

EP78 Revelation 10 verses 3-11

In our last podcast, we study this “strong” angel, bearing the attributes of the Angel of the Lord, Jesus Christ Himself, in the form He appeared in the Old Testament.

Revisiting the image with the cloud, the sun, and the pillars of fire (and we can throw in the seven thunders), this image communicates that this angel comes with a storm, he comes in judgment, he comes to conquer, but he also comes with a promise (the **rainbow**) and he intends on completing it now, not later (we will see this in the **oath** that he took). And since he is a “strong” or “forcible” angel, he has the innate power and the ability to follow through and fulfill every judgment and every promise.

John was then required to participate in the vision, as he was commanded to take a little scroll from the hand of the “strong” angel and eat it. This scroll contains information that **Yahweh** wants to be in John. It is not information that he is just to observe and pass on to us; rather, it must first be within him—he must eat it and internalize the ramifications of this information. Due to the content of the scroll and the terrifying prophecies it contains, the scroll was sweet to the taste, but it was caused to be bitter in his stomach.

Then the “strong” angel cried out like a mighty roar proclaiming the coming judgments of **Yahweh** that will be precipitated by the blowing of the 7th trumpet. It is the roar of one who is ready to pounce—one who is springing into action. And with that review, let’s now pick up with the 7-thunders.

7-Thunders

Revelation 10:3-4

...and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I had already been about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."

The roar of this angel is answered by the **voices of the seven thunders**. There are 5 key aspects to this image that we need to focus on:

1. Voices
2. The definite article “**the**”
3. Seven
4. Thunders
5. Seal up

First, the seven thunders spoke with clear **voices** such that John understood what they said, so much so that he had been ready to write down what they said.

Second, these are not just thunders, but they are “**the**” seven thunders. The use of the definitive article “**the**” in effect personifies the thunder and ascribes to them some sort of sentient personhood with clear

and articulate communication abilities. This may seem odd, but the **Codex** reveals that **Yahweh** answers in thunder and His voice is like thunder.¹

Third, the fact that there are voices of seven (7) thunders, is a clear **Code**, as 7 is the number indicating **completeness**. The number 7 is used 55 times in **Revelation**, which is probably in-and-of-itself another imbedded **Code** (5 upon 5, or grace upon grace). We have seen seven churches, seven lampstands, seven stars, seven spirits before His throne, seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, seven seals, a lamb with seven eyes and seven horns, seven angels who stand before God, seven trumpets, and now seven thunders. There will be more sevens: seven heads, seven diadems, and seven plagues, seven golden bowls of wrath, seven mountains, and finally seven kings.

Thus, all that is associated with the unveiling of Jesus Christ, symbolized through the number seven (7), is **complete** and therefore lacking nothing; therefore, by definition there is nothing else to add to the narrative or to take away from it. Hence, the intense **WARNING** at the end of **Revelation**.

Revelation 22:18-19

I now testify to everyone who is now hearing the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which have been caused to be written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which have been caused to be written in this book.

Again, the point being that all that is associated with the unveiling of Jesus Christ, symbolized through the use of the number seven (7), is **complete** and lacking nothing. Thus, this message of the seven thunders is complete. **Yahweh** said exactly what He wanted to say, no more and no less.

Fourth, there is the **thunder**. As stated in the **Codex**, **Yahweh** answers in thunder, and His voice is like thunder.² As we all know, thunder breaks forth like a clap, like a detonation of sorts, followed by a loud and tumultuous rumble. It is very intimidating and if you are not ready for it, the sound of thunder can cause you to jump and even drop to the ground. I don't know if you have ever experienced this, but there are times in the midst of a big storm that I sensed God was speaking through the thunderous roars. And He probably was.

Earlier in **Revelation 4**, we were told that peals of **thunder** (or voices) were heard coming from the throne of God.³ And in **Revelation 8** when the angel took the censer, filled it with fire, and threw it to the earth, there were peals of **thunder**, also likely coming from the throne of God.⁴ And then there is **Psalms 29** which connects the **thunders** to the voice of God.

