

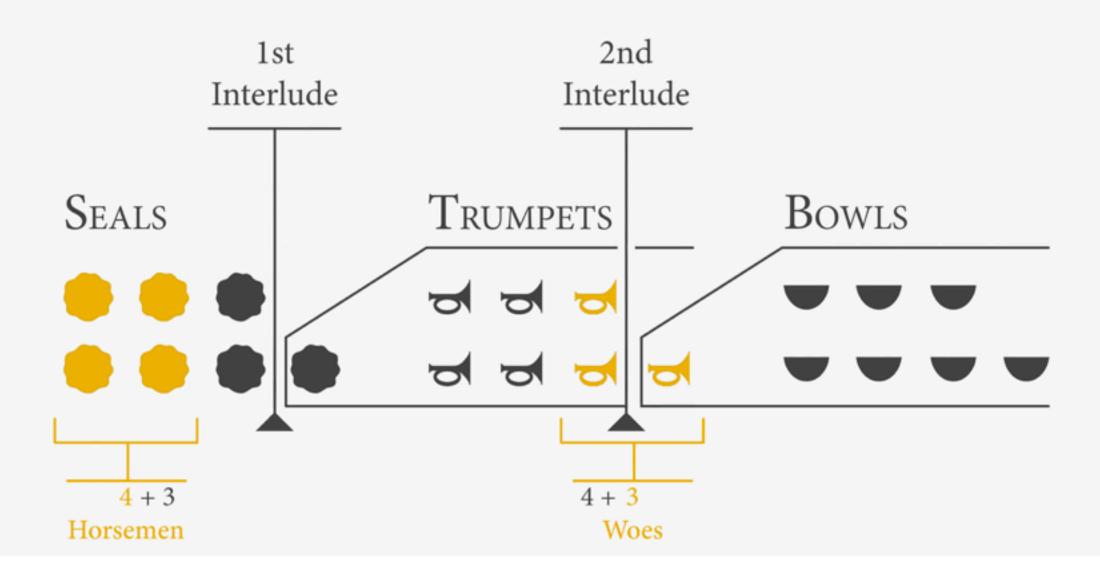
Has there ever been a time in your life when you feared God had forgotten you? The silence of His voice screamed out and the absence of His presence was everywhere. There are times when God seems distant, far off, out of sight, even if not out of mind.

When everything around us is falling apart its easy to think God isn't there and that God doesn't care, that the deists with their absent landlord view of God have it right. It is exactly at those times we most need to hear God speak.

John found himself in just this kind of situation. ½ of the world's population has died as a result of the Great Tribulation. Disasters are striking at every turn and demons are on the loose. Evil appears to be reigning supreme. Suddenly, there is a break in the action. Again there is an interlude that gives us the chance to catch our breath and regain a proper perspective.

Out of nowhere there appears a mighty angel and with him, his Little Book. God is still there and He is not silent. Through this angel and out of this little book God speaks. What is it that John both saw and heard that God wanted him, wanted us to learn?





Seals 1234567

Trumpets 1234567

Bowls 1234567

Revelation 10:1–2 (CSB) Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head. His face was like the sun, his legs were like pillars of fire, and he held a little scroll opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea, his left on the land,

Revelation 10:3–4 (CSB) and he called out with a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders raised their voices. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!"

Revelation 10:5–6 (CSB) Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, "There will no longer be a delay,

Revelation 10:7–8 (CSB) but in the days when the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets." Then the voice that I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

Revelation 10:9–10 (CSB)So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." Then I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I ate it, my stomach became bitter.

REVELATION 10 THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

Revelation 10:11 (CSB)And they said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

Revelation 10:1 ... I saw another mighty angel... Angels are mentioned more than 60 times in Revelation. Satan has his army of demons but God has His army of angels. Here John sees (I saw marks the start of a new vision; cf. 4:1; 7:1, 9; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1) another (allon, of the same type as the others) angel, but he is described as mighty, majestic and mammoth! But even more importantly, he has a message.

