



# JESUS CHRIST: THE ONE AND ONLY

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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# Jesus Christ: the One and Only

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Revelation 10

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2347

Since the beginning, and even until the End Times, all the world will have to answer: “Who is Jesus Christ?”

We believe He’s more than a man. He’s more than a prophet, more than a philosopher or a teacher or an example. Who is Jesus Christ? He is the Mighty God.

We find Him in Revelation 10. We look up, and see Jesus Christ descending on the clouds, back to the earth in which the demons of hell have dominion—but not for long.

Jesus comes in glory, with grace, and radiant power. He stands, holy, in the very center of it all. He holds the “little book” (the Word of God) containing the seven seals we have watched open in the first 9 chapters of Revelation, and we find He is the one to break them.

Jesus Christ is coming to judge the earth and to take His purchased possession that was His all along. It is His by creation, it is His by the cross on Calvary. It is His by conquest. It all belongs to Him. The rightful heir has come to take it back.

With Him will come an end to time—and the mystery of God will be finished and delay will be no more. Sin has been on a rampage, righteousness seems to have suffered. But it’s now coming to a conclusion.

Every knee will bow to Him and every tongue will confess to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus, the One and Only.

## LIFE APPLICATION

Our hope today is the Word of God. We saw in Revelation 10, it was in Jesus’s hands. It is the only thing that matters in our mission in life. We must harness how to appropriate it properly.

In this passage alone, we’ve seen His majesty, His mastery, and His mystery. Now we need to understand and carry with us His ministry.

We as Christians have a job to do. Ask God to give you a burden for those who don’t know Him personally? Pray that you might absorb the Word of God with your whole heart and scatter it wherever you go. Jesus the One and Only...He is the only hope of this world.



# Jesus Christ: the One and Only

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## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Who is Jesus Christ?
  - i) He is more than a great man.
  - ii) He is more than a prophet.
  - iii) He is more than a philosopher or teacher.
  - iv) Jesus Christ is the mighty God.
- b) We find Jesus Christ in Revelation 10.
- c) The time period described in Revelation 10 is the Great Tribulation.
  - i) Matthew 24:21
    - (1) This will be a time of trouble like no other upon the Earth.
    - ii) It will be a period of seven years.
      - (1) The last three-and-one-half years will be the most severe of the Great Tribulation.
    - iii) It will begin with the rapture of the church.
  - d) In the book of the Revelation, the Great Tribulation is delineated by the opening of a scroll, or a book with seven seals.
    - i) One by one, as the seals are broken, the horrors of the tribulation are revealed.
      - (1) Matthew 6:12
    - ii) The opening of the seventh seal is accompanied by seven trumpets.
      - (1) The horrors of the Great Tribulation intensify.
      - (2) After the blowing of the sixth trumpet, God gives us a parenthetical chapter while we wait for the seventh trumpet to blow.
        - (a) We are always reminded of God's grace and power.
        - (b) Revelation 10 is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - e) Revelation 10:1
    - i) The mighty angel depicted in this passage is the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - (1) In the Old Testament, Jesus is called an angel.
        - (a) Genesis 22:15
        - (b) Isaiah 63:9
          - (i) These Old Testament appearances of Christ as the Angel of the Lord are called theophanies.
  - f) There are four things we learn about the Lord Jesus in Revelation 10.

## 2) THE MAJESTY OF HIS PERSON (Revelation 10:1)

- a) The cloud referenced in Revelation 10:1 describes the glory cloud, the Shekinah glory of God.
  - i) The cloud is the garment of divine presence.
    - (1) Revelation 1:7
      - (a) This is not referring to the cumulus clouds in the sky but the Shekinah glory of



God.

- (i) When God led the children of Israel through the wilderness, He did so with a glory cloud.
  - 1. If we are in a wilderness, God will give us a glory cloud and lead us through.
- (ii) Matthew 17:5
  - 1. Worship is not a place; it is a person, who is Jesus Christ.