¹ **Exodus 19:19; Job 37:2**

² **Exodus 19:19; Job 37:2; Psalm 81:7**

³ **Revelation 4:5**

⁴ **Revelation 8:5**

Psalms 29

Ascribe to **Yahweh**, O sons of the mighty, ascribe to **Yahweh** glory and strength. Ascribe to **Yahweh** the glory due to His name; worship **Yahweh** in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of **Yahweh** is upon the waters; **the God of glory thunders**, **Yahweh** is over many waters. The voice of **Yahweh** is powerful, the voice of **Yahweh** is majestic. The voice of **Yahweh** breaks the cedars; yes, **Yahweh** breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of **Yahweh** hews out flames of fire. The voice of **Yahweh** shakes the wilderness; **Yahweh** shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of **Yahweh** makes the deer to calve and strips the forests bare; and in His temple everyone cries, "Glory!"

Yahweh sat as King at the flood; yes, **Yahweh** sits as King forever. **Yahweh** will give strength to His people; **Yahweh** will bless His people with peace.

The Spirit's point is that the voice of **Yahweh**, as it **thunders** forth, is so powerful that it sets things into motion – things both in the seen and the unseen realms.

For instance, after the flood, with the voice of His **thunder**, the waters that covered the mountains were caused to recede, or hurry away, and He set a boundary that they may not pass so that they will not return to cover the earth.⁵

And with His voice of **great thunder**, He so confused the Philistines that they were completely routed before Israel. After this battle, the prophet Samuel took a stone and named it "*Ebenezer*," and established a boundary saying, "*Thus far **Yahweh** has helped us.*" So, the Philistines were subdued and did not come anymore within the border of Israel, and the hand of **Yahweh** was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.⁶

And concerning the final judgment of "*Ariel*," which is a powerful but also somewhat of an intense synonym for Jerusalem in the book of **Isaiah**, **Yahweh** declares woe upon the city. Then the prophet Isaiah prophesies about the **Day of Yahweh** when God will send all the nations to punish Jerusalem. "*From **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Hosts) you will be punished with **thunder** and earthquake and loud noise, whirlwind and tempest and the flame of a consuming fire.*"⁷

By the way, "*Ariel*" literally means "*lion of God*," but it is also the name of the altar of blood sacrifice, indicating that Israel's true strength (that like a lion) comes by way of blood sacrifice, which provides a covering for their sin and an open connection to **Yahweh**.⁸

Elihu, in the book of **Job**, also reflected on the thunders which come forth from **Yahweh** and he said,

⁵ **Psalm 104:6-9**

⁶ **1 Samuel 7:7-11**

⁷ **Isaiah 29:1-10**. Note: "*Ariel*" means lion of God, but it also the name given to the altar of blood sacrifice

⁸ **Ezekiel 43:15-16**

Job 37:1-5

At this also my heart trembles, and leaps from its place. Listen closely to the **thunder** of His voice, and the rumbling that goes out from His mouth. Under the whole heaven He lets it loose, and His lightning to the ends of the earth. After it, a voice roars; He **thunders** with His majestic voice, and He does not restrain the lightnings when His voice is heard. God **thunders** with His voice wondrously, doing great things which we cannot comprehend.

