

REVELATION

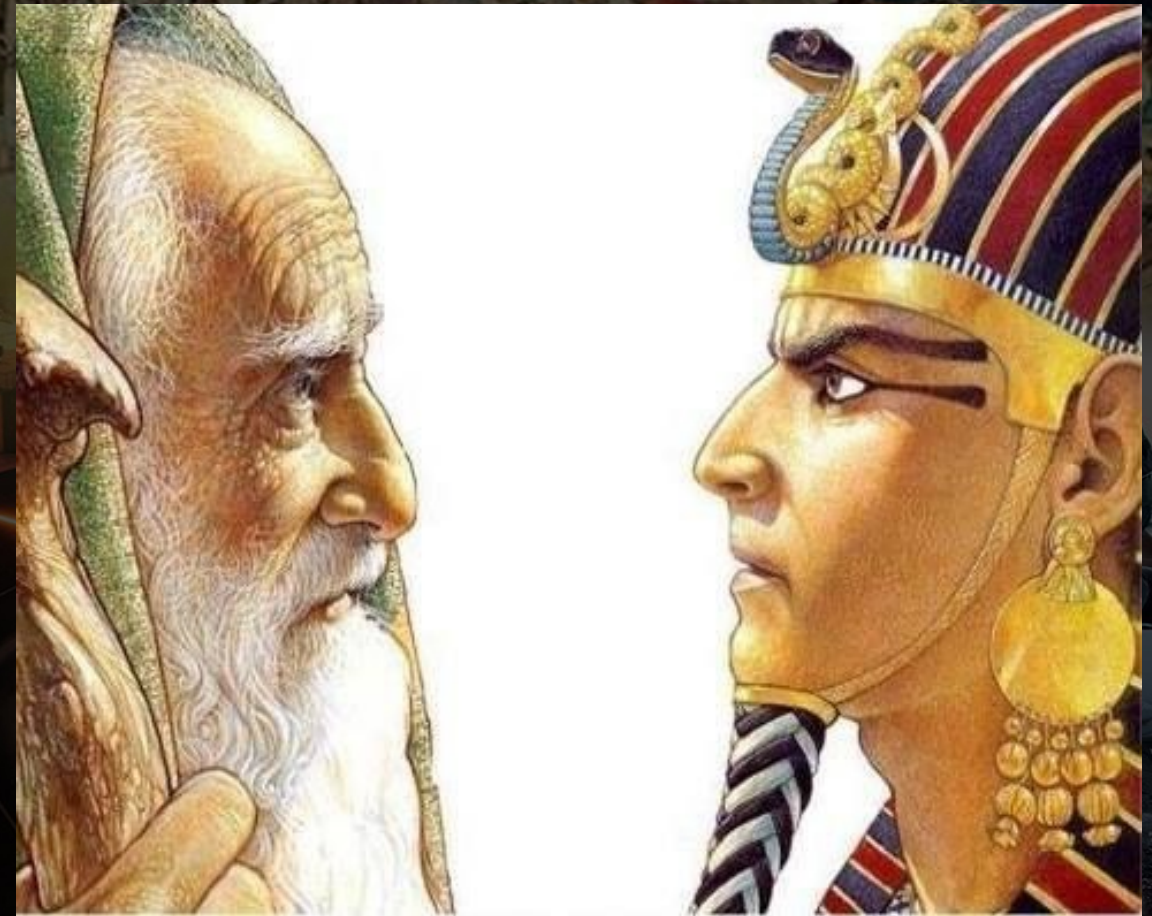
The background is a complex, layered image. At the top, a vibrant rainbow arches across the sky. Below it, a large, ethereal group of angels in white robes is depicted, some holding long, glowing swords. In the lower right, a group of people are in a small boat on a dark, choppy sea, appearing to be in distress or struggling. In the lower left, there are several large, blue, spherical structures with red, spiky protrusions, resembling a microscopic view of a virus or a stylized representation of a pandemic.

The Mighty Angel and the Little Book

Revelation 10

The 6 Trumpets: God's Warning

- “Six trumpet blasts represent every possible chance for repentance which he can offer to man. Even then it is not his patience, but man's ability to respond, which is exhausted. The stage is reached at which there is no point in offering further opportunities, [because] man has hardened himself beyond the possibility of repenting.”