- ii) The rainbow speaks of our covenant-keeping Savior.
  - (1) God hung a rainbow in the sky after the flood to remind us of His covenant and grace.
- iii) The sun is a symbol of strength.
  - (1) Revelation 1:16
  - (2) Just as the planets orbit around the sun, the Lord Jesus Christ is to be the center of our lives.
    - (a) Things will fall into place when Jesus is the focus of our lives.
  - (3) Jesus holds everything together by His strength.
- iv) We see His holiness in the passage describing His feet like pillars of fire.
  - (1) Revelation 1:15
    - (a) His feet here are described as brass burning with fire.
  - (2) This is a picture of the Lord Jesus going forth in holiness to judge.
    - (a) Fire consumes, cleanses and spreads.
- b) We need to learn how to totally worship the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - i) Worship is all that I am responding to all that He is.
- c) As we study the book of the Revelation, we need to see the Lord Jesus Christ, not just facts and figures.
  - i) The book of the Revelation is an unveiling of Jesus Christ.
  - ii) Revelation does not talk about what is going to happen but who is going to come.

### 3) THE MASTERY OF HIS POWER (Revelation 10:2)

- a) The book spoken of in this passage is the same book we see in Revelation 5:6-10.
  - i) This book is the title deed of the universe.
- b) The breaking of the seals of this book and the opening of this book show how Jesus Christ is coming to judge the Earth and to take His purchased possession, the church.
  - i) It is His by creation.
  - ii) It is His by Calvary.
  - iii) It is His by conquest.
- c) In Bible times when a conqueror took land or a piece of property that had a shoreline, he would stand on the shore and place one foot in the water and another foot on the land and raise his hand in victory as a symbol that he had prevailed.
  - i) This land had been conquered and subdued.
    - (1) Joshua 1:3
  - ii) Every drop of water and every grain of sand belongs to Jesus.
    - (1) The world was made by Him and for Him and is coming to Him.
- d) Colossians 1:16



- i) If His majesty causes my total worship, then His mastery should cause my total surrender.
  - (1) Romans 14:11
  - (2) Jesus Christ is worthy of our total confidence.
  
- 4) THE MYSTERY OF HIS PLANS (Revelation 10:3-7)
  - a) The seals have been opened, and the seventh trumpet is about to sound.
  - b) John discovers that in the last trumpet are seven thunders.
    - i) There comes to him a message.
      - (1) It is a startling message.
        - (a) Revelation 10:3
          - (i) The one who cries with a loud voice in this passage is the angel of God's presence, the Lord Jesus Christ.
          - (ii) The word "angel" literally means "messenger."
            - 1. It depicts someone who speaks for God.
          - (iii) Jesus is not only the Lamb of God, but He is also the Sovereign King, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
          - (iv) Revelation 5:5
          - (v) Joel 3:16
            - 1. When Jesus was crucified, He opened not His mouth. There is coming a day when the Lion will roar.
        - (2) It is a sealed message.
          - (a) Revelation 10:3-4
            - (i) Thunder means that a storm is coming.
            - (ii) Seven thunders have been sealed up, and God tells John not to write what he has seen.
              - 1. In the ways and mysteries of God, some things are too wonderful for explanations, and some things are too terrible for description.
              - 2. There are some things that we will not understand until they come to pass.
            - (iii) Daniel 12:8-9
              - 1. There are certain things about prophecy that we will never know until they come to pass.
            - (iv) God's ways, thoughts and plans are above us and beyond us.
            - (v) We do not live by explanations but by promises.
        - (3) It is a sure message.
          - (a) Revelation 10:5-6
            - (i) God the Son swears by Himself that time should be no more.
              - 1. He swears by Himself for there is none greater.
            - (ii) Hebrews 6:13
            - (iii) God stands on His Word.
        - (4) It is a solemn message.
          - (a) We do not understand the sealed part of the message.
          - (b) We do, though, understand what He declared: that time shall be no longer.