What a powerful statement: **God thunders with His voice wondrously, doing great things which we cannot comprehend.** Echoing this understanding, Job also declared that no one *can be caused to understand* His mighty thunder.⁹

Fifth, John understood the words the voices spoke, as He was already about to now write what he heard.¹⁰ But he was stopped in His tracks, and commanded, by a voice in heaven *now saying* to Him to **seal up** or literally, place a signet marker over what the voices of the seven thunders uttered—a seal that would not be broken. And with the use of the *present active participle*, this voice even now continues as a reminder that this “**complete**” utterance is to be sealed up. As Job said, “*no one can be caused to understand His mighty thunder.*”

God clearly did not want John sharing with us what they said. As they say, it was “for his eyes (or ears) only.” So, what is the point of telling us about the seven thunders and their clear communication if it was not going to be shared with us but sealed up? In the past, God revealed things to the prophet Daniel, and He told Daniel to seal them up.¹¹ But in those instances, Daniel was allowed to write down the prophetic images, it is just that the understanding would be sealed up until the time of the end; thus, Daniel was in effect instructed to not seek out understanding for himself. Accordingly, much of the **End Times** narrative that comes from the book of **Daniel** has only “recently” been understood or “unveiled” by the Spirit.

Something very similar happened in that passage previously referenced in **Isaiah** regarding the **Day of Yahweh** and the judgment of Ariel.

Isaiah 29:11-14

The entire vision will be to you like the words of a **sealed** book which when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, “Please read this,” he will say, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, “Please read this.” And he will say, “I cannot read.”

Then **Yahweh** said,

“Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote, therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; and the wisdom of their wise men will perish, and the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed.”

⁹ **Job 26:14.** Note: “understand” is rendered in the Hebrew “*hithpoel*” indicating an intensive, but *passive* voice

¹⁰ “about” is rendered in the *imperfect active indicative*; “write” is rendered in the *present active infinitive*

¹¹ **Daniel 8:26, 12:4, 9**

So, God **seals** up the mysteries of His thunderous voice, largely as an act of mercy. He knows full well that if what He has spoken is made known, then all of us would be accountable to whatever it is that He said. But the hearts of far too many are far from Him, and so in sealing the communication of His voice of seven thunders, He is mercifully limiting the extent of judgment that will come upon those in His own household—those who should now be having ears to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.¹²

Ok that was interesting, but once again we must ask, what is the point of telling us about the seven thunders and their clear communication if it was not going to be shared even on a limited basis with those who are now having ears to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches?

Remember, the Spirit made the point in **Psalm 29** that the voice of **Yahweh**, as it **thunders** forth, is so powerful that it sets things into motion – things both in the seen and the unseen realms. Yes, **God thunders with His voice wondrously, doing great things which we cannot comprehend**.

And though we might not have the thunderous declaration written down, we will see the effects of every word with the blowing of the 7th trumpet. Once that trumpet blows, everything will be different, and the entirety of God's enormous plan will begin to come to fruition.

It is time to get ready for an amazing journey through these next chapters in **Revelation**, where we will see this unfolding of His mighty words (particularly in Chapters **11** and **14**—especially **14**, and the background storyline given to us in Chapters **12** and **13**). On-the-one-hand, it will be something wonderful, majestic, glorious, and so far beyond what we can truly understand. On-the-other-hand, it will be similar to what Hannah, the mother of Samuel the prophet, once declared.

1 Samuel 2:10

Those who contend with **Yahweh** will be shattered; against them He will **thunder** in the heavens, **Yahweh** will judge the ends of the earth; and He will give strength to His king and will exalt the horn of His anointed."

Finally, through telling us about **the seven thunders** and their utterances, **Yahweh** is reminding us that He is the **Alpha**, thus all things originate in Him and from Him. He speaks and all manner of things are set into motion in both the unseen realms and the natural realms, and nothing happens that does not begin with Him.¹³ He is **Yahweh**, our **Adonai Shaddai**—the Lord our God Almighty.

The Oath

Revelation 10:5-7

Then the angel whom I saw had been standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to

¹² **Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22**

¹³ **Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 2:10**

heaven, and swore by Him who is now living 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 choose to be delay {literally “time”} no longer, but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is now about to now sound, then the mystery of God will be caused to be finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

Next, there comes a fantastic oath from this “strong” angel. He raised his “right” hand to heaven (the right hand being a symbol of power and authority) and literally swears that there will choose to be time no longer. The translators took this idea and connected it with this mystery that is to be finished in connection with the blowing of the 7th- trumpet, and therefore translated it as there would be no more delay, or no more time will pass before this mystery is completed.