Revelation 10:1 ... I saw another mighty angel... Three "mighty angels" appear in Revelation (5:2; 10:1; 18:21), and the first two are both associated with the scroll of God's redemptive plan. Although the first two mighty angels are closely related, they are not identical since the second angel is described in language used earlier for Christ himself (cf. Rev. 1:12-16 with 10:1).

Revelation 10:1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven,

Coming down from heaven – The source of his service is God, in contrast to the demons of chapter 9 who come up out of the Abyss.

Revelation 10:1 Then I saw another mighty angelo coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud

Wrapped in a cloud – (perfect tense) – this angel wears the clouds of heaven as a majestic cloak over his shoulders. Clouds symbolize power, majesty and glory.

God led Israel by a cloud (Exodus 16:10). Dark clouds covered Sinai when the law was given (Exodus 19:9). God appeared to Moses in a cloud of glory (Exodus 24:15; 34:5). Indeed the Bible says in Psalm 104:3, "[He] makes the clouds His chariot, who walks on the wings of the wind."

REVELATION 10 THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

Interestingly 9 of the 20 occurrences of clouds in the New Testament are connected with judgement (Matthew 24:30; 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27; Revelation 1:7; 14:14, 15, 16).

Revelation 10:1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head.

with a rainbow over his head. — the sign of God's covenant faithfulness adorned His head like a crown (cf. Noah; Genesis 9:12-16).

Revelation 10:1...His face was like the sun, his legs were like pillars of fire

His face was like the sun – brilliant, radiant, for he had been in the presence of God and as a result, is an awesome reflection of the Lord.

REVELATION 10 THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

Revelation 10:1...His face was like the sun, his legs were like pillars of fire

His legs were like pillars of fire – pictures stability and uncompromising holiness.



The angel's description in Revelation 10, which included legs like pillars and a face like the sun, may have brought to mind the huge bronze statue of the sun god, Helios, that once towered over the harbor of Rhodes. Known as the Colossus of Rhodes, it was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Destroyed by an earthquake in 224 BC, only written descriptions of this masterpiece remain today. Helios, however, is well represented on the coinage of Rhodes, as shown on this silver piece.

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The Colossus of Rhodos a prodigious trust statue delicated to the Ann, which helding fire in its right hand served for a sea light to ships; for lighting the fire there was a stair case went through one of his light through the Sande of the budy and arm







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Is this mighty angel Jesus? THE LITTLE BOOK

This majestic picture has caused some to identify the angel with Jesus. There is remarkable similarity between this vision and that of the glorified Christ in chapter 1.

The identification of this angel with Christ, however, seems doubtful since Christ never appears anywhere else in Revelation as an angel, and it would seem out of place for Christ to take an oath (see 10:6). Nevertheless, this angel obviously plays an extremely significant role in the fulfillment of God's plan.

Other reasons why this angel cannot be Christ:

- 1. He is distinctively said to be an angel like the others, particularly those associated with the blowing of the 7 trumpets.
- 2. when Christ comes out of heaven to the earth, it will be to consummate history and inaugurate the kingdom (cf. 19:11-20:6).

REVELATION 10 THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

Revelation 10:2 (CSB) and he held a little scroll opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea, his left on the land,

Commentators debate whether the "scroll" of Revelation 5 is the same as the "little scroll" of Revelation 10. While there are variations between the two scrolls (e.g., scroll vs. little scroll, sealed vs. open, heavenly scene vs. earthly scene), the similarities suggest that a single scroll is in view.

Similarites between the scrolls of Revelation 5 and Revelation 10:

- 1. Both are held by a mighty angel
- 2. both draw on Ezekiel's prophetic calling (see Ezek. 2:9–3:3)
- 3. both concern God's redemptive plan.

In chapter 5 the scroll was sealed with seven seals, which were then opened by the Lamb in Revelation 6. Now in chapter 10 the scroll lies open in the angel's hand. The scroll reveals how God plans to defeat evil, rescue his people, and transform his creation, and what all this means for John and the rest of God's people on earth.

Revelation 10:2 (CSB) and he held a little scroll opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea, his left on the land,

So massive is this angel that he lays claim for his message of all the earth, setting his right foot on the sea and his left on the land (mentioned 3 times).



