

The Book of Revelation



Where We Are At In Revelation

- Jesus has given specific messages to the 7 churches of Asia, preparing them for a time of great persecution and tribulation very near to unfold (chs 2-3).
- A throne-scene in heaven gives assurance of God's glory and power and the plans that are presently being executed by the Lion/Lamb (the opening of the scroll – chs 4-5).
- The opening of the 1st 6 seals reveals judgments on the earth and the plea of martyrs for the avenging of their deaths. There was a delay between the 6th and 7th seals in which God's faithful people are identified and pictured in victorious bliss (chs 6-7).
- The 7th seal was a prelude to the blowing of 7 trumpets of severe judgment. 6 of those trumpets have sounded, and there is now another pause before the 7th trumpet (chs 8-9). The blowing of the 5th-7th trumpets also correspond to 7 woes in which unbelievers begin to suffer the severe effects of God's judgmental wrath.

A Summary

“Chapters 8 and 9 depicted the warning judgments on the oppressor. Though they were only warnings, they were severe. The oppressor should have repented, but didn’t. He only hardens his heart further and blasphemes. In this he reminds us of Pharaoh. Such steadfast wickedness is a fearful thing to witness – it produces fear in the timid. There is nothing as awe-inspiring as to see incarnate hatred and spite clawing for victory, even though it knows it’s a loser. The saints need assurance in the face of this undying malice”
(Jim McGuigan, The Book of Revelation, 139).

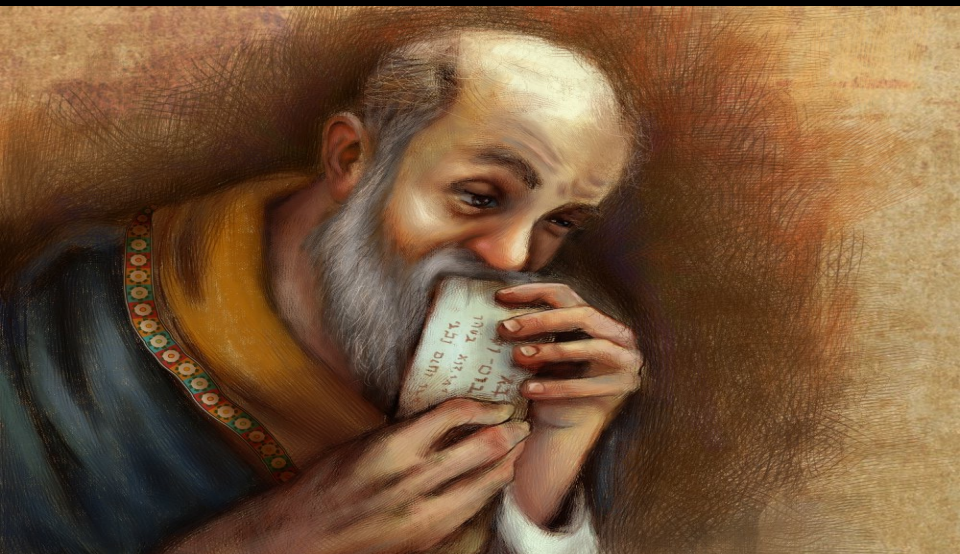
Old Testament Backgrounds

Daniel 12

- A coming time of persecution for God's people

Ezekiel 2-3

- Prophet given a scroll of judgments against the impenitent wicked



The Mighty Angel (10:1-7)

