

Time Is Running Out!

Thursday, 8/4 at 7 + Sunday, 8/7 at 8:00 & 10:45

8th Sunday after Pentecost / 7th Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, even though God inspired Revelation to be written 1,900 years ago, *IT CERTAINLY RELATES TO TODAY!* Let me explain:

- The last 50 years of history include a **PUSHING AWAY** of ♦God’s Holy Word of Truth, ♦prayer in schools, ♦“God” in our pledge, ♦decent behavior, ♦honest communication, and ♦God-pleasing morals!
- Also, *during that same period*, many have **EMBRACED** ♦illegal drugs, ♦legalized abortion, ♦movie and TV sex, ♦actual immorality, ♦open homosexuality, and ♦a multitude of false teachings!



So why is Revelation important? → It describes our awesome Savior; → it instructs Christian churches; → it tells us about the NT era in which we live; → it assures Christians that God knows them and loves them; and → it clarifies the winning team: *IN CHRIST WE WIN!*

Now, having seen the *many* false teachings of chapters 8 and 9, we come to a pause – between trumpets 6 and 7 (chapter 7 was a pause between seals 6 and 7). **In chapters 10 and 11 God will assure us that the forces of evil will not overcome the Church and the saving truth she proclaims!**

1. **A Description of a Strong Angel – Probably JESUS:** Dr. Becker wrote: “While we...cannot insist that this strong angel is the Lord Jesus, there is good biblical evidence for making this identification...” (156). ¹ **I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud [Psalm 97:2, “Clouds and thick darkness surround Him”]; and the rainbow was upon his head [Ezekiel 1:28, the Lord is said to be like “the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day”], and his face was like the sun [Matthew 17:2, when Jesus was transfigured, “His face shone like the sun”], and his feet like pillars of fire [Revelation 1:15, “Jesus’ feet were like burnished bronze”]; ² **and he had in his hand a little book which was open [thus its contents are revealed – a continuing action]. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land [even though Jesus looked like a man, JESUS is GOD, who has put on human flesh, John 1:1, 14]; ³ **and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars [in Genesis 49:9, Judah, a relative of Jesus, is described as a lion; then, in 5:5, Jesus is described as “the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah”]; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. ⁴ **When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven [God] saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.”** [God has told us much in His Word, but there are many things about the future that God does not want us to know at this time!]******
- a. **A little book** – A reference to *the whole Bible* or at least to *the gospel* → the good news that *all who receive Jesus as Savior have forgiveness and eternal life!* Notice it is a *little* book, not an *enormous* book; therefore, God wants us to dig into it with His blessing – *word-by-word, verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter, book-by-book!* TAKING IT IN SMALL PARTS IS

VERY DOABLE: How does the journey of a thousand miles begin? *With a single step!* How does a person eat an elephant? *One bite at a time!*

- b. Our awesome hope – The forces of evil may seem great, **BUT JESUS IS FAR GREATER**: “His right foot on the sea and His left on the land... [also His] loud voice...” The Bible says *this* and *more* about Jesus:
- i. ^{NAU} **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him...¹⁴ And the Word became flesh [in Jesus], and dwelt among us...
 - ii. ^{NAU} **Colossians 2:9** For in Him [Jesus] all the fullness of Deity [God] dwells in bodily form...
 - iii. ^{NAU} **Matthew 1:21** “She [Mary] will bear a Son; and you [Joseph] shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

2. **Jesus Looks Ahead to His Own Return:** ⁵ Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, ⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer [literally, “that time will be no longer”], ⁷ but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel [the one who blows the seventh trumpet], when he is about to sound [as recorded at the end of chapter 11], then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants [slaves] the prophets. Chapters 6 and 11 both conclude with judgment day – *when all opportunity for repentance will cease!* Dr. Becker added: “...the time of”

suffering for believers and the time of grace for unbelievers will come to an end" (159, my underlines).

3. **So God says: "Know and Preach the Word!"**: **8** Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land." **9** So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, "Take it and eat it; [literally "devour it" – may we do the same with the Bible; NAU **Matthew 5:6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness..."] **it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.**" **10** I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. **11** And they said to me, "**You must** [$\delta\epsilon\iota$, *it is necessary*] **prophecy again concerning** [actually $\epsilon\pi\iota$, *before*] **many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.**" *God's Word is sweet to repentant sinners!* It tells us ♦we are loved by God, ♦we are forgiven through Jesus, ♦we are members of God's family, and ♦we have the gift of eternal life! *But God's Word is sometimes bitter to those who preach it!* Why? Because the world tends to despise or even hate both God's message and God's messengers!

Conclusion: Please join next week to find out what happens when the Word is preached to the sinful world! And all God's people said: *Amen!*