- (c) This does not mean that history will cease.
  - (d) The word for “time” may be translated “delay.”
    - (i) When the seventh and last trumpet judgment sounds, then the mystery of God will be finished.
  - (e) One day, sin’s clock will be stopped, and the mystery of God will be finished and delay will be no more.
  - c) Sin has been on a rampage, and righteousness seems to have suffered; but it is coming to a conclusion.
    - i) God has given each of us time for repentance.
      - (1) Do not think that you have time before the rapture; the rapture may occur at any moment.
      - (2) Do not think that even after the rapture you will continue to have time to repent.
  - d) The Lord Jesus is worthy of our total confidence and has everything under control.
- 5) THE MINISTRY OF HIS PEOPLE (Revelation 10:8-10)
- a) The word for “book” in this Scripture means “little book;” it is the word from which we get our word “Bible.”
    - i) This book is the title deed to all creation, and it belongs to the Lord Jesus.
    - ii) It represents the Word of God.
      - (1) And it is in the nail-pierced hand of God’s mighty messenger angel, the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - b) We, as believers, are God’s people.
    - i) John represents us.
      - (1) The Lord tells John to take the book from His hand, to eat it, and to go and tell it.
      - (2) Revelation 10:11
  - c) We are to appropriate the Word of God.
  - d) We are to assimilate the Word of God.
    - i) It is not enough to simply read the recipe book; we must cook, eat and digest the meal.
      - (1) We must feed upon God’s Word.
    - ii) Revelation 10:9
    - iii) Matthew 4:4
    - iv) Job 23:12
    - v) When we assimilate the Word, it will be both bitter and sweet.
      - (1) God is a God of righteousness, justice and judgment.
      - (2) Heaven and Hell, death and life, salvation and condemnation, bitterness and sweetness are all in the Bible.
      - (3) To preach one part of the Bible without preaching the other part is dishonest.
        - (a) To preach the love of God without the wrath of God is dishonest.
        - (b) To preach the wrath of God without the love of God is dishonest.
        - (c) If we take part of the truth and make part of the truth all of the truth, then that part of the truth becomes an untruth.
  - e) We are to disseminate the Word of God.



- i) We are to share the Word of God with others.
- ii) If we have no desire to give away the faith we claim we have, then we probably need to give it up.
  - (1) That faith is not the real thing.
- iii) There is power in the Word of God.
  - (1) If we believe all the truths that are in the Bible, then we will share it with others.
  - (2) We cannot be sinfully silent when there are those around us without the hope of Christ.

## 6) CONCLUSION

- a) We have never appropriated the Word of God if we have never assimilated it.
- b) As His people, we have a job to do; we have a calling.
  - i) We don't simply go to church on Sunday to hear a sermon and think that is our service to God.
  - ii) We must disseminate the Word of God to others.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16





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Now take God's Word, the book of the Revelation, and find chapter 10. The title of our study today is, "Jesus the One and Only." Who is Jesus Christ? Well, He's more than a man. He's more than a great man. The Islamic faith calls Him a prophet but He's more than a prophet. The liberal looks upon Him as a philosopher, or a teacher, or an example. Who is Jesus Christ? He is the Mighty God. That's who Jesus Christ is. And I would say today that the rich man is poor, the mighty man is weak, and the educated man is a fool, if he does not know who Jesus Christ is. No one can claim to be truly educated who is ignorant of Jesus Christ. We're going to find Jesus Christ here in this tenth chapter of the book of the Revelation.

Now we are studying that portion of time in the book of the Revelation called the Great Tribulation. Jesus said, in Matthew chapter 24 verse 21, there's coming a time of trouble like there's never been here upon the earth. And Jesus says that there never will be another time like it. It is called the Great Tribulation. It is a period of about seven years. It will begin after the rapture of the church. I believe, and we're going to have a whole lesson on this soon; that the church will be taken out at the rapture. "When the trumpet shall sound, the dead in Christ shall rise first. We which remain and are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord." You can find that in First Thessalonians 4 verses 16 and 17.

But history will not come to a conclusion at that time. History will still be going on on planet Earth. And planet Earth will enter into a period of time, basically seven years, known as the Great Tribulation. Literally, the last three and a half years are the Great Tribulation out of that tribulation.

Now it's delineated, and I don't want to get too complicated here but I'm just trying to recapitulate and set the stage. It is delineated by the opening of a scroll or a seven-sealed book. And one-by-one as the seals are broken and the scroll is unrolled, the horrors of the tribulation come before us. And we've seen the opening of these seven seals and delineated right here, the opening of the seventh seal. Now when we come down to the opening of the last of these seven seals that seal breaks out into seven trumpets. And the trumpets sound and the horrors intensify. And so we've been studying the sounding of the seven trumpets. And we came right down to the last of these trumpets but the seventh trumpet has not yet sounded. And we come to a parenthetical passage.

