



**Title: The Bitter-Sweet Book**

**Date: January 22, 2023**

**Scripture Text: Revelation 10**

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Today we get back into our study of the book of Revelation, picking up in chapter 10. Up to this point, we've looked at prior events as described in chapter 1, the events of the church age in chapters 2-3 (the letters to the seven churches) and a worship service in heaven in chapters 4-5. In chapter 6, the Tribulation begins with the breaking of the seven seals. Upon the seventh seal being broken, we see the blowing of the first six of seven trumpets in chapters 8-9. Chapter 10 is a pause before the seventh trumpet is blown. The writer of the book, the Apostle John, shares his vision of a Messenger, delivering to him a bitter-sweet book.

### **I. The Person of Christ (Rev. 10:1-2a)**

There are multiple opinions by biblical scholars on who this Messenger/Angel is. We are taking the view that this is another vision of the revelation of Jesus Christ. Jesus, in His glorified state is described as strong, clothed in a cloud ([Ps. 104:3](#) describes clouds as God's chariot), wearing a rainbow ([Rev. 4:3](#), rainbow round the throne), His face was like the sun ([Rev. 1:16](#)), and his legs like pillars of fire (a pillar of fire was the symbol of God's presence with His people in the wilderness, [Ex. 13:21-22](#)).

- How do the elements listed help us understand the person of Jesus Christ?
- In the midst of the tribulation John was witnessing, how do you think he felt seeing Christ descend from heaven in this way?
- Similarly, has there been a time when you were in a stressful season (health, work, family, etc.) and your relationship with Christ brought you comfort?
- How can having a better understanding of the person of Christ help you find comfort in Him?

### **II. The Power of Christ (Rev. 10:2)**

In this verse John describes the massive size of Christ, large enough to place one foot on the land and another on the sea. By doing so, He signifies His dominion over both. [Colossians 1:16](#) tells us that "by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him."

**Morningside Church**

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- How would you describe the power of Jesus Christ?
  - What are examples in the Bible of His power?
- As the Creator of all things, ([Col. 1:16](#)), how does that also give Him authority over all things?
- Look back at [Rev. 9:20-21](#), which describes those who are still remaining after the six trumpets. They are defiant and continue in their sin. Why is it that people today, even though it may bring about trouble and misery, continue in their sin and reject Christ?
- What are steps you can do to quickly confess and repent of your sin when convicted by the Holy Spirit?

### III. The Proclamation of Christ ([Rev. 10:3-11](#))

John is instructed to consume the book which Christ has been holding. It is sweet to the taste, but bitter to digest. Even so, John was instructed after consuming this book (God's word), to proclaim it to "many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings".

- John was instructed to consume (eat) the book, God's word. How can we consume God's word today?
- As with food we consume to nourish our physical bodies, how is God's word nourishment for our spiritual bodies?
- When might be circumstances when consuming God's word that would make it sweet? Bitter?
- How can you do a better job of feeding on the word of God, to depend on it for spiritual nourishment and to equip you to live a victorious life for Christ?

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