

Things to Come

#15 The Second Interlude

(Rev. 10:1-11:14)

I. Introduction

There are three interludes in the book of Revelation:

- A. Between the 6th and 7th Seals: Rev. 7:1-17
- B. Between the 6th and 7th Trumpets: Rev. 10:1-11:14
- C. Between the 6th and 7th bowls: Rev. 16:15

II. The Little Book (10:1-11)

A. The Strong Angel

1. This is a strong or mighty angel similar to those who were blowing the trumpets. This could be the "great prince" of Dan. 12.
2. It is not Christ. He is not "another" like the previously mentioned angels. The angel does not get a title like Christ does throughout the book of Revelation. Christ would not swear by himself (vs. 6) He is the creator. (See Col. 1:16)
3. He is clothed with a cloud (symbol of his power as he brings judgment).
4. He had a rainbow above his head (symbol of God's mercy)
5. His face is like the sun (he is brilliant) and his legs like pillars of fire (representing the fierceness of the coming judgment (see Mal. 4:1)
6. He puts one foot on the sea and one on the land demonstrating God's ability to judge everything on earth.
7. His voice sounds like a lion roaring. See Hosea 11:10 and Amos 3:8
8. Note that John was not allowed to write about what the seven thunders had to say. Daniel wasn't allowed to write about some elements of his visions (see Dan. 8:26, 12:9. Paul was held back from telling all about what he saw in Paradise (II Cor. 12:4)
9. The angel takes a solemn vow (Deut. 32:40) indicating that the wait was over. The time for judgment is at hand.
10. The mystery of God...see Rom. 16:25-26

B. The little book

1. John is obedient and eats the book (like Ezekiel did in chapter 3)

2. It was sweet (welcomed news that judgments is about to rain down on the earth). It was bitter (a terrible fate awaits those who reject Christ).
3. John is commissioned again to continue writing the rest of the prophecies.
4. Note that this time, he will include messages about "kings" (Instead of tribes) who play a major part in Rev. 17.

III. The Two Witnesses (11:1-14)

A. "Go measure the temple"

Although some believe that this "temple" is referring to the NT church, I believe this will be the 4th of 5 temples mentioned in scripture.

There are 5 temples mentioned in scripture:

1. Solomon's temple (950 B.C.) I Kings 5-8
 2. Zerubbabel's temple (515 B.C.) Ezra 6:13-15
Desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes in 169 B.C.
 3. Herod's temple (20-19 B. C.) John 2:20
 4. The coming tribulation temple
This will be built during the first three years of the tribulation.
Temple worship is restored for a time. Satan will mimic Antiochus Epiphanes and desecrate it. See Matt. 24:15 and Dan. 9:27.
 5. The millennium temple: Ezek. 40-48
John used a measuring rod: a reed that grows in the Jordan Valley. They can get to be 15-20 ft. long.
The purpose of measuring the temple (the inner portion that makes up the holy place and holy of holies) was to signify ownership. God has a special plan for Israel and her temple.
- B. The altar is likely the brazen alter just outside the Holy Place.
- C. John was not to measure the outside court area. (The Court of the Gentiles). That area will be trampled on for 42 months (3 ½ years) by Satan and his forces.
- D. The Two Witnesses (11:1-14)
1. They will prophecy for 1260 days (3 ½ years)-the last half of the tribulation.
 2. They are clothed in sackcloth: a heavy cloth used to signify mourning and distress.
 3. Who are they?

The olive branches of Zech. 4:1-14: The early fulfillment was Joshua and Zerubbabel who lead spiritual revival after the Jews returned to Jerusalem. This later fulfillment may be Moses and Elijah. Their power was similar to Moses and Elijah. Both appeared at the Transfiguration. Both left the earth in an unusual ways.

4. They had amazing power with which to capture the attention of the world. Fire flows out of their mouths, they shut off rain to the earth and strike the earth with plagues.
- E. Their death is at the hands of the Beast.
- There are 36 references to the Beast in the book of Revelation.
- He comes up out of the Abyss (Hades/Hell).
- He is part of the Satanic Triumvirate (The Antichrist, the Beast and the Dragon)
1. Their bodies are left to rot in Jerusalem. All of the world will be able to see them.
 2. They resurrect after 3 ½ days: "Come up here."
 3. The earth will shake and 7000 prominent people will die.
 4. "The rest" (people in Jerusalem) "give glory to God." These are likely Jews who repent and come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
 5. This ends the "second woe."

IV. So What?

Go eat this book! (Eze. 3:1)