REVELATION

The Interludes: An Overview

- Revelation 6 = 6 seals
- Revelation 7 = Interlude I – (Sealing of the 144,000)
- Revelation 8-9 = The 7th seal and the Trumpet Warnings
- Revelation 10-11:14 = Interlude II (Little Book & The 2 Witnesses)
- Revelation 11:15-19 = (The 7th Trumpet and the Bowls Judgements)
- Revelation 21:1 – 15:8 = Interlude III (Background to Judgments/Bowls)
- Revelation 16:1 – 22:21 = Bowl Judgements and God's Kingdom

REVELATION

The Interludes: An Overview

- Interlude I after the 6th Seal (Revelation 7)
- Interlude II after the 6th Trumpet (Revelation 10:1 -11:13)
- Interlude III after the 7th Trumpet (Revelation 12:1 – 15:8)

REVELATION

Another Might Angel

- **Rev. 10:1** I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow *was* on his head, his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.
- **Rev. 10:2** He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and *his left foot* on the land,
- **Rev. 10:3** and cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

REVELATION

• A Mighty Angel or More...

- Descending from heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17)
- Surrounded by a cloud (Rev 1:7)
- Rainbow over his head (Rev 4:3)
- Face like the sun. (Rev. 1:16)
- Legs Like fiery pillars (Rev 1:15)
- Is This Jesus Christ?

Another Might Angel

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REVELATION

- A Mighty Angel or More...

- **What do We Know?**

1. The format of revelation is that messengers/angels speak directly to John.

Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John,

Another Might Angel

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REVELATION

- A Mighty Angel or More...

• What do We Know?

2. This is not the first time we hear of a mighty angel.

Rev. 5:2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”

Another Might Angel

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REVELATION

- A Mighty Angel or More...

- **What do We Know?**

3. The message is universal.

Rev. 10:2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and *his* left *foot* on the land,

Other angels bear universal message

- Revelation 14 - 3 Angels
- Revelation 18 - Angel with Great Authority

Another Might Angel

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REVELATION

- A Mighty Angel or More...

• What do We Know?

3. Symbolism is Key.

Though the angel bears the resemblance of Christ, this does not mean that He is Christ. This Angel is Mighty because of what His appearance symbolizes and the message that he bears.

Another Might Angel

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REVELATION

- A Mighty Angel or More...

- **What do We Know?**

- 3. Symbolism is Key.

- Descending from heaven
 - Shows that he comes from the presence of God
 - Surrounded by a cloud
 - Shows that he is surrounded by the glory of God (Ex. 40:34)
 - Rainbow over his head (Rev 4:3)
 - Reminds us of God's covenant of mercy and justice. (Gen 9:12-27)
 - Legs Like fiery pillars (Rev 1:15)
 - Symbol of God's guiding presence (Ex 14:9)

The Little Book

- **Rev. 10:1** I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow *was* on his head, his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.
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- **Rev. 10:3** and cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

REVELATION

• A Few Considerations

- First, the little scroll is seen by John as already opened when the angel descends from heaven and appears to him.
- Second, given the emphasis that the scroll is seen opened implies that it was previously closed and sealed and its contents kept hidden.

The Little Book

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REVELATION

• A Few Considerations

- Second, given the emphasis that the scroll is seen opened implies that it was previously closed and sealed and its contents kept hidden.
- **Dan. 12:4** “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” (c.f. Dan 8:14, 17.

The Little Book

- **Rev. 10:1** I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow *was* on his head, his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.
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REVELATION

• A Few Considerations

- Second, given the emphasis that the scroll is seen opened implies that it was previously closed and sealed and its contents kept hidden.
- However, the content of the little scroll of Revelation 10 is not limited to the prophetic portion of the book of Daniel, because its content is broader than that of the book of Daniel.

The Seven Thunders

- **Rev. 10:4** And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. Then I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!”
- **A Strange Act...**
 - The Revelation of Jesus Christ so far has been all about revealing and unsealing. However, here we have strict instructions to seal up the saying from these thunders.
 - What can we know and what can we not know about the 7 Thunders?

REVELATION

The Seven Thunders

- **Rev. 10:4** And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. Then I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!”

- We can know that Thunder is a symbol of the voice of God.

- ⁶ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: ⁸ “Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? ⁹ Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?”

Job 40:6-9

REVELATION

The Seven Thunders

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- We can know that Thunder is a symbol of the voice of God.

- ¹ Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. ² Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. ³ The voice of the LORD *is* over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD *is* over many waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD *is* powerful; The voice of the LORD *is* full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

REVELATION

The Seven Thunders

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- We can know that Thunder is a symbol of the voice of God.
 - ⁷ The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, and strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, “Glory!” The LORD sat *enthroned* at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever. ¹¹ The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

Psalms 29

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The Seven Thunders

- **Rev. 10:4** And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. Then I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!”
- We can know that 7 likely symbolizing completeness as with the...
 - The 7 Eyes of the Spirit
 - The complete awareness of God
 - The 7 Churches
 - The complete History of the Christian Church
 - The 7 Seals
 - The complete History of the Christian Church
 - The 7 Trumpets
 - The complete warnings to the world.