As John's vision continues, a mighty angel appears, holding a scroll. Scrolls are significant in Revelation because they reveal God's redemptive plan. Scrolls were made from parchment, vellum, or papyrus like the one shown here from the second century AD.

Revelation 10:3 (CSB) and he called out with a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders raised their voices.

His message is to warn all and be heard by all, he cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. The whole world is under his feet. The whole world is in the hands of God.

Hosea 11:10 says, "the Lord ... will roar like a lion; indeed He will roar." Joel 3:16 says, "the Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and earth tremble."

Revelation 10:4 (CSB) And when the seven thunders spoke...

His cry is accompanied by 7 thunders which speak or cry. In the little book is the Word of God. In the 7 thunders is additional judgement from God.

As we pause to study the mighty angel and the little book... HTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

1. Investigate the mystery of John's non-writing (vs. 1-4)

Revelation 10:4 (CSB)...I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven, saying..."do not write it down!"

The 7 thunders have sounded their message, like the 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 bowls. John prepares to write but a voice from heaven, no doubt the Lord's says, "seal up the ... 7 thunders and do not write them."

Revelation 10:4 (CSB)...I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven, saying..."do not write it down!"

This is similar to the command to Daniel in Daniel 12:4 (CSB) "But you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam about, and knowledge will increase." (See also Daniel 8:26, 12:9)

Revelation 10:4 (CSB)...I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven, saying..."do not write it down!"

These are the only words in the book of Revelation that are sealed up. Revelation 22:10 says to not seal the prophecies of this book but here, in this one instance, John is ordered to not write what he heard. Why?

REVELATION 10 Why couldn't John Write.... THE LITTLE BOOK

1) It is another reminder of the patience and mercy of God. As devastating as the seals, trumpets and bowls are, they are not exhaustive. It could have been worse!

REVELATION 10

Why couldn't John write....

2) Deuteronomy 29:29, "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

God is under no obligation to tell all. The fact is He has told us more than we obey! Some things God shares with us. Some things God keeps to Himself.

It is a wonderful freedom to come to the realization that God is God and we are not. Instead of wondering about what we don't know, let's get busy obeying what we do know.

As we pause to study the mighty angel and the little book...

- 1. Investigate the mystery of John's non-writing (vs. 1-4)
- 2. Inspect the meaning of "no more delay" (vs. 5-7)

Revelation 10:5-6 (CSB) Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, "There will no longer be a delay,

Revelation 10:7 (CSB) but in the days when the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets."

Revelation 10:6 (CSB) ... "There will no longer be a delay,

God's word must be accomplished. 10:5-7 Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

REVELATION 10

Hebrews 4:12 reminds us, "The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." When God speaks His Word it is certain and sure, truth and trustworthy.

REVELATION 10

We can always trust God to confirm His word. Revelation 10:5-6 In an act of solemn oath taking the angel raises his hand to heaven. In Matthew 5:34-35 Jesus spoke against frivolous and deceitful swearing. His brother James taught the same lesson (James 5:12).

However, throughout Scripture godly men and women such as Abraham (Genesis 21:25-31), Isaac (Genesis 26:26-31), David (1 Samuel 20:12-17), Paul (Acts 18:18) and even Jesus (Matthew 26:63-64) and God Himself (Hebrews 6:13) took oaths as a witness of confirmation to speak the truth.

This angel swears an oath and he took it in the name of the living God who lives forever and ever. This stresses His eternity (cf. 1:18; 4:9, 10: 15:7). Furthermore, he created heaven, earth, and sea and the things that are in it (repeated 3 times for emphasis). He alone is the uncaused cause of all that is, Aristotle's Unmoved Mover, the source and ultimate cause of all that is.

This is the only place in Revelation where anyone swears an oath, and the background is Daniel 12, where the prophet asks a question about the end of time: "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?" (Dan. 12:6).

What is delayed in Daniel now stands ready to be fulfilled: "There will be no more delay!" (cf. Dan. 12:9 with Rev. 10:6).

This angel could not have sworn by any greater. God will confirm His Word. You can count on it. You can count on Him.

