

Hope in the Harsh Realities of Life

Revelation 10; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 5-22-2022

Introduction

We were created to glorify and enjoy God through trust and love.

Revelation is a 'picture book' that tells what is going on and will happen between Jesus' first coming and second coming.

Revelation 10 is part of the 'Fig Tree Leaf' Trumpet events section which announce the near return of Christ in the last generation to rescue His people and to judge all men and to bring an end to sin and suffering and usher in heaven on earth. – Luke 21:25-33

The Angel and the Little Book (1-2)

The Seven Peals of Thunder (3-4)

The Finishing of the Mystery of God (5-7)

The Eating of the Little Book (8-11)

A huge part of the purpose of this book is to encourage believers in a fallen and hostile world.

So, what encouragement can we see in this chapter?

Authorial Purpose (1-2)

- 'strong angel' (1) = an angelic representative of Christ
- 'a little book' (2) = a prophecy ready to be fulfilled for the whole world; very likely the same book as found in Revelation 5

God has a purpose in it all.

Life has authorial purpose that should comfort not paralyze or anesthetize.

Courageous Response to a Sovereign Plan – 2 Samuel 10:1-14

Unknown Peace (3-4)

- 'seven peals of thunder' (3) = seven proclamations of perfect and just judgment upon the world since thunder is often associated with divine judgment
- 'do not write them' (4) = a private message to John that is making a public point; it is meant to convey that God has not told us everything about the present or the future and therefore, it is not necessary to know everything in order to trust God and love people!

We don't need to know it all.

Life demands that we be at peace with the unknown through the known. – Deuteronomy 29:29

The Peace of a Weaned Child – Psalm 131:1-3

Mysterious Good (5-7)

- ‘swore by Him’ (6) = speaks to the certainty that what he says will come to pass
- ‘delay no longer’ (6) = the delay of the 2nd Coming was for the salvation of souls
- ‘the mystery of God is finished’ (7) = the proclamation of the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus for all the nations is coming to a close (‘mystery’ is a secret purpose or event or person that has been revealed by God to His people)

Revealed and Finished Mystery – Ephesians 3:8-12; Colossians 1:25-27; 2:1-3; 4:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 15:1-8

We can trust God to bring the best out of the worst.

Life is the mystery of good news triumphing over bad news because of a good God.

God’s Secret Quiet Work – 1 Kings 19:1-18

Mixed Bag (8-11)

- ‘take it and eat it’ (9) = digest the message and preach it from the heart like Ezekiel
- ‘in my mouth it was sweet as honey’ (10) = God’s message to all who will repent and believe in Jesus is a message of gladness and joy
- ‘my stomach was made bitter’ (10) = God’s message to all who refuse to repent and believe in Jesus is a message of misery and just judgment

– Ezekiel 3:1-21

We can trust God with the happy things and the hard things in His Word and in His world.

Life is a mixed bag of sweet and bitter that requires a word from God through God’s people.

Godly Sorrow – Genesis 6:6; Psalm 78:40; Mark 3:5; Luke 19:41-44

God’s Too Wonderful to Know Work – Job 42:1-17; James 5:7-11

Conclusion

Hope is rooted in the promise of a future good that will one day arrive! (6b)

We have to wait for the best things in life.

– 1 Corinthians 1:9-10