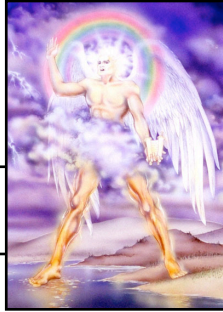


Why You Need to Consume God's Word

The Angel and the Small Scroll



"10 So I took the small scroll from the hand of the angel, and I ate it! It was sweet in my mouth, but when I swallowed it, it turned sour in my stomach." Revelation 10:10 NLT

- How would you describe your appetite for the Bible? Do you read it, study it, listen to it being taught?

Revelation chapters 10-14 describe **the middle** of the seven-year tribulation period. This is evident by John's repeated reference to 3^{1/2} years in one form or another (1260 days, or 42 months, or "a time, times, and half a time." See Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5). The middle of the tribulation is the turning point for the worst to come. It describes events just before the 7th trumpet is sounded and the seven bowl judgments are poured out on the earth (see 11:15-19; chapter 15-16). However, regardless of the bad world conditions, God provides a strong vocal, and visible witness of the Gospel.

Chapter 10 begins with "another mighty angel" that has a "small scroll" in his hand (10:2). This should not be confused with the seven-seal scroll mentioned in chapter 5. Nothing is mentioned about the information written on the scroll, but based on how it is described in this passage, it seems that it represents **the Word of God - the message of salvation and the message of judgment** for those who reject God's love and grace. It was both **sweet** and **sour**, that is, good news and bad news, salvation or judgment (10:9; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Central Lesson:
Receiving God's Word into our inner being will transform us.

1. The **APPEARANCE** of the Mighty Angel (10:1-4).

If we receive God's Word into our inner being - we will have INSIGHT into God's secrets about life and the future.

"1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven... 2 And in his hand was a small scroll that had been opened... 4 When the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. But I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Keep secret what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down."

Interestingly, when the mighty angel shouted, the voices of seven thunders spoke and communicated something that John was told not to write down (10:3-4). *The Life Application Bible* (NLT, p.2053):

"Throughout history people have wanted to know what would happen in the future, and God reveals some of it in this book. But John was stopped from revealing certain parts of his vision. An angel also told the prophet Daniel that some visions he saw were not to be revealed yet to everyone (Daniel 12:9), and Jesus told his disciples that the time of the end is known by no one but God (Mark 13:32,33). God has revealed all we need to know to live for him now. In our desire to be ready for the end, we must not place more emphasis on speculation about the last days than on living for God while we wait."

2. The **ANNOUNCEMENT** of the Mighty Angel (10:5-7).

If we receive God's Word into our inner being - we will better UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN for our lives.

"5 Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand toward heaven. 6 ...He said, 'There will be no more delay. 7 When the seventh angel blows his trumpet, God's mysterious plan will be fulfilled. It will happen just as he announced it to his servants the prophets.'"

The angel announces, "There will be no more delay!" (10:6). **God's full redemption and reclaiming the world from sin, Satan, and death is to be finalized.** The souls under the altar in chapter 6:10-11 were asking "how long?" and the answer is given, "There will be no more delay!" (10:6). The Apostle Peter wrote that Scoffers ask, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?" That is, why hasn't God done something? (2 Peter 3:3-4). **God's present delay is the sinner's opportunity to repent and receive the gift of salvation** (2 Peter 3:9). But in Revelation 10, the answer to the Scoffer's question is, "There will be no more delay!" (10:6). The seventh angel is about to blow his trumpet and release the seven final bowl judgments that complete redemption and God's reclaiming of the universe (see 11:15-19).

3. The Assimilation of the Little **SCROLL** - God's Word (10:8-11).

If we receive God's Word into our inner being - it will CHANGE us and CALL us to share it with the world.

"8 Then the voice from heaven spoke to me again: 'Go and take the open scroll from the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.'

9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the small scroll. 'Yes, take it and eat it,' he said. 'It will be sweet as honey in your mouth, but it will turn sour in your stomach!' 10 So I took the small scroll from the hand of the angel, and I ate it! It was sweet in my mouth, but when I swallowed it, it turned sour in my stomach. 11 Then I was told, 'You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.'"

John hears a voice from heaven that commands him to take the little scroll from the mighty angel and eat it. The scroll would taste sweet but turn sour in his stomach (10:9). John did as he was commanded (10:10). Following this, John was **re-commissioned** to prophesy, that is, preach God's message (10:11). Bible teacher, Warren W. Wiersbe, explains:

"The directions that the angel gave John (Rev. 10⁸⁻¹¹) should remind us of our responsibility to assimilate the Word of God and make it a part of the inner man. It was not enough for John to see the book or even know its contents and purpose. He had to receive it into his inner being. God's Word is compared to food: bread (Matt. 4:4), milk (1 Peter 2:2), meat (1 Cor. 3:1-2), and honey (Ps. 119:103). The prophets Jeremiah (Jer. 15:16) and Ezekiel (Ezek. 2:9-3:4) knew what it was to 'eat' the Word before they could share it with others." (*The Wiersbe Bible Commentary*, p.1061). "The Word of God is our food...we must take it in and assimilate it before it can do us any good. It is good to read the Bible and study it; but we also need to memorize the Word and digest it inwardly through the power of the Spirit." (*Wiersbe* p. 826).

Conclusion:

Receiving God's Word into our inner being will transform us.

Action Steps: ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.