Another way to express this is that for some the **“Time is Up”**, and for others, **“The Time is Now!”** Strap on your seatbelt, the remaining **Revelation** narrative is going to be a very bumpy ride.

Sabbath Rest

The “strong” angel draws from the **Codex** and quotes from a passage in **Exodus** which is all about the 7th-day of rest. The complete quote is: *“For in six days **Yahweh** made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore, **Yahweh** blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.”*¹⁴

Accordingly, this “strong” angel is swearing by Him who lives forever and ever that the **Sabbath Rest**, promised to those who are now overcoming (who are not found in unbelief), has arrived.¹⁵ No more work, no more toil, no more suffering, and no more tears. It is now to be a time of rest. **The time is now!**

The Mystery

Revelation 10:7

... but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is now about to now sound, then the mystery of God will be caused to be finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

At this stage in the **Revelation** narrative, it has been about approximately 3.5 years (about halfway through the tribulation), and it has been a brutal experience. But now the promise confirmed and guaranteed by the rainbow will be completed, and all true believers will be rescued. **The time is now!**

This mystery that He has declared to His servants the prophets is one single mystery (it is rendered in the *singular* and not the *plural*), but it has 9 facets, which, according to the **Code**, speaks of judgment. All these 9 aspects of the mystery will be completed or better said, begin their completion with the blowing of the 7th Trumpet judgment. In other words, this “strong” angel swears that all things will now be

¹⁴ **Exodus 20:11**

¹⁵ **Hebrews 4:9**

wrapped up, completed, brought to fulfillment. Again, for some the **“Time is Up”** (it is time for judgment), and for others who have been waiting on Yahweh, **“The Time is Now!”**

And although there are 9 facets to this mystery, they all dovetail together to bring completion to the phenomenal plan of God in respect to all His bondservants (from both the Jews and the Gentiles) who enter their eternal **Sabbath**.

By the way, this mystery had been kept secret for ages. Not that it was not evident all throughout the **Codex**, but it was not understood until the Spirit of God lifted the veil and disclosed this secret to His servants the prophets.

Romans 16:25-26

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery** that was kept secret for long ages but *has now been disclosed* and through the prophetic writings *has been made known* to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.

The 9-Facets of the Mystery

This mystery is comprised of the following 9-facets:

1. **Christ—God’s mystery.** *“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s **mystery**, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”¹⁶*
2. **The unity of all things in Christ.** *“In him we now have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the **mystery** of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”¹⁷*
3. **The hardening of the hearts of the Jews until the number of Gentiles that are appointed for salvation are saved.** *“Lest you now be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this **mystery**, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be caused to be saved, as it has been caused to be written.”¹⁸*
4. **The Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ.** *“When you are now reading this, you perceive my insight into the **mystery** of Christ, which was not caused to be made known to the sons of men*

¹⁶ **Colossians 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:16**

¹⁷ **Ephesians 1:7-10**

¹⁸ **Romans 11:25-26**

in other generations as it has now been caused to be revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”¹⁹

5. **The *mystery* of the church, the 7-stars, and the 7-lampstands.** *“As for the *mystery* of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”²⁰*
6. **The rapture of the Church.** *“Behold! I tell you a *mystery*. We shall not all be caused to sleep, but we shall all be caused to be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the *last trumpet*. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be caused to be raised imperishable, and we shall be caused to be changed.”²¹*
7. **The mystery of the coming union of Christ and the church symbolized by the union of a husband and wife.** *“Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall choose to become one flesh. This *mystery* is profound, and I now speak about Christ and the church.”²²*
8. **The mystery of lawlessness or the kingdom of the Beast.** *“For the *mystery* of lawlessness chooses to already be at work. Only he who is now holding down suspending will do so until he chooses to be taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be caused to be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming, whose presence now is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all powers and signs, and false wonders.”²³*
9. **The *mystery* of the woman who rides the Beast and *mystery* Babylon.** *“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman now choosing to be sitting on a scarlet beast, now being full of blasphemous names, now having seven heads and ten horns. The woman had chosen to have been clothed in purple and scarlet and chosen to be adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, now having in her hand a gold cup now being full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was caused to be written, a *mystery*, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” And I saw the woman now being drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered {admired} greatly. And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the *mystery* of the woman and of the beast that is now carrying her, which is now having the seven heads and the ten horns.”²⁴*

