"GOD'S MESSAGE AND MESSENGERS OF DOOM"
Revelation 10 - 11
4/29/90

INTRODUCTION:

***We need a greater appreciation for God's Word and those who faithfully proclaim it**.

I. TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S FUTURE MESSAGE (10:1-11)

A. GOD HAS MORE TRUTH TO REVEAL IN THE FUTURE (v. 1-4)

10:1

"Another mighty angel" - this angel, being called "mighty" (strong) has some characteristics that are like that of his Lord, Jesus Christ [compare his face (Rev. 1:16), and feet (Rev. 1:15)].

NOTE: However, this being is not Christ, but is an angel like the previous angels John saw -- Hence, the phrase "another angel" - "another of the same kind" ( ).

Note also that this "angel" praises Christ (10:6).

10:2

This "little book" is no doubt:

--more revelation from God

--more details to fill in the specifics of God's judgments yet to come.

(such details are not for us today, but in the future God will unveil them - cp. v. 3 & 4 - "seal up. . . write them not" cp. Daniel 12:4, 9).

10:3

"Lion roareth" - In a context describing God's dealings with Israel, God says: "The Lion hath roared, who will not fear? The Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?" (Amos 3:5).

10:3-4

"Seal up" - just as scrolls were sealed that no one could see the contents written inside (cp. Rev. 5:1-4), no one knows the contents of what the 7 thunders uttered.

For us today, God has revealed what He will do in the future (in terms of judgment on earth) by the 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls.

The revelation of the 7 thunders is yet to come!

B. GOD'S MESSAGE WILL CERTAINLY BE FULFILLED (v. 5-7)

10:5-6

ILLUS: Taking an oath in court, swearing to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

This mighty angel takes an oath, calling on the Creator to be his witness that "there should be time no longer" - Meaning: "No more delay." No more time for mankind to repent (cp. 9:20, 21).The time for God's full fury is about to be fulfilled (cp. 15:1; 16:17).

When the seventh angel blows his trumpet, the final judgments are poured out on earth in rapid-fire succession, and Christ returns to the earth for Armageddon.

10:7

What is the mystery?

Two views:

1) The Church removed at the last trump

[The Church is called a mystery (Eph. 3:3-7, 5:32; Rev. 1:20), and the Church is raptured at the "last trump"
(I Cor. 15:51-52; cp. Rev. 11:15).]

The difficulty with this view is that God never revealed the mystery of the Church to the O.T. prophets - if the "prophets" referred to are O.T. prophets.

*2) Mystery Babylon destroyed (Rev. 16:17-19; 17:5-7)

The phrase "the mystery of God" would thus mean "the mystery foretold by God" (Is. 13:1-20; Jer. 50-51) not a "mystery about god."

The word "finished" means "brought to an end." - Certainly mystery Babylon will be brought to a violent end (Rev. 16:17-19).

C. GOD'S MESSAGE WILL NOT ALWAYS BE WELCOMED (v. 8-11)
(His Word is not always easily digested or readily accepted)

10:8

Why is the little book "open?"

Because its events are about to be fulfilled in the last days when its message is proclaimed.

10:9-10

SEE Ezek. 2:8 - 3:4

Ezekiel eats a book descriptive of judgment, which is sweet to his taste.

10:10

Cp. Jer. 15:16-18 - "Thy Words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart . . . I sat alone because of Thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation. Why is my pain perpetual . . . ?"

Sweet words with a bitter message.

God's Word is often easy to eat, but hard to digest.

Truth is always good, even though its message may be bad.

EX: The truth about hell is a precious doctrine (because it comes from God and all of His truth is precious); however, it is not a truth that everyone wants to hear or believe.

A faithful pastor must proclaim "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), which includes truth

about life and death (II Cor. 2:14-17); good and evil; heaven and hell; future glory and future judgment.

We must not dilute the message to please the listeners (II Tim. 4:1-5).

Noah preached an unwelcome message (II Pet. 2:5).
Elijah '' '' (I Ki. 18:17)
Ezekiel '' '' (Ezek. 3:7-9).
Isaiah '' '' (Is. 6:9-11).
Jeremiah '' '' (Jer. 20:8-9).
Micaiah '' '' (I Ki. 22:8, 14).
Stephen '' '' (Acts 7:54-60).
Paul '' '' (Acts 13:46, 14:19;I Cor.9:16)

10:10

Just as the book was bitter to John's belly, so will the judgments be to those who experience them!

The Bible describes how those who experience the wrath of the Day of the LORD will bend over and place their hands over their stomachs because of the pain caused by fear (Is.13:8; *Jer. 30:6)

10:11

"Thou must prophesy again . . ." = God via the angel is speaking to the Apostle John.

Could John be one of the two witnesses? Will John be resurrected to preach before Christ returns? (SEE John 21:22, 23)

NOTE: The word "again" is the Greek preposition "epi" which can be translated "concerning" or "about." Meaning: "John, you have more prophesying to write and give about people, nations, etc. in the rest of the book of Revelation."

II. TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S FUTURE MESSENGERS (11:1-19)

A. GOD ALWAYS HAS A MESSENGER ("Witness") (v. 1-4)

11:1-2

Apparently the Antichrist, when he makes a peace treat (covenant) with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation (Dan. 9:27), will allow the Jews to rebuild their Temple, but will allow the outside court to remain the property of the Arabs.