You know what a parenthesis is. A little boy was walking down the street. And he lived in a cowboy town. And cowboys, you know, are bow-legged. And a little boy looked at some bow-legged cowboys, and he said, "Dad look at them bow-legged men." His dad said, "Now that is not good English, son. I'm going to send you to finishing school." The boy went off to finishing school and came back. And the dad and the boy were walking down the street. And the little boy said, "Behold, what manner of men are these who wear their knees in parentheses." Now, a parenthesis, it's something that goes on either side of a statement. What we have here is a parenthetical chapter. After the blowing of the sixth trumpet, we're waiting for the seventh trumpet to blow. And God, in



mercy, gives us this beautiful parenthesis. We are reminded of the grace and the power of God. And what we find here in the tenth chapter of the book of the Revelation is a glorious picture of our Lord and Savior, the Mighty God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so, let's look, if we will, here in Revelation chapter 10 verse 1. John says, "And I saw another mighty angel come down from Heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon His head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of fire." Question: Who is this mighty angel? I believe this angel is the Lord Jesus Christ. You say, "Pastor, I didn't know that Jesus is delineated and described in the Bible as an angel." Yes, remember that the New Testament had not been written when John is here on the Isle of Patmos; at least it had not been compiled and given to us. It was being written. But John had the Old Testament. And in the Old Testament, Jesus is called an angel.

For example, in Genesis chapter 22 and verse 15, "And the Angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of Heaven the second time." Now that was Jesus. He's called here the Angel of the Lord. Or again, in Isaiah 63 and verse 9, "In all their affliction," that is the affliction of God's people, He Himself, God was afflicted, "And the Angel of His presence saved them." Now Jesus is called the Angel of Jehovah's presence. We call these Old Testament appearances of Christ as the Angel of the Lord, theophanies. And so, here John, in the book of the Revelation, sees Jesus. I believe it is Jesus, and I think you will agree as we study His description here in this tenth chapter.

And there are four things I want you to learn about our Savior, Jesus the One and Only. Are you ready for them? All right; first of all, I want you to see what I'm gonna call the majesty of His Person, the majesty of His Person. Look again in Revelation 10 verse 1, "And I saw another mighty angel come down from Heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon His head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of fire." I suggest to you that describes the same Jesus that we saw in chapter 1. See His glory. He's clothed with a cloud. Now what cloud is he talking about? The glory cloud; the Shekinah glory of God. The cloud is the garment of divine presence. Revelation chapter 1 verse 7, put it in your margin. Speaking of the second coming of Jesus, it says, "Behold He cometh with clouds." Now that's not talking about the cirrus clouds or the cumulus clouds that are in the sky. It is talking about the glory clouds. Round about Him is the Shekinah glory of God.

When God led Israel through the wilderness, when they were coming out of Egypt into the Promised Land, He led them with a glory cloud; a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by the daytime. That cloud and that fire is the Shekinah glory of God. And by the way are you in the wilderness? God's not gonna give you a road map. God will give you a glory cloud. Just keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. My Lord knows the way through the wilderness. God led them with a cloud.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was on the Mount of Transfiguration, and Peter wanted to build a tabernacle up there because he saw Jesus in all of His glory. The Bible says, in Matthew chapter 17 verse 5, a cloud came and just encircled them and engulfed them and a voice from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, hear Him."

What was the lesson there about the glory cloud? Worship is not a place; it's a person. Jesus Christ. And friend you can worship Jesus Christ anywhere. Can you not? And so the cloud here



speaks of His glory. See His glory is clothed with a cloud.

And then see His grace. Look again at Revelation 10, “A rainbow is upon His head.” What does a rainbow speak of in verse 1? It speaks of our covenant-keeping Savior. God hung a rainbow in the sky after the flood to remind people of His covenant, of His grace. Thank God that we have a God who will never, no never break His Word. Can you imagine how Noah must have felt when he got out of that ark and looked at the ruin and the slime of a creation that had been utterly destroyed? And then he looks up there and sees how God has hung a rainbow like a scarf on the shoulders of the storm. And there is that glorious rainbow in red, and orange, and yellow, and green, and blue, and indigo, and violet. There it is in the sky and God says, “This is a symbol of My promise, My covenant with you. This is My peace after the storm.” And so you see His glory, the cloud. You see His grace, the rainbow.

You see His strength. Look again in verse 1. The Bible says, “And His face was as it were the sun.” Now, in the book of the Revelation, the sun is a symbol of strength. Revelation 1:16, “And He laid His, He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in its strength.” Think of the incredible power in the very face of the sun that hangs in our solar system. Well, friend, that speaks of the radiant power the strength of our great God. Here He is with the Shekinah glory enveloping Him. Here He is crowned with a rainbow, which speaks of His covenant. And here His face is radiant in its strength. And that speaks of the strength of our dear Savior.

