excludes all hypocrites, only the true city, true Israel is the church, Gentiles do not belong, corrupt the church*
- The period of 42 months is significant - same as 1260 days or 3 ½ years, also the same as "a time (year), times (2years), and a halftime (1/2year)" in Revelation 12:6,14 *(42 months and its variants are associated with the persecution of the church - 7 is number of God's covenant, 3 ½ which is seven broken in half indicates enemies intent to destroy God's covenant)*
- To what does the period of 42 months refer?
Consider: - Gentiles (unbelievers) occupy the church;
 - God's two witnesses proclaim his message
 - the church is kept safe though persecuted by the devil (12:6,14)
 - the beast from the sea (13:15) speaks blasphemies against God
- To what are the 42 months and its variants often associated with? - *whole N. T. period in which unbelievers occupy the holy city, but they will be separated on the day of judgment (sheep separated from goats, grain from chaff, good fish from bad fish), replaced by heavenly Jerusalem, uncontaminated, unbelievers thrown outside (read 22: 14,15)*
- What is the significance of being clothed in sackcloth? - *still in context of prophesying the contents of the little book; sackcloth is indication of repentance and sorrow - suffering and sorrow that witnesses will experience at the hands of the Gentiles who trample holy city*
- How are the two witnesses further described? - *two olive trees, two lampstands; two witnesses enough to put someone to death in O. T., well-known rule - matter established by testimony of two or tree witnesses*
- What is common to both? Significance? - *oil is common to both, oil used to denote Holy Spirit, O. T. prophets, priests, kings anointed with oil, symbolized power of Holy Spirit (1 Sam 10: 1-10), two witnesses are channels of Holy Spirit - uses gospel in Word & sacrament to build his church*
- What kind of power do these two witnesses have? - *power to bring fire, devour enemies - whoever does not believe will be condemned (2 Cor. 2: 16 - one smell of death, other fragrance of life); reminiscent of Elijah - no rain for 3 ½ years, Moses - water to blood, plagues - witnesses speak with the power of God*
- What significant period of time do verses 7-10 describe? - *the short time before the end of the world when Satan is released (chapter 20), he is able to silence two witnesses, bodies lie in city of Jerusalem, called Sodom (unbelief) Egypt (rebellion) - presence of unbelievers, corruption of the church today (homosexuality); greatest enemies are in the visible church itself; world praises death of two witnesses*
- What happens after the earthquake? - *3 ½ days - short period of time for Satan's triumph; believers rescued - their eternal redemption; great fear struck unbelievers; earthquake - Judgment Day (6: 12)*
- What finally happens on the day of judgment? - *city is Jerusalem, the body of believers, 7, 000 killed in the city possibly the hypocrites, while terrified they glorified God, but in the fear of faith (Philippians 2:11)*

4. The Seventh Trumpet: The End of the World (11:15-19)

- What is different about God's temple now? - *church militant becomes church triumphant, 24 elders- God's wrath, reward of grace to the saints; church in heaven with God (ark symbolizes his presence), God's destruction finally comes*

Conclusion: What clues around us indicate the fulfillment of this vision? - *church corrupted, silence of witnesses*