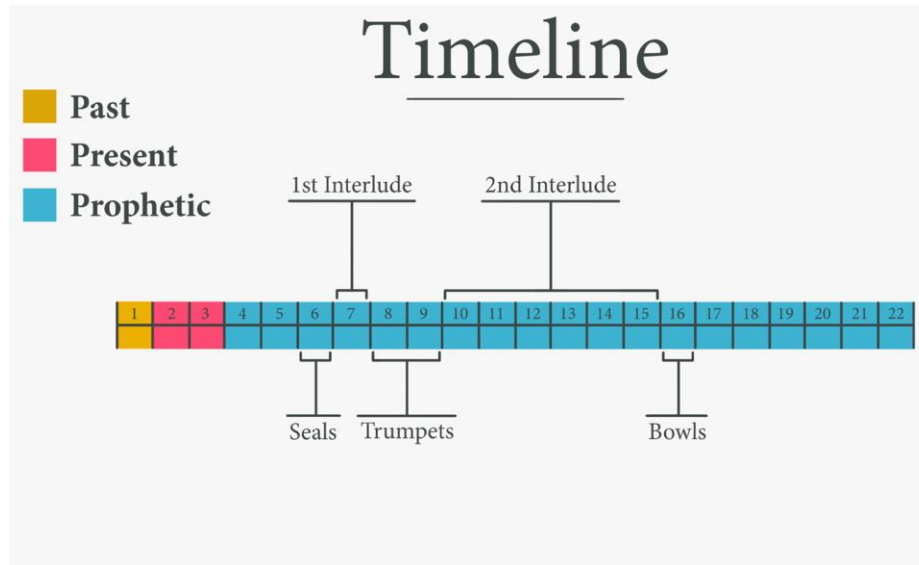


Revelation 10:1-11:14 – Trumpet Judgments And Two Witnesses

** Revelation 10 is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments. There is information about some of the events and individuals who are present when the trumpets are sounding.



Rev. 10:1-2: *“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...”*

- Who is this angel and what is the scroll that is noted in vs. 2?
- There are similarities between this angel and Jesus (see Rev. 1:15-16). There are good Bible scholars who believe this angel is Christ.
- In the OT, Jesus came at times as the “Angel of the Lord.” Not a literal angel, but this was a title given to Him when He made His preincarnate visits.
- Christ does not appear in the Book of Revelation as an angel.
- In vs. 1, when it says “another mighty angel” it is comparing this angel to the ones mentioned previous who were blowing the trumpets of judgment. The word “another” means “another of the same kind.” Christ is not another angel.
- This angel, as Mark Hitchcock notes, could have been sent forth directly by Jesus as His personal ambassador.
- The rainbow is a picture of God’s covenant of mercy of grace as seen in Gen. 9 and a rainbow is around the throne of God in Rev. 4:3.
- What does the scroll (little book) of vs. 2 tell us? We are not really told what is in it. Some see it as the title deed to the earth. It may be tied to the seven bowl judgments yet to come. Rev. 10:11 seems to tie it to prophecy. We cannot say for sure what is written on it.

- The posture of the angel in vs. 2 some believe shows God's authority and possession of the earth. Could be.

Rev. 10:3-4: *"and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 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..."*

- Some see the seven thunders as another series of judgments from God, but since John does not get to write them down, we don't know what they are.
- The seven thunders may represent the voice of God (Job 40:9; Ps. 104:7), or the voice of men (Job 39:25).
- The thunders are voices from something. From whom or what?

A) The word "voices" does not necessarily clarify the meaning. The word itself can mean at times "tone, sound" of an inanimate object, like a musical instrument (Mt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 14:7).

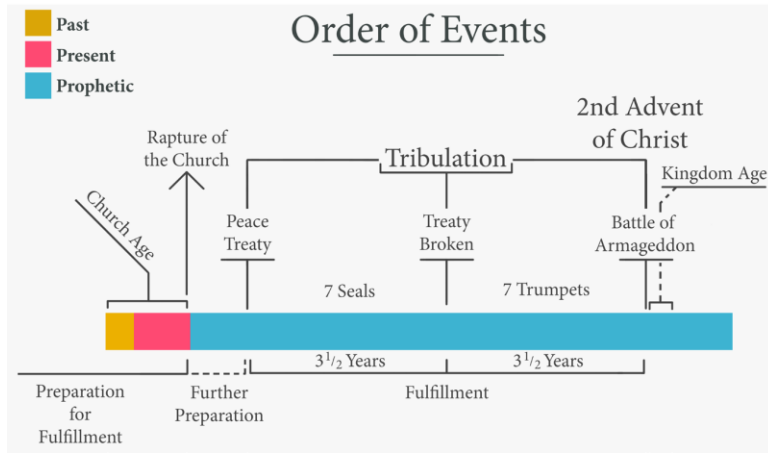
B) It could be the voice of God.

C) Whatever or whoever is the "seven thunders" they do say something because John is told to not write down what "sounded" (vs. 4).