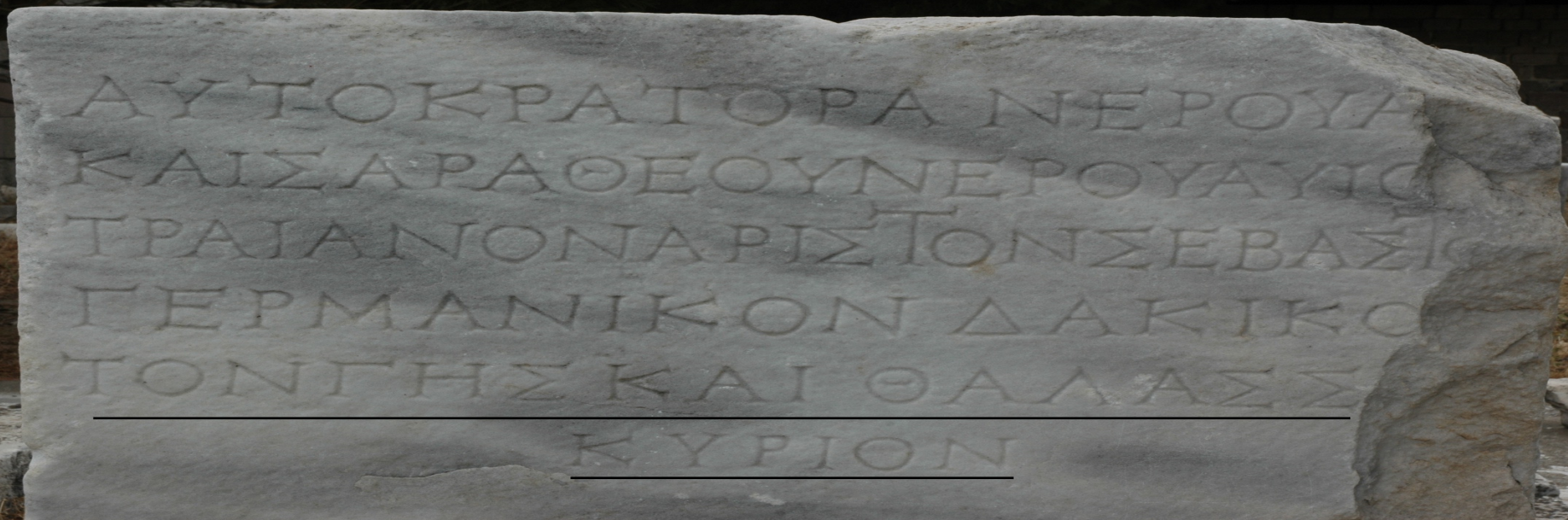
- Revelation is the most heavily-saturated angels book in the Bible.
- This mighty angel is described with divine imagery
 - Rainbow – compare 4:3
 - Sun – compare 1:16; 21:23; 22:5
 - Pillars of fire – compare 1:15; cf. Ex. 13:21f; 14:19; 23:20; 32:34
 - Voice of a lion – compare 5:5; cf. Amos 3:8; Hos. 11:10; Joel 3:16
 - Seven thunders – compare 4:5; 6:1; 8:5; 11:19; 14:2; 16:18; 19:6; cf. Ex. 9:23; 19:16, 19; 20:18; 1Sam. 7:10; 2Sam. 2:10; 22:14f; Job 26:14; 37:2; Pss. 18:13; 29:1-9; 81:7; Isa. 29:6; 30:31f; Jer. 25:30; John 12:29; do these precede judgment or are they the content of the judgment? The power and presence of God.

The Mighty Angel (10:1-7)

- Who Is This Mighty Angel? (cf. 5:2; 18:21)
 - Possibly the Angel of the LORD (some identify Him with Jesus as well, but this remains unproven).
 - This *could* mean that "angel" is better understood as heavenly messenger, possibly even Jesus. Typically, we want to clearly distinguish Christ as superior (cf. Heb. 1-2).
 - The mighty angel has orders from Jesus. *"As an angel he is a minister of Christ, serving as His messenger—he is not the Christ Himself."* (Hailey, 242)
 - Are there different "ranks" of angels? (cf. Dan. 10:13; Jude 9)
 - A contrast to the evil angels of chapter 9. This angel symbolizes God's protection of his people in a hostile world/wilderness (cf. Num. 14:14).

