

The Book Of Revelation

Study 49

As we come back to our study in Revelation we are reminded that we are looking at a period of time when there is a moment of interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet blasts.

As we look at the interlude we find five unusual features:

- ~~1. An unusual angel~~
2. An unusual act
3. An unusual answer
4. An unusual announcement
5. An unusual assignment

Since we have already taken time to study the unusual angel we will go to the next of the five features;

AN UNUSUAL ACT

Rev 10:2b-3

And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

³ and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

That this angel put one **foot on the sea** and the other **on the land** shows his massive size from the perspective of John's vision.

Since no limitation is given in describing the **sea** and **land**, this action of the angel demonstrates God's sovereign authority to judge the entire earth, (7:2; Ex 20:4, 11; Ps 69:34), which He will soon take back from the usurper, Satan.

Paul wrote:

1Cor 10:26

²⁶ for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness.

The angel's act also symbolically anticipates the coming judgments of the seventh trumpet and the seven bowls on the whole earth.

In keeping with his huge size, the angel **cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars**. His loud cry reflects the power, majesty, and authority of God.

The Old Testament prophets also connect a loud, lion like roaring voice with judgment.

Jer 25:30

³⁰ "Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth.

Hosea wrote that *"the lord will roar like a lion; indeed He will roar"* (Hosea 11:10)

While in Joel's prophecy *"the Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble"* Joel 3:16

Amos also depicts a loud judgment cry (*Amos 1:2; 3:8*)

This does not mean that the voice of the angel was incoherent yelling. Rather, he was speaking clearly but with great volume to capture attention and cause fear.

What the angel said is recorded so we can know;

Rev 10:6

⁵ The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

After the angel **cried out** an amazing thing happened **the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices**. Seven speaks of completeness, finality, and perfection.

Thunder is often in scripture the harbinger of judgment.

The **thunder** was separate from the angel's voice and may have represented the voice of God. The text does not say what the **thunder** said, but hearing it certainly would have added to the terror of the scene of judgment

We remember from chapter 8

Rev 8:5

⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Rev 11:19

¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Rev 16:18

¹⁸ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Not only was there an unusual act but also:

AN UNUSUAL ANSWER

Rev 10:4

⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

The **seven peals of thunder** did not merely make a loud noise, but communicated information that John **was about to write**.

In obedience to God's commands, John had already written much of what he saw in his visions.

In Chapter 1 John relates that he "was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "write in a book what you see, and sent it to the seven churches:

Later in that chapter the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ commanded John, *“write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things” (1:19)*

John was also specifically commanded to write each of the letters to the seven churches
(2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14)

And later again in Revelation, John would once again be commanded to write what he saw in his visions
(14:13; 19:9; 21:5)

But before John could record the message of the seven peals of thunder he **heard a voice from heaven;**

Rev 10:4

⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

Whether the voice was that of the Father, Jesus Christ, or an angel is not revealed.
The command however, clearly originated with God, the very One who had commanded John to write in the first place.

The reason John was forbidden to write down the message of the seven peals of thunder is not revealed. It may be that the judgment they uttered is simply too terrifying to be revealed.

Any speculation as to the specific content of their message is pointless; had God wanted it to be known, He would not have forbidden John to write it.

If you will remember Daniel was also forbidden to record certain elements of his visions.

Dan 8:26

²⁶ "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future."

Later he was told:

Dan 12:9

⁹ And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

Also the Apostle Paul;

2 Cor 12:4

⁴ how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

There are some truths that God has chosen not to reveal:

Duet 29:29

²⁹ The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Job said:

Job 37:5

⁵ God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend.

The words of the seven peals of thunder fall into that category. They are the only words in the book of Revelation that are sealed.

AN UNUSUAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev 10:5-7

⁵ The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

⁷ but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

In a solemn act, **the angel whom John saw standing on the sea and on the land (v2) lifted up his right hand** (the little book was in his left hand (v2) **to heaven** (where God dwells), the standard gesture for taking a solemn vow (*Duet 32:40; Dan 12:7*).

To take such a vow is to affirm before God that one is going to speak the truth.

That vow indicated that what the angel was about to say was of the utmost importance and truthfulness.

The angel took his vow in the name of **Him who lives 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 designation of God stresses His eternity (as in *1:18; 4:9,10; 15:7*) and His sovereign power in and over every single thing in His creation.

It identifies God as the ultimate cause of all that is.

Listen to Paul and Barnabas' words:

Acts 14:15

"Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,

To the pagan Greek Philosophers on Mars Hill in Athens Paul declared:

Acts 17:22-26

"Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;

²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

In both instances, Paul identified God to pagan Gentiles as the source and first cause of the created universe.

He thus answered the most compelling question in the human through the ages. The question of origin.

The only reason that man keeps on asking the question and seeking a different answer is because they do not want to accept God as their creator and they do not want in their pride to be accountable to Him.

But the question has been answered.

And this identification of God as Creator echoes the praise song of the twenty-four elders recorded in chapter 4:11

Rev 4:11

11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Now let's note that God's purpose for His creation will be fulfilled through judgment, renovation, destruction, and recreation.

The specific content of the angel's oath was **that there will be delay no longer**, answering the question of the martyrs,

Rev 6:10

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

And the prayers of the Saints

Rev 8:3-5

3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Now note the phrase, **but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound** indicates that the judgment of the seventh trumpet is about to come and that it is not a single event, but covers **days, indicating a period of time.**

This period includes the seven bowl judgments;

Rev 16:1-21

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

- 3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.*
- 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.*
- 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.*
- 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."*
- 7 And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."*
- 8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.*
- 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.*
- 10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.*
- 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*
- 12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.*
- 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*
- 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*
- 15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."*
- 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*
- 17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"*
- 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.*
- 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.*
- 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*
- 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.*

These judgments would appear to take up several weeks or months to unfold.

So the sounding of the seventh trumpet brings the final judgment depicted in the bowls of fury poured out on the earth.

The time of God's patience is seen as having ended; the time for the final acts of judgment is seen as being at hand.

We will take this up again in our next study.