11:2b

Midway through the Tribulation, the Antichrist breaks the peace treat, sets himself up to be worshipped, desecrates the Temple (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15), persecutes Israel (Mt. 24:16; Rev. 12:6). At this time, paganism will trample the holy city (Jerusalem [Is. 52:1] - which will be turned into a "Sodom and Egypt" - 11:8).

42 months = the last 3 1-2 years of the Tribulation.

11:3

Who are God's two end-time witnesses?

Views:

1) John the Apostle + ? (Rev. 10:11; Jn. 21:22-23)

2) Enoch & Elijah (who both never died) (Mal. 4:5)

3) Moses & Elijah (on Mt. of Transfiguration)

**4) Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel (Zech. 4:1-14)
(or someone like them)

Do these two witnesses minister during the first half or second half of the Tribulation?

*Proofs for first half:

1) Their being slain is linked with the Antichrist's resurrection, which occurs at mid-Trib. (11:7)

2) The reference to "months" (11:2), in contrast to "day" (11:3) seems to imply a different time period.

*3) These two witnesses ("olive trees") will function like Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel, who witnessed the second O.T. Temple being built (compare Rev. 11:4 with Zech. 4). The temple will evidently be rebuilt during the first half of the Tribulation.

Proofs for second half:

1) This account falls in between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments, which occur in the second half.

2) All other references to time (3 1-2 years) are references to the second half of the Trib. - the Time of Jacob's Trouble (cp. 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

3) Even though the Antichrist (who kills them) rises from the dead mid-way though the Trib., REv. 11:7 does not necessarily teach that as the time period he kills them.

4) Dan. 12:11 teaches an additional 30 days extending past the 7 years, which would account for their 3 1-2 days living in the streets.

11:3

1260 days = 3 1-2 years according to Jewish reckoning of 360 days to a year.

"Sackcloth" - clothes worn as a sign of mourning (cp. Gen. 38:34).

11:4

"Two olive trees, and two candlesticks" (lampstands) =

Olive trees supply oil for the lampstands which shines out the light in the midst of darkness. Who is represented by these?

SEE: Zech. 4:9-14. Just as Joshua and Zerubbabel witnessed the Spirit of God's power in seeing the completion of the Temple, in the last days two mighty witnesses will yet arise when the Temple is rebuilt (Rev. 11:1, 4).

B. GOD AUTHENTICATES HIS MESSENGERS (v. 5-6)

11:5

The two witnesses will have unusual power! One exhale, and it's all over!

(cp. Elijah calling down fire from heaven in O.T. - II Ki. 1:10-12).

"If any man will hurt them" - "will" = desire. "If anyone merely has the desire to injure the witnesses (or merely harbors the evil though of such) . . . will be destroyed" (Smith, p. 169).

11:6

Powers over rainfall (I Ki. 17:1; Ja. 5:17) and power to turn water into blood (Ex. 7:20, 21) are reminders of the powers of Elijah and Moses (NOTE: These powers will last for 3 1-2 years during the "days of their prophecy" - Elijah stopped the rain for exactly 3 1-2 years (Ja. 5:17).
C. GOD PRESERVES HIS MESSENGERS UNTIL THEIR WORK IS FINISHED (v. 7-10)

11:7

"These witnesses are (seemingly) immortal till their work is done" (Seiss).

Nothing can stop God's men until God is finished with their service.

"The beast" = the resurrected Antichrist (Rev. 13:7).

11:8

"The great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt" = Jerusalem, which will be polluted by the Antichrist.

(NOTE: When God wants something to have a spiritual [figurative] meaning, He will indicate so, as He does here.)

11:9

How could people from all around the world view these two dead witnesses? TV - via satellite. Something unheard of 100 years ago.

God said in the O.T. Law that a dead body was not to remain out in the open beyond nightfall, because doing such would defile the land (Deut. 21:22-23; cp. Jn. 19:31).

11:10

The godless world will celebrate because now they can return to sinning in peace without some preachers telling them how to live!

Just as the goodness of God caused the Jews to send gifts to each other in Neh. 8:10 and Esther 9:19, the seeming victory of Satan will cause the world to celebrate by exchanging gifts.

A "Satanic Christmas" (Wiersbe)

D. GOD REWARDS HIS MESSENGERS (v. 11-19)

11:11

Can you imagine the shock TV viewers are in for when God's servants arise!?

11:12

NOTE: the similarity with the Rapture -

"a great voice" -	"shout" (I Th. 4:16)
"come up hither" -	"shall rise" (I Th. 4:16; cp. Rev. 4:1)
"cloud" -	"caught up in the clouds" (I Th. 4:17)

11:13

"Tenth part of the city" = What city? The city previously mentioned - Jerusalem (v. 8)

11:18

Why are the nations angry? (cp. Ps. 2:1-3)

1) They want their own way but will not get it

2) Their sin is coming to an end

3) Their own attempts to build a "utopia" failed

(contrast the change from "rejoicing and merry making" (v. 10) to dread and anger)

11:19

The true, eternal temple that will never see defilement!

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A. God has more truth to reveal in the future (v. 1-4)

B. God's message will certain be fulfilled (v. 5-7)

C. God's message will not always be welcomed (v. 8-11)
(His Word is not always easily digested or readily acceptable)

II. TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S FUTURE MESSENGERS (11:1-19)

A. God always has a messenger ("witness") (v. 1-4)

B. God authenticates His messengers (v. 5-6)

C. God preserves His messengers until their work is finished (v. 7-10)

D. God rewards His messengers (v. 11-19)

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