

# The Little Scroll and Seven Thunders

Revelation 10:1-4

The End Times

In my last post, we concluded the exploration of **Revelation 9:20-21** dealing with the **No Repentance**. In this post, we begin our exploration of **Revelation 10** by examining verses **1-4** on the **Little Scroll and Seven Thunders**.

***"Next, I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was dressed in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face was like the sun, his legs like columns of fire; <sup>2</sup> and he had a little scroll lying open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, <sup>3</sup> and shouted in a voice as loud as the roar of a lion; and when he shouted, seven thunderclaps sounded with voices that spoke. <sup>4</sup> When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up the things the seven thunders said, do not write them down!" ~ Revelation 10:1-4 (CJB)***

The tenth chapter of Revelation introduces the reader a new section of this book of prophecy. Five chapters are inserted between the recorded action of the first half of the tribulation and the last half of the tribulation. It is as if the curtain has closed on the first half of this drama. Now events and people and nations are provided with supplementary identification which is necessary for **Yochanan** to grasp a fuller understanding of this intense vision he is experiencing.

The action appears to occur as if it stopped in time. **Yochanan** is now on earth, and the narration will move from one event to another, from one person to another, but do not look for chronological order, as **Yochanan** is receiving random missing pieces of the puzzle which will result in a fuller revelation of a particular portion of the picture.

Chapter Ten is one of the most encouraging, spirit-lifting, mind-settling passages in the Bible. If ever there is a doubt about exactly how world events are going are resolved in the end time, this chapter should settle that uncertainty.

***Next, I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was dressed in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face was like the sun, his legs like columns of fire.*** Opinion seems to vary as to the identity of this **mighty angel**. There is no question but that angels differ as to rank, position, responsibility and even power. However, I believe that this **mighty angel** is **Yeshua**.

The first hint as to His true identity is found in the statement, ***dressed in a cloud***. In the majority of times that clouds are mentioned in Scripture, they are identified with the presence of God (Exodus 24:15; Psalm 104:3; Acts 1:9; Revelation 1:7, etc.). Regarding the identity of this **mighty angel**, there is another phrase included in the text that seems to indicate that it is the Lord. That phrase is, ***with a rainbow over his head***. The rainbow unquestionably associated with God. It reminds us of a promise He made not to destroy the world a second time with a flood (Genesis 9:13-17). The rainbow may be included in this verse as a reminder to the reader that the promises of God are true and continue to be in effect. Read again Revelation 4:3 and observe that as the throne of God appears, it is circled about by a rainbow.

In Revelation 10:1 there are two additional revealing statements that help to identify this **mighty angel**. He is described as; ***his face was like the sun, his legs like columns of fire***. Revelation 1:15-16 relates a similar description of our Lord.

***"... he had a little scroll lying open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land..."*** This scroll is similar to the one described in Revelation 5:5 in which **Yeshua** is found to be the only one worthy to open the scroll. Now, in Revelation 10:2 the book is reported to be open. **Yeshua** is ready to repossess the whole earth. The picture is of One who is prepared to take charge! He is standing in complete control with His ***right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land***.

***"... and shouted in a voice as loud as the roar of a lion; and when he shouted, seven thunderclaps sounded with voices that spoke.*** This special appearance of **Yeshua** allows **Yochanan** a preview of how the tribulation period is going to terminate. **Yochanan** has already viewed the first half of the tribulation, during which judgment upon judgment has fallen upon the earth. Satan's power and the work of the Antichrist seem to continue to be in charge. Satan continues to demonstrate his tremendous supply of power. Therefore, **Yochanan** is given a glimpse of the power of **Yeshua** to settle any doubt as to how this contest between Satan and God will be ultimately resolved.

When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up the things the seven thunders said, do not write them down!" Here is a part of the Revelation that we are not allowed to see. Somewhat like what the Lord told Daniel (Daniel 12:9). Clarence Larkin writes: <sup>1</sup>

*When the "MIGHTY ANGEL" cried with a loud voice, John heard "SEVEN THUNDERS" utter their voices. These "THUNDERS" spoke, for John heard what they said, and as he had been commanded to write what he should see and hear, he proceeded to write what the "voices" of the "SEVEN THUNDERS" uttered, but he was told to "seal up those things which the SEVEN THUNDERS uttered, and write them not." What they said has never as yet been revealed, but doubtless will be when the time comes to make the revelation.*

Stern opines *the seven thunders* are aspects of divine wrath which God orders concealed and not revealed. Sha'ul mentioned a similar experience at 2 Corinthians 12:3-4 and Daniel did as well in Daniel 12:9. <sup>2</sup>

## Special Comparative Note on Chapter 10:1-4 <sup>3</sup>

### Historicist Approach:

**Historicists** believe, although this is the first mention in Revelation, the power of the papacy became incredibly corrupt. The *little scroll* is the Bible which before the Reformation was confined to a few inaccessible copies written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. The prophecies of chapters 10 and 11:1-15 are about the Reformation period in the early sixteenth century.

### Preterist Approach:

**Preterists** concur that the *mighty angel* is **Yeshua** while disagreeing as to the description of the *little scroll*. Some see it as the same scroll in chapter five now completely opened and others as a separate prophecy containing the contents of chapters thirteen to nineteen. The *seven thunders* are seen as the voice of **Adonai** as depicted in Psalm 29.

### Futurist Approach:

Most **Futurists** concur that the *mighty angel* is **Yeshua** while disagreeing as to the description of the *little scroll*. The views range from the written authorization given to an angel to fulfill his mission; a message to the believing church as found in Revelation 11:1-13; or the prophecies in Tanakh relating to the **End Times**. As to the *seven thunders*, Ironside offers an interesting explanation that they speak of judgment that **Yeshua** has already accepted the punishment and we need not know the dreadful secrets of our sins.

### Idealist Approach:

Some **Idealists** view the *mighty angel* as **Yeshua** while others say that the use of *another* means a special angelic envoy. They agree with the **Preterists** as to the *seven thunders*.

In my next post, we continue to explore **Revelation 10**. We will unpack **Revelation 10:5-7** on the issue of **No More Delay**.

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<sup>1</sup> A Layman's Commentary on Revelation by Don Jones.

<sup>2</sup> Jewish New Testament Commentary by David H. Stern.

<sup>3</sup> Material in this section is taken from "Revelation: Four Views, Revised & Updated" by Steve Gregg. The notations in parenthesis are my comments.