REVELATION

The Seven Thunders

- **Rev. 10:4** And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. Then I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!”
- We can not know what what said by the 7 Thunders.
 - Some things remain a mystery, ...they are not revealed to God’s people, for the knowledge of them belongs only to God. “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29). Paul had a similar experience when he was caught up to the third heaven and “heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak” (2 Cor. 12:4).

REVELATION

The Seven Thunders

- ⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”
- We can not know what what said by the 7 Thunders.
 - “the seven thunders are not the prophetic revelation given to him [John] to communicate, whereas the content of the little scroll is.”

Richard Bauckham, The Climax of Prophecy

REVELATION

The Mystery of God

- **Rev. 10:5** The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven
- **Rev. 10:6** and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,
- **Rev. 10:7** but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

- Where have we seen this before...?
- ⁴ “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” ⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on the riverbank. ⁶ And one said to the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders *be*?” ⁷ Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half *a time*; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these *things* shall be finished. ⁸ Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?” ⁹ And he said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Daniel 12:4-9

REVELATION

The Mystery of God

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- **Rev. 10:7** but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.
- No longer time...
 - There is a question that rang from the time of Daniel until the time of the end. In Daniel “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders *be*?” (v. 12:6). In Revelation “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (v. 6:9. Now that questions has been answered.

REVELATION

The Mystery of God

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- **Rev. 10:7** but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.
- **No longer time...**
 - The author of Hebrews states that God's promise, confirmed with an oath, is unchangeable and certain (Heb. 6:17–18). It means that God is faithful to his promise and will certainly bring it to its fulfillment. The angel's swearing of the oath provides the church with a strong assurance that God is firmly faithful to his promise. There is no more delay; the time of the end, prophesied by Daniel, is now "irrevocably set into motion."¹⁶ God is about to deliver and vindicate his faithful saints and bring earth's history to its end.

REVELATION

The Mystery of God

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- **Rev. 10:6** and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,
- **Rev. 10:7** but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, **the mystery of God would be finished**, as He declared to His servants the prophets.
- **The Mystery...**
 - The mystery referred to here is regarding the gospel of the kingdom; the term in the New Testament refers to all of God's purposes in the world, his plan of redemption, and his dealings with the sin problem.

REVELATION

Eating the Little Book

- **Rev. 10:8** Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.”
- **Rev. 10:9** So I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.” And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.”
- **Rev. 10:10** Then I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
- **Rev. 10:11** And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”

REVELATION

• OT Allusions

- O Lord, You know; Remember me and visit me, And take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your enduring patience, do not take me away. Know that for Your sake I have suffered rebuke. **¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;** For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the assembly of the mockers, Nor did I rejoice; I sat alone because of Your hand, For You have filled me with indignation.

Jeremiah 15:15-17 (NKJV)

Eating the Little Book

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REVELATION

• OT Allusions

- ⁸ But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” ⁹ Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book *was* in it. ¹⁰ Then He spread it before me; and *there was* writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it *were* lamentations and mourning and woe.

Ezekiel 2:8-10 (NKJV)

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REVELATION

• OT Allusions

- Moreover He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ² So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. ³ And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.” So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

Ezekiel 3:1-3 (NKJV)

Eating the Little Book

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REVELATION

• One with the Word...

- Such an action symbolized the reception of the Word of God into one’s innermost being as a necessary prerequisite to proclaim it with confidence.
- Receiving the Word of God is a great joy; but since the Word is an oracle of judgment, it results in the unpleasant experience of proclaiming a message of wrath and woe (cf. Jer 15:16, 19).
- The sweetness should not be taken to refer to the joy of proclaiming a message of wrath, for to all God’s prophets this was a sorrowful, bitter task (Jer 9:1).

Eating the Little Book

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REVELATION

• Prophecy Again...

- John now has to communicate the contents of the scroll. But what are its contents?
 - The proclamation of the Final Gospel Message
 - Hope and Judgement
 - The reaction to the Final Gospel Message
 - Hostility and Persecution
- Before the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the Gospel must be preached to all the world. For it is written “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come” (Matt. 24:14).

Eating the Little Book

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REVELATION

• Prophecy Again...

- It is during that period before the end that God makes his final effort, through the church, to warn the inhabitants of the earth and bring them to repentance. This final proclamation of the gospel message is portrayed in the symbolic presentation of the three angels flying in the midst of heaven proclaiming the everlasting gospel “to those who dwell on the earth” (Rev. 14:6–12).