



STUDY GUIDE • WEEK 5 • REVELATION 10-11

WE ARE SO EXCITED YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR OUR DEAR CHURCH SERMON SERIES. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS THE CAPTIVATING, POWERFUL, AND AT TIMES CONFUSING LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT GOD WILL SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH THIS SERIES. EACH WEEK, ALONG WITH THE SERMON OUTLINE, WE WILL PROVIDE A FOUR-PAGE STUDY GUIDE TO HELP YOU READ, UNDERSTAND, AND APPLY THE CHAPTERS COVERED. WE HOPE THIS WILL BE HELPFUL FOR YOU PERSONALLY AS WELL AS FOR DISCUSSION AND SHARING WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AS MATT SMETHURST SAID, *"GOD DID NOT GIVE US THE BOOK OF REVELATION SO WE'D BUILD BOMB SHELTERS IN THE BACKYARD. HE GAVE US THIS BOOK SO WE'D BUILD BIGGER DINNER TABLES AND INVITE OUR FRIENDS OVER AND TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS."* WITH LOVE, PASTORS GLENN AND ERIC

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION 10

In chapter 10 an angel appears carrying a little scroll open in his hands. The angel is said to represent Jesus Himself. His face shining like the sun is a feature mentioned in the vision of the first chapter (1:16). The angel has a "little scroll" open in his hand (v.2), which becomes the primary point of interest in the chapter. The "little scroll" is said to be the book of Revelation itself. Some also assess that the book is an extension of the prophecy revealed to John.

The angel instructs John to eat the little scroll/book. This is said to represent the glory and sweetness of the gospel, but also represents the bitter persecution and suffering that goes with receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ. The chapter ends with a commission to go out to all the nations and communicate with them what he had seen and heard. This is the calling we as believers have (Matthew 28:19-20).

READ REVELATION 10:1-11

APPLICATION

- How does the angel described in v. 1-3 contrast with the traditional view of angels?
- Why would John be forbidden to record the words of the seven thunders? (v. 4; see 2 Corinthians 12:3-4)
- What do you think is symbolized by John eating the scroll of God's words and finding it sweet in his mouth, but sour in his stomach?
- How open are you right now to receiving God's instruction for your own life?

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION 11

Chapter 11 introduces two prophets referred to as the “two witnesses.” Their message, supernatural power, death, and resurrection precedes the end of the trumpet judgments.

John is given a measuring device and told to measure the temple, altar, and worshippers. Measuring, in that era, was symbolic of ownership. Only those who had rights to something—land, a building, or people—were allowed to measure them. As part of this task, John is told that the outer court of the temple is not to be measured. This area, occupied by “the nations”, which is a term for Gentiles, is part of a “trampling” experienced by Jerusalem in the end times (Revelation 11:1-2).

Two unidentified “witnesses” are introduced who stand in Jerusalem and proclaim Him (God). Obviously, at this time, that message will not

be well-received. However, the men are supernaturally protected. Everyone who tries to hurt them is obliterated by fire from the witnesses' own mouths. These men are also able to bring various plagues on earth, such as a drought (Revelation 11:3–6).

These two men will later be murdered by “the beast that rises from the bottomless pit.” Most interpreters believe this is the same “beast” described in Revelation chapter 13, also referred to as the Antichrist. To the unbelieving world, this will seem like a major victory—their leader will have defeated those claiming to speak for God (Revelation 11:7–10).

After three and a half days, the joy of the world will turn into shock. God will resurrect the two witnesses in full view of the world. Announced by a voice, and carried by a cloud, they will be taken into Heaven. At the same time, a massive earthquake will strike Jerusalem, destroying a tenth of the city and killing seven thousand. Those who survive will not honor God deliberately, but their fearful reactions will demonstrate His glory (Revelation 11:11–13).

Earlier, those reading Revelation were warned about certain “woes” yet to come. The first and second of these were the fifth and sixth trumpets. These were far worse than the terrible trumpet judgments that came before. The third woe will be inaugurated with the seventh trumpet. Just as the seven trumpet judgments were all part of the seventh seal, the seventh trumpet will contain individual events, known as the “bowl judgments.” In the meantime, as the seventh trumpet sounds, Heaven praises God for His righteous judgment on evil (Revelation 11:14–19).

READ REVELATION 11:1-19

APPLICATION

- What encouragement for Christians today does the story of the two witnesses offer?

- How does it make you feel to know that God and His servants will ultimately triumph over the evil of the world?
- How do the elders describe “the Lord God Almighty”? (v. 17)
- What does it say to us that even angels, with awesome power and beauty, and elders, with great heavenly position, worship God in total humility?
- What changes need to take place in your personal worship of God?

WEEK 5 REFLECTION

SERMON

What stood out to you from the sermon? How will you apply it to your life?
Who will you share it with?

READING

How can you practice patience and trust today in an area of your life where God's working seems to be delayed?

PRAYER

This week in your prayer time, recommit yourself to waiting on the Lord's timing. Reflect on the times in your life when God showed up for you, even if it looked different, or took longer, than you expected. Remember His goodness and kindness to you, and spend time thanking Him for his perfect timing.