Yahweh announced all these 9-mysteries to His servants the prophets; and, as with everything which **Yahweh** speaks, it always comes to fruition. For a time, these mysteries were not understood though they had been revealed, but now the Spirit has unveiled their understanding to everyone who is now having

¹⁹ **Ephesians 3:4-6; Colossians 1:26-27**

²⁰ **Revelation 1:20**

²¹ **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

²² **Ephesians 5:31-33**

²³ **2 Thessalonians 2:7-9**

²⁴ **Revelation 17:3-7**

ears to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.

I love the fact that God does not do things by surprise, but always reveals His plans. *“Surely Yahweh God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.”*²⁵ And remember, *“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”*²⁶

THE COMPLETION OF THE MYSTERY IS THE FINAL SUMMATION OF ALL OF GOD’S PLANS TO REDEEM HIS CHOSEN ONES, TO WED HIS CHOSEN ONES, TO JUDGE THOSE WHO HAVE LOVED LAWLESSNESS, TO PURIFY THE EARTH THROUGH JUDGMENT AND FIRE, TO PUT AN END TO RELIGION AND SPIRITUAL PROFITEERING, AND TO ESTABLISH HIS RULE AND REIGN UPON THE EARTH AND THE SEA.

Timing of Events

The angel was clear, *“but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is now about to now sound, then the mystery of God will be caused to be finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.”* This indicates that the summation of all these events is not going to happen all at once. Rather, near and surrounding the blowing of the seventh trumpet, these events will transpire or be caused to be set in motion.

There will be a span of days/months over which it will happen. For example, the slaughter of many believers will occur shortly before the angel blows the 7th Trumpet, but the rapture of the church happens simultaneous with the blowing of the 7th or the last trumpet.²⁷ Then there is the union, or the marriage supper of the Lamb, which occurs while the 7 Bowls of wrath are being poured out upon the earth, after the 7th Trumpet has been blown.²⁸

During this time believers are hiding in the temporary homes which Jesus has prepared for them in heaven, while the time of indignation (or wrath) runs its course. In addition, during this time, God uses the Beast to obliterate religion from the face of the earth.²⁹ So again, the fulfillment of all these mysteries is not going to be instantaneous, but with this 7th Trumpet all will be brought forth and caused to be set in motion, just as He has said.

Prophecy

Revelation 10:11

And they now say to me, "You now must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and

²⁵ **Amos 3:7**

²⁶ **Numbers 23:19**

²⁷ **1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 14:15-16**

²⁸ **Revelation 19:7-8**

²⁹ **John 14:1-3; Isaiah 26:19-21; Revelation 17-18**

tongues and kings."

There is a sudden switch in narration as the angel is no longer the only one addressing John, but "**they**" now say to him. Suddenly, there is a plurality addressing John. Perhaps this instruction came from the "strong angel," and the "voice from heaven," and maybe even the "7 Thunders." These who were speaking **now** say to John that He **now** must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.³⁰

Having absorbed the scroll into his being, John is ready to continue to unveil the events of the **End Times**, beginning with the events surrounding the blowing of the 7th Trumpet. Remember, there will be no more delay, **the time is up**, and **the time is now!**

³⁰ "said" and "must" are both rendered in the *present active indicative*