

**THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP**

**Episode Ten: Revelation 10&11**

In a world of cancel culture, Christ followers must never allow their voices to be silenced. In Revelation 10&11, a disciple is given a scroll from heaven. But the sweetness of its words sours in his belly. Those who speak truth are a clear and present danger to utopias built on deception. The ultimate cost of discipleship is martyrdom, for the road to heaven goes through the cross.

1. **A HEAVENLY MESSENGER.** God has mysteries that he intends for us to share with an ignorant and deluded world. As we shall see, this task is inevitable and unavoidable for fully devoted followers of Jesus. In this commission, is the cost of our discipleship. [Matthew 5:10-12]
* **An interlude** between the blowing of the sixth trumpet of judgment and the seventh [Revelation 11:15-19] to show us the cast of characters in the Great War of the Ages [both the Axis of Evil and the Allies of Heaven]. Our belief is that chapters 10-17 are not to be taken sequentially as future history, but are the same cast of characters that have fought from Eden’s Fall until Paradise is restored.
* **Who is the Great Angel of Revelation ten?** [Rev. 10:1] Greek word, *aggelos* for angel, literally means messenger. This is not Jesus [although Revelation 1:15&16 description of our Lord bears a striking resemblance to this angel, Jesus is never to be confused with an angel]

This is most likely the archangel, Michael, as the description is so similar to that of Daniel 12:6 and 12:6&7. He is the same angel who 500 years earlier delivered the scroll of future history to Daniel—the scroll sealed up until King Jesus was declared worthy to open it [Rev. 5].

The rainbow over his head is a three-fold reminder: 1) God judged the world of Noah’s day, and, as Jesus said, the last days, prior to the final judgment, will be like those days. 2) God also promises to his faithful believers, like Noah, that he will always provide a way of escape. 3) The rainbow around the throne also surrounds Michael, a sign that he comes with God’s authority and word.

1. **A MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN.** [Revelation 10:2-7]
* R**oars like a lion.** This message comes from Jesus. He is, after all, the Living Word of God.
* **Seven Thunders.** Seven is the number of God. When he speaks, he thunders [see Psalm 23:2-9. “The God of glory thunders.”]
* **A foot on land, and one on the sea**. The whole earth is his to do with as he pleases. It belongs to its Creator—every square inch of it!
* **A little book given to John.** What is this book? Not the same as the great scroll of history. Only Jesus is worthy to take and open it—certainly not John (let alone, later eat it). We believe that John heard and saw many things that he is not permitted to tell. But, this book is to be digested and then, as we shall soon see, preached to the nations of the world.

It is our belief that this little book is literally *the Book of Revelation*. These are the things he is permitted to tell the rest of us.

* **There are mysteries left unsaid** [Rev. 10:4]. Leon Morris: “Let us not proceed as if all has been said or can be known.” This reminds us that often the greatest arrogance is shown by prophecy experts.
* **We are moving inexorably toward an “end” that has been set from before the “beginning.”** [Rev. 10:5-7] We must teach and preach the reality of “last things” as an essential part of Christ’s gospel. The events described in the book of Revelation are happening now and will come to culmination. There is a real heaven to be gained, and a real eternal hell to be avoided at all costs—even the cost of discipleship!!!!
1. The **EARTHLY MESSENGER**. [Revelation 10:8-11] What will we do with heaven’s revelation when it is held out to us from a messenger from heaven (not only an archangel, but any other messenger that delivers Christ’s revelations)?

The drama here is not only for John on Patmos, but for any disciple of Jesus in any situation on earth. HIS STORY is also your story. Even as God completes his, so you must complete yours.

* You must **seize the book** [Rev. 10:8].
* **A warning**: its sweetness for you carries a sourness for yourself, and even more so for your world. This is the cost of discipleship: to abandon any thought that Christ’s call is to pleasantness. It is after all, the way of the cross; and even an invitation to go through great tribulation! [Rev. 10:9]. And, if you think it’s unpleasant for us, wait until the cancel culture folks hear it [2 Corinthians 2:16].
* John must digest it (“Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you.”) Later, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he will write it down for us so that we might seize and digest it—meditating on it until it becomes part of our memory muscle and life. [Rev. 10:10]
* John must preach it to the world as an essential component of the Great Commission that Christ gave to him in Matthew 28. This is as much a part of the gospel as anything, and, yet, is there nothing more neglected in the preaching of the gospel today as the book of Revelation? [Rev. 10:11]

When talking to your children, grandchildren, or anyone else today, give the message of Revelation. It has been largely lost in our generation. It is a supreme irony that you might find more mention of the horrors of the end times on the *History* or *Discovery* channels than from Sunday morning pulpits in evangelical churches. And, yet, surveys show that non-believers have a great interest in end time prophecies.

1. The Two Witnesses [Revelation 11] . This takes place during the second woe [Rev.11:14—after the witnesses are martyred and rise from the dead, to ascend to heaven, we read, “The second woe has passed; behold the third woe is set to come.” This second woe is described in Revelation 8:13-21 as a great world war resulting in a third of the world’s population being killed. We believe that it will precede the third woe, the Coming of Christ and battle of Armageddon].
* **Measuring of the Temple.** [Rev. 11:1] What is temple? Church? Can’t be. The Church is already taken out. Temple mentioned this “outer court of Gentiles”—is this a rebuilt Jewish temple? Great evidence that Dome of the Rock mosque is not on site of Herod’s Temple. Rather it is in what was the court of Gentiles. Is it possible that a one world government with a coalition of religions have allowed three great religions to occupy temple mount? Jews are following old religion, while denying the Messiah.

John given measuring rod to measure temple. See Ezekiel 40-42, Zechariah 2, or Habakkuk 3:6 to see that it is a symbol that this is God’s territory; he is its owner; and no one can touch his property.

God never abandons his covenant with Abraham. Not with Ishmael, Esau, Moabites, or Amorites.

But the outer courts, he leaves to the nations to do what they will. God both exercises complete control (puts a wall around the Jewish temple), but lets the ungodly rush to their own judgment over 3.5 years of mayhem in Jerusalem [Rev. 11:2; see Daniel 11:26&27; Matthew 24].

* **Who are the Two Witnesses?** [Rev. 11:3-32]
1. **They are the final end time prophets.** [vs. 3]
2. Significance of **olive trees, lampstands, fire, signs and wonders** [vv. 4-6].
3. **Elijah, Moses, Enoch, or some others?**
4. **The Dragon makes war against the prophets [**vv. 7-9; see also Rev. 12]. This is the call of Christ and all his followers; and even you and me.
5. **The joy of a depraved world** [vs. 10]. We ought not to be surprised at the venom of non-believers in a toxic work.
6. **The death, burial, resurrection, and ascension on the other side of the cost of discipleship.** [Rev. 11:11&12] What happens to these two, happened to Christ and his Church.
7. **Giving temporary glory to God is not the same as submitting to his Lordship. He may scare the hell out of us without scaring us out of hell.**
8. The bottom Line: We must preach the Gospel of the Judgment of God that is yet to come, and call people to be ready for it. We also must prepare to face the great and terrible Day of the Lord. As the old timers used to say, “Where do you want to be when Jesus comes again?”