

Revelation 10 – Small Book, BIG Message

As in the case of the seals, there is an interlude between the sixth and the seventh trumpets. In both cases the effect is to set off the seventh as particularly important. We are all cued up for the climax... but it doesn't yet come. Instead we experience interludes that are not so much pauses in the actual sequence of events as they are pregnant pauses in which the church is given instructions on her task in these troubled times. The first pause highlights the important of *prayer* and the second *proclamation*.

Warm Up Question(s) – Choose one

- Who was (or is) your favourite superhero? Where was his or her unique super power(s)?
- What is an experience you once savored for a moment, but that later turned sour?

Discovering the Word

- 1) **Read Revelation 10.** Where is the angel coming from (v.1) and to (v.2)? What were the distinguishing features of this angel and how do they compare or contrast with popular views of angels?
- 2) How do the seven thunders compare or contrast with the seven seals and/or seven trumpets?
- 3) How does this great angel refer to God (v.6)? What is the significance of these particular attributes of God, especially compared to the gods some worship (9²⁰)?
- 4) Thunder may be associated with divine communication (Jn. 12²⁸⁻²⁹; Rev. 6¹) or divine retribution (8⁵; 16¹⁸). Why, in contrast to the rest of the revelation (1¹⁹; 22¹⁰) do you think John was told to seal up what he heard in the seven thunders?¹
- 5) What is “the mystery of God” that was “announced to his servants the prophets” (cf. Amos 3⁷; Eph. 1⁹⁻¹⁰; 3¹⁻⁵) and will be accomplished with the final trumpet (spoiler alert!...Rev. 11¹⁵)?
- 6) What roles is John given in this unfolding drama (vv.8-9)? Instead of a sweet and sour roll, John is given a sweet and sour scroll to eat. What is the significance of the “sweet” and the “sour” (cf. Ps. 119¹⁰³; Jer. 15¹⁶; Ezk. 3¹⁻³)?
- 7) Who is message of the small scroll directed toward (v.11)?
- 8) Share an opportunity you had to share a message (big or small) from the scroll of God's word. Was there anything sweet or sour about it?

¹ In other words, why does John bother to tell us there are things kept or hidden from us? Perhaps to keep us from thinking we are “know it alls”? Perhaps there are some things we might be better off not knowing?