

CMPC Sermon Notes

Series: Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

Text: Revelation 10

Message: The Colossal Angel Recommends the Sweet and Sour Scroll

The Interlude. 10.1-11.14

- 10.1-11.14 is an interlude like the scene in heaven in 7.1 – 8.5 between the sixth and seventh seals
- This interlude explores the relationship between the church and those “who dwell on the earth” (unbelievers) during the time between Christ’s ascension and his return
- We introduced last week with Carl Truman’s Cultural Protest. *The church protests the wider culture by offering a true vision of what it means to be a human being made in the image of God.*
- Not surprising: a book to prepare us to face what’s coming would have a chapter with this theme.
- Two distinct scenes
 - 10.1-11 and 11.1-14: go together; ch 10 introduces ch 11.
 - Purpose: understand the witness of God’s people in the time of trial, with a focus on knowing and proclaiming the word of God
- John has been an observer/spectator/recorder except for one brief moment in chapter five; now, suddenly enters the story itself
 - John’s role is unique, but he is a pattern for us to follow
 - Also, John is back on earth.

Scene 1: Colossal Angel

- Mighty angel
 - Jesus? Probably not; Revelation never refers to Jesus as an angel, though the Old Testament does call him THE Angel of the Lord. ■ Must be an angel closely associated with Jesus.
 - Down from heaven: reflects the glory of God/throne room
 - Descriptive words
 - Cloud, Daniel 7.13 • Jesus ascended/returns in a cloud
 - Rainbow, Genesis 9.13, Revelation 4.3 • Comes from the radiant beams from his face, cf. Ezekiel 1.28;
 - Symbol of God’s faithfulness: keeps his covenant
 - Face like the sun; - shining- think of Moses coming down from the mountain
 - legs: pillars of fire: God’s providential care in the wilderness
 - Roaring voice, Revelation 1.14-15- lion roaring. Hosea 11.10; Amos 3.8, 1.2; Jer 25.30; all creation hears
- Seven thunders, cf. Psalm 29
 - As the lion roars, the thunder rumbles; divine power/judgment
 - 7- completeness- overwhelming to those on earth, Cf. Psalm 29.3-4
 - John hears as words, but we are not told what is said
 - We cannot know everything about God’s plan for history and the future
 - Deuteronomy 29.29: God does not tell us everything
- No more delay, 6
 - Foot on land and on the sea: his authority in view over all things; his message is for all
 - Angel takes an oath (only here in the Revelation); cf. Deut. 32.40
 - Sea, earth, heaven; cf. Nehemiah 9.6
 - Raises right hand to God
 - Swore by him who lives forever: no more delay
 - Swears by him as creator: providential care over creation
- As seventh seal led to Christ coming, the seventh trumpet leads to it a
 - Mystery fulfilled: God’s plan for history made known (cf. Paul: the unfolding of the gospel as a mystery being made known)
 - No more delay “Time will be no more”
 - Announced already to “his servants the prophets” ■ Cf. Daniel 2.38; Amos 3.7 and elsewhere; typical title
- The little scroll: Take... eat... prophesy
 - John joins the vision
 - Go, take the scroll (probably not the same scroll as in chapter 5)
 - Note repeated emphasis on where the angel stands (2,5,8)
 - “Give me the scroll”
 - Eat it! Cf. Ezekiel 2.3-3.9
 - Little scroll proclaims the gospel message
 - Like Ezekiel 2.9, 3.3-13 ■ Other references: Psalm 19.10; 119.103; Jeremiah 15.16;
 - Sweet like honey- great message

- Bitter- receives opposition • Sweet & bitter cf. Psalm 19.10, Jeremiah 15.16; 20.8-9; God's goodness alongside his judgment
- We seek to fully absorb God's word so we can fully proclaim it- the sweetness, the suffering, the cross-bearing- remember, John is in exile as he receives this vision! He is doing this for believers suffering persecution
- Task: Even as John had seen the incredible worship scene in Revelation 5-6, now must communicate the message to (or some, against) all the people, nations, languages, and kings, 10.11
 - 4 symbolizes the whole world
 - God's servants the prophets must make the message known
 - About peoples, nations, languages, kings; cf. Ezekiel 18.32; I Tim 2.4

So What About Us?

- Power of God
- Power of the Word
- Power of Gospel Witness