The Mighty Angel (10:1-7)

- The angel stands on land and sea (10:2, 5, 8).
 - Indicates the scope of divine power and judgment.
 - Likely, a mockery of Rome's dominion.
 - "Land and sea" is an OT expression for "the world" (e.g., Psalm 95:5; Jonah 1:9; Haggai 2:6; cf. Matt. 23:15)



The Mighty Angel (10:1-7)

- The angel holds an OPEN little book in his hand. Is this the same as the scroll in chapter 5?
- John prepares to write these things, but is forbidden (cf. Dan. 12:4, 9; 2Cor. 12:4).
 - Is this because God retains the specifications of this mystery? (cf. Deut. 29:29)
 - Does this suggest the totality of God's plans remains hidden?
 - Does this indicate a delayed fulfillment of its content?
 - Does this suggest that how God will finally destroy the enemy is not revealed?
 - The mystery of God is connected to God's reign (Mk. 4:11; Eph. 1:9f)
 - God has many unrevealed weapons in His arsenal of judgments and He uses them at His discretion

“What is about to be revealed is how God will bring down this persecuting force of Rome and thereby firmly establish his kingdom as the only one that shall stand forever. About six hundred years before the birth of Christ, the Lord instructed Daniel to prophesy that his kingdom would be established in the days of the fourth kingdom – the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40, 44-45). This was fulfilled when Christ arose from the grave and ascended to the right hand of God (Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Dan. 7:13-14; Eph. 1:20-23; Acts 2:30, 33-36). God’s kingdom would be unlike earthly nations which inexorably rise and fall. God’s kingdom is spiritual, and it shall stand forever (John 18:36; Dan. 2:44). Daniel not only prophesied about the nature of God’s kingdom and when it would be established, but also foretold how God’s kingdom would be opposed by this fourth empire (Dan. 7:15-28). The Roman Empire, led by wicked rulers both in Rome and the chief provinces, would make war with the saints, but it would not prevail. Instead, ‘the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever’ (Dan. 7:18; cf. Dan. 7:22, 27). Revelation discloses the fulfillment of this prophecy and explains how this mystery of God should be finished.” (Harkrider, Truth, 115)

The Mighty Angel (10:1-7)

- The angel swears by God as the Eternal Creator that there will be no more delay (10:6; cf. Gen. 14:22; 22:16; Deut. 32:40; Judg. 8:19; 2Sam. 2:27; Pss. 89:35; 110:4; 132:11; Isa. 45:23; Jer. 38:16; Ezek. 20:5ff; Dan. 12:7; Acts 2:30; Heb. 6:18). He specifies that the blast of the 7th trumpet will inaugurate a next level development for the kingdom of God (10:7). They will overcome, not through a military struggle, but by the vindication of God, Himself, in response to the persecution and prayer of His people. This is how it was with Jesus and this is how it will be for His people (cf. 1Pet. 5:10).
- When will this come about? In the days of the 7th angel (11:15ff), i.e., in the blowing of the 7th trumpet and the pouring out of the bowls of wrath.
- The ultimate reign of God's kingdom over all enemies was predicted in the OT (Gen. 49:10; Pss. 2; 110; Isa. 9:7; 60:2; Dan. 2:44). This message for His servants is shortly to come to pass (1:1; 22:6).

Devouring the Book (10:8-11)

- Clear OT antecedent in Ezekiel 2:6-3:15 (cf. Jer. 15:16f).
- Portrays a prophet of God speaking to rebellious and obstinate people who should have chosen to be the people of God (Ezek. 3:10-11).
- The mighty angel, vast in presentation, holding this little book illustrates the crucial importance of this little book.
- Note that John goes and takes the book. God's servants must volunteer their commitment (cf. Isa. 6; Mt. 11:28-30).
- The bitterness for Ezekiel is connected with Israel's rebellion and judgment (3:7). The bitterness for John is connected with the vastness of the sweeping judgment (10:11; v. 11 is a clear reference to the Roman Empire – 17:15; cf. Jer. 1:5, 10)). The pollution of sin affects the whole world. The bitterness may also be the continued persecution of God's people for a certain time, but always with the presentation of the gospel.
- The sweetness is connected to the purity and goodness of God's revelation, a hard truth for some to accept; nonetheless, even here in judgment, God's word is as sweet as honey from the honeycomb (cf. Ps. 19:10).

The Overall Message

- God's punishment is an opportunity for growth and improvement on the part of God's people (cf. Ps. 1). For the disobedient, it is the rendering of justice due. God and righteousness are vindicated. It has two sides (cf. Heb. 4:12).
- While God's people will be cared for, there will still be pain and suffering to endure. They can overcome if their faith in God's love and power are resilient.



In the end;
GOD WINS