Revelation 10:6b-7 (CSB) ..."There will no longer be a delay, but in the days when the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets."

You can also always trust God to complete His work.

Revelation 10:6 (CSB)..."There will no longer be a delay,

There should be delay no longer. This answers the question of the martyrs in 6:10, "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'"

Revelation 10:6 (CSB)..."There will no longer be a delay... MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK God will not stop or slow the remaining flood of judgements. Evil will now run its course quickly as Antichrist rises from the Abyss (11:7) and emerges as a world ruler (2 Thessalonians 2:3ff; Revelation 13:1-18). God and evil, Satan and the Savior are headed for a cosmic conflict and a global showdown and it will happen soon.

Second, when the 7th angel is about to sound to send forth the 7 bowls (chapter 16), the mystery of God will be finished as He declared (announced, preached to His servants (doulous) the prophets.

The "mystery of God" contained in the little scroll refers to God's plan to judge evil, redeem his people, and transform his creation, a plan that will soon come to completion.

REVELATION 10

God announces (euangellizō) his plans to his servants the prophets, including both the Old and the New Testament prophets as Amos 3:7 makes explicit: "Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets" (cf. 1 Pet. 1:10-12).

Revelation 10:7 (CSB) ...then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets."

A mystery is a truth previously concealed but now revealed. God's purpose in creation and redemption made possible through the blood of the Lamb is made plain.

It is nothing less than the answer to the prayers of the saints throughout history, "Thy kingdom come ... on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

The time is now. The kingdom will come. God has willed from eternity past the complete and final defeat of evil. That day is coming. You can trust God to complete His work. We may fail Him, but He will never fail us!

REVELATION 10

God's Word is of no value if we do not seek it, hear it and obey it. Here we discover a proven strategy whereby God's Word comes to us, stays with us and changes us.

Revelation 10:8 (CSB) Then the voice that I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

The voice I heard looks back to verse 4. As a voice from heaven it commands authority and obedient response.

As we pause to study the mighty angel and the little book...

- 1. Investigate the mystery of John's non-writing (vs. 1-4)
- 2. Inspect the meaning of "no more delay" (vs. 5-7)
- 3. Invest your life in telling others the story (vs. 8-11)

REVELATION 10

Revelation 10:8 (CSB) ... "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

Go and take (imperatives) the little book which is open (its message is plain to all who will read it).

REVELATION 10

Revelation 10:9 (CSB) ... "Take and eat it...

Take and eat it (eat completely) are both imperatives (cf. Ezekiel 2:9-3:3). God's Word is bread (Matthew 4:4); milk (1 Peter 2:2); meat (1 Corinthians 3:1-2), and honey (Psalm 119:103).



John is told to take and eat the scroll the angel is carrying. Shown here is a tenth-century AD ivory bookbinding plate that shows the apostle John holding a scroll.

In Ezekiel's commissioning, he too is commanded to eat a scroll as a symbol of ingesting God's message, and the scroll tasted as sweet as honey (Ezek. 2:7-3:3). The scroll tastes like honey to John also, but it gives him a terrible stomachache.

Revelation 10:9 (CSB) ... "Take and eat it...

We must eat it down, try it ourselves. God does not force feed His Word to anyone! Here, and in our lives as well, when the Word has done its work there will be a 2-fold effect:

Revelation 10:9 (CSB)..."Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

Sweet in the mouth – because it reveals the greatness and goodness of God and His plans and purposes for us.

The sweetness represents God's sovereign control over history and the promise to complete his plan very soon. He will conquer evil once and for all, vindicate his people, and bring forth a new heaven and new earth. That good news is about as sweet as it gets.

Revelation 10:9 (CSB)..."Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

Bitter to the stomach – because of the reality of the terrible doom and judgement awaiting unbelievers, those who have said no to Jesus (and perhaps to suffering saints enduring martyrdom in the Tribulation).

There is sorrow and joy, bitterness and sweetness, sadness and gladness when God's Word does its work in our lives. We must never forget it is both a Word of life and a Word of death (2 Corinthians 2:14-17). As John MacArthur well says, "All who love Jesus Christ can relate to John's ambivalence" (p. 288).