Rev. 10:5-11: *"And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created..."*

- It could be an indication of God's final judgments on earth (Rev. 16:2-9).
- In vs. 6 the word "swore" means "to promise with an oath." Here it means "to call a person as a witness."
- God is the witness of what is to follow. He is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1). This shows His omnipotence. He is in control of all things, even judgment.
- In vs. 6 we read of there being "no more delay." Some see this as the end of the world as we know it. I believe the point is that judgment is not to be delayed, and the mystery of the seven thunders is not to be delayed as seen in vs. 7.
- The "mystery of God" noted in vs. 7 is not hidden. It is found in the pages of the OT and is now being fulfilled. This includes the return of Christ, judgment, the coming millennium, and the promises God has made to Israel and others.
- In vss. 8-11 John is given an interesting assignment. He is told to eat the scroll. It tastes sweet but is bitter to the stomach. Ezekiel had a similar experience (Eze. 2:8-3:4). See quote below.
- Vs. 11 is a key verse. The Judgments that are to follow that John writes about are more severe than the previous ones.

Mark Hitchcock writes, *"God's Word is sweet in the mouth because it speaks of the sovereignty, power, and might of God. When it reaches the stomach, it is bitter because we see that it is causing judgment, devastation, God's wrath on the earth. We see this even in the judgments in Revelation.."*



**** The Two Witnesses:**

Rev. 11:1: *“Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and all those who worship there, but do not...”*

- As one Chuck Swindoll notes, John is getting use to some strange assignments (eating a scroll, measuring a temple).
- Keep in mind a few things. One, the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed about 25 years prior to John writing Revelation. Two, there is a temple to be built in Jerusalem during the tribulation period (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4). Three, there will also be a millennial temple built (Eze. 40-48).
- This also showed that the temple, even during the tribulation, belongs to God just as the millennial temple and the New Jerusalem were measured and belong to the Lord.
- The one John is measuring is the tribulation period temple, where worship shall take place in Jerusalem. That ends at the half-way point of the seven years.
- Note that John is told not to measure the court (the court of the Gentiles). The worshippers in the temple will be far fewer than those outside.
- For the last three and a half years things go crazy. Israel is trying to survive (Mt. 24). The world and the antichrist have turned on it with a vengeance.

Rev. 11:2-14: *“And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone would harm them, this is how...”*

- These two witnesses are given authority from God to preach to the world (vs. 2). Sackcloth is a sign of mourning in the OT.
- Who are the two witnesses (vss.2-6)? They are two literal people:

A) Some believe it is Moses and Elijah. The reasons are that in vs. 5 we see that fire is used for judgment. Those who try to harm them will face what the false prophets on Mt. Carmel faced in 1 Kings 18.

B) Some think Elijah is one of the witnesses based on Mal. 4:5. This prophecy was partially fulfilled by John the Baptist (Mt. 17:10-13).

C) The judgments seen in Rev. 11:5-6 are like what the OT states about God's judging of Egypt when Moses was present, and the drought like in the days of Elijah (Jam. 5:17).

D) Moses and Elijah were present at the transfiguration (Mt. 17).

E) Others believe Enoch is one of the witnesses. He, along with Elijah, never died. He was taken into heaven (Gen. 5:24) as was Elijah (2 Kings 2) while still alive. Heb. 9:27 is also used to support this view.

F) The fact is the Bible does not tell us who the two witnesses are. God can perform the signs noted in Rev. 11:5-6 through anyone. They may have no connection to anyone in the Bible, but they are a testimony to Israel, whoever they are.

Chuck Swindoll notes, *"Because the symbols of the two olive trees and two lampstands in Revelation 11:4 correspond directly to the symbols representing Zerubbabel and Joshua in Zechariah 4:3–14, it may be that the testimony of the two witnesses will somehow relate to the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem as mentioned in Revelation 11:1–2. Most importantly, the miraculous authority given to the two witnesses by God is similar to that of Moses, Elijah, and other Old Testament prophets, demonstrating the crucial nature of their ministry during the future Tribulation."*

- The antichrist puts these two witnesses to death (vs. 7) and their bodies will lay in the streets of Jerusalem (vs. 8). The noting of Jerusalem as "Sodom and Egypt" has to do with the Israel's rejection of the Messiah and God's truth.
- For three and a half days the bodies will lay in the streets of Jerusalem. Those in authority will not allow the bodies to be buried (vs. 9). This is to show the world the power of the enemies of God, or so they think.
- There is joy over the death of these two witnesses (vs. 10) because these two prophets had challenged the people of the planet with the truth of God and judgment had taken place in various ways under their ministry.
- God raises the two prophets from the dead (vs. 11) and then God calls them up to heaven and it was seen by those on the earth (vs. 12).
- At that time, a great earthquake will occur and 7,000 people will die in an earthquake in Jerusalem (vs. 13). Though people give glory to God (vs. 13) that does not mean they repent of their sins. They recognize what is happening.

Practical Application:

- Though sometimes God's plans may not be easy to understand, we can trust the fact that He knows what is right and just.
- God's Word is the place to discover Who God is and what His plans are the world and for us as individuals.
- The world believes that it will eventually get rid of God as we have seen countries trying to do. But God will never be eliminated, no matter how hard governments try. This is why we must continually share the Gospel and truth with people.

