

Chapter 10:

The character in this chapter is referred to as a “mighty angel” however it sounds more like Jesus. The cloud reference sounds very similar to when God and Jesus comes with the clouds, in other parts of the Bible. The rainbow above his head sounds like the covenant that God made with man after the flood. “His face was like the sun”, speaks to the glory of God. “...His legs were like fiery pillars” speaks to righteous judgement. He was holding a little scroll that was open in His hand. The scroll was open, so the information was being shared with John.

Planting His right foot on the sea could speak to the gentile nations. Placing the left foot on the land could speak to the Jewish nations. That could mean this message is intended for all men. He gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. Jesus is the Lion of Judah; again, this makes it sound like this mighty angel is really Jesus. When he shouted the voices of seven thunders spoke. This is referring to the Holy Spirit. Another voice from heaven instructs John to seal up what the Holy Spirit had said and do not write it down. This voice sounds like God.

The mighty angel then raised his right hand to heaven and swore to God that there would be no more delay. Deuteronomy 23:21-23; “If you make a vow to the Lord your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the Lord your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty. Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the Lord your God with your own mouth.” The fact this mighty angel would make a vow to God is significant. Verse 7 states that this mystery of God, that John was instructed to seal, would be accomplished in the time when the 7th angel is about to sound his trumpet.

God instructs John to take the scroll that lies in the mighty angel’s hand. John asks the angel to give him the scroll and the angel tells John to take the scroll and eat it. “Eat it” refers to taking it in. Read it and understand it. The angel tells John that the information will upset his stomach, but it is sweet to the taste. When John reads it, that is exactly what happens. This means the information is wonderful, but there is a painful reality to it as well. Then John was told to continue prophesizing about the events of the tribulation.

I take pause here to note that we are not to add or remove from scripture. Therefore, I do not wish to speculate on what this mystery of God is. I however do believe it is wise to think about the events that are unfolding around the time of the angel sounding the 7th trumpet, and meditate on what is being shared. Are there events unfolding during the tribulation, that may have been misrepresented by Christian leaders throughout history? What if a popular belief regarding salvation, heavenly rewards, “making yourself ready”, has not been correctly represented and now there is a painful realization that will be taking place?something to think about!

This chapter is an intermission between the events that are unfolding. There is a pause as these truths are revealed to John. This scripture shows us that there are things that God is not going to reveal to us until the time of the Tribulation.