For years men used to think that the earth was the center of our solar system. And so the astronomers would figure. They would do their math. They would do their observations. And nothing ever seemed to come together. Then there was a man named Copernicus. Copernicus studied and thought. And he came to the truth that the earth is not the center of our solar system; and the sun does not revolve around the earth; that the earth and the other planets are in orbit around the sun. And when Copernicus came up with this wonderful truth, then everything fell in place when the sun, S-U-N was the center. Well, friend, it’s gonna be the same way in your life; when you make the Son of Righteousness, the Lord Jesus Christ, the center of your life. Things that have never fallen into place are going to fall in to place. Jesus is the one who holds everything together by His strength.

And then look again in verse 1 and see His holiness, “His feet are like pillars of fire.” Now in chapter 1 verse 15, we see the Lord Jesus Christ. His feet are like brass as they burn with fire. The picture is this; our Lord Jesus Christ is going forth in holiness to judge. Fire consumes; fire cleanses; fire spreads. All of this is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. And I see the majesty of His Person in verse 1. Don’t we have a wonderful Savior?

Now friend, I want to tell you, as I studied this passage, and as I get into the book of the Revelation, I have just come to love and appreciate, adore and fear, in the right sense of the word, the Lord Jesus Christ. And I am convinced that what the church needs and what we individually need more and more of is to learn how to totally worship the Lord Jesus Christ. What is worship? Worship is all that I am responding to all that He is. Do you worship Him? I hope today, as you study the book of the Revelation, that you’ll not just get facts and figures but that you will see the Lord Jesus Christ. Revelation is an unveiling of Jesus Christ. Now we’re not talking about what’s going to happen, we’re



talking about who is going to come. That's what the book of the Revelation is about. And so number one, the majesty of His Person. That's verse 1. Got it? Say, got it.

Okay, good! Now, number two. Here's the second thing I want you to see in this chapter as we talk about Jesus the One and Only. Not only the majesty of His Person, verse 1, but the mastery of His power, the mastery of His power. Look now in Revelation 10 verse 2, look at it, "And He had in His hand a little book open." Now when it was first given to Him, it was sealed. But now He's opened the seals. "And He set His right foot upon the sea and His left foot upon the earth." Now we've already seen this little book. We saw it in chapter 5 verses 6 through 10. It is the title deed of the universe. And the breaking of these seals of this little book and the opening of this book show how Jesus Christ is coming to judge the earth and to take His purchased possession that is His. It is His by creation, it is His by Calvary, it is His by conquest. And He has broken the seals and we've seen all seven of these seals as they are opened.

And so, we see, now, this mighty Angel. This mighty Angel has one foot upon the land. He has the other foot upon the sea. And in His hand is the title deed and all of the seals have been broken. The entire scroll has been opened. What is this talking about? Friend, it is talking about the mastery of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Bible times, when a conqueror would come and take a land, and especially if it was a continent or a piece of property that had a sea shore, what he would do as a symbol that he had prevailed, would be to stand on the shore and put one foot in the water, another foot on the land, and raise his hand in victory. What it means is; that this has been conquered. It has been subdued. Just as God told Joshua in Joshua 1 verse 3, "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you." Friend, won't it be a day when Jesus puts His foot upon the land and upon the sea? What does it symbolize? It symbolizes every drop of water and every grain of sand belongs to Jesus Christ. It is all His. People are asking, "What the world's coming to?" it's coming to Jesus. It is coming to Jesus. It was all made by Him and for Him and it is coming to Him.

Put in your margin Colossians 1 verse 16, "For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: All things were created by Him and for Him."

Now, if His majesty causes my total worship. His mastery ought to cause my total surrender. I mean, He is Lord. Every knee should bow to Him and every tongue shall confess to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus, the One and Only.

All right, let's move. Now, we've seen the majesty of His Person. Here's the one clothed with the glory cloud, the rainbow. Here's the one whose feet are like burning brass. Here is the Lord Jesus Christ in all of His majesty. And then we've seen His mastery. He's got His foot upon the land and the sea. The book is opened. He has taken possession of this earth.

Now, let's move to the third thing and see the mystery of His plans, the mystery of His plans. Now beginning in Revelation verse 3 on through verse 7, "And He cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when He had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, 'Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not.' And the angel which I saw stand



upon the sea and upon the earth lifted His hand to Heaven