Revelation 10:11 (CSB)And they said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

The angel has a commission for John. Though not identical, it is reminiscent of the commission of Jesus to His church (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

REVELATION 10 THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

John's call to prophesy again is a renewal of the divine compulsion ("must" or dei) to proclaim God's message, no matter how difficult it is to speak the truth or how negatively the audience might respond (Rev. 1:10–11, 19; 4:1–2).

You must (moral imperative) prophecy, preach, tell again. (cf. 1:19). There is a divine mandate in these words. These prophecies will concern everyone everywhere. This 4-fold classification is common in Revelation. It occurs 5 times. This chapter is an all too brief interlude of grace and mercy, wrapped in the reality of bitter judgement.

Key Themes of Revelation 10:1–11_{6 BOOK}

- We can trust God to accomplish his saving plan according to his sovereign timing.
- God reveals his purposes through his prophets.
- The completion of God's plan will involve additional suffering for his people.

REVELATION 10 THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

Revelation 10:4 ... "Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!"

THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

Daniel 12:4 "But you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam about, and knowledge will increase."

Daniel 12:9 He said, "Go on your way, Daniel, for the words are secret and sealed until the time of the end.

Daniel 8:26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true. Now you are to seal up the vision because it refers to many days in the future."

Revelation 10:5–6 Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. 6He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, "There will no longer be a delay,

Daniel 12:7 Then I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the water of the river. He raised both his hands toward heaven and swore by him who lives eternally that it would be for a time, times, and half a time. When the power of the holy people is shattered, all these things will be completed.

Revelation 10:5–6 Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. 6He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, "There will no longer be a delay,

Deuteronomy 32:40 I raise my hand to heaven and declare: As surely as I live forever,

Revelation 10:6 He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who

Revelation 10:6 He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, "There will no longer be a delay,

Genesis 14:19 He blessed him and said: Abram is blessed by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

Genesis 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand in an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

Revelation 10:6 He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, "There will no longer be a delay,

Nehemiah 9:6 You, Lord, are the only God. You created the heavens, the highest heavens with all their stars, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and all the stars of heaven worship you.

Psalm 146:6 the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them. He remains faithful forever,

Revelation 10:7 but in the days when the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets."

Daniel 9:10 and have not obeyed the Lord our God by following his instructions that he set before us through his servants the prophets.

Daniel 9:6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, leaders, ancestors, and all the people of the land.

Revelation 10:7 but in the days when the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets."

Amos 3:7 Indeed, the Lord God does nothing without revealing his counsel to his servants the prophets.

Zechariah 1:6 But didn't my words and my statutes that I commanded my servants the prophets overtake your ancestors?' "So the people repented and said, "As the Lord of Armies decided to deal with us for our ways and our deeds, so he has dealt with us."

Revelation 10:9–10 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." 10Then I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I ate it, my stomach became bitter.

Ezekiel 2:8 "And you, son of man, listen to what I tell you: Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you."

Revelation 10:9–10 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." 10Then I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I ate it, my stomach became bitter.

Ezekiel 3:1–3 He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find here. Eat this scroll, then go and speak to the house of Israel." 2So I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll. 3"Son of man," he said to me, "feed your stomach and fill your belly with this scroll I am giving you." So I ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth.

Revelation 10:11 And they said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

Jeremiah 1:10 See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant.

Jeremiah 25:30 "As for you, you are to prophesy all these things to them, and say to them: The Lord roars from on high; he makes his voice heard from his holy dwelling. He roars loudly over his grazing land; he calls out with a shout, like those who tread grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.

Daniel 3:4 A herald loudly proclaimed, "People of every nation and language, you are commanded

Conclusion John has an evangelistic mandate and responsibility. We have an evangelistic mandate and responsibility. We have in our possession bread for the hungry, water for the thirsty and life for the dying. It is unconscionable that we would keep this precious treasure to ourselves.

REVELATION 10 THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND THE LITTLE BOOK

Take the Word, try the Word, tell the Word. Nothing less will be sufficient for the souls of men. Nothing less will be worthy of the Savior who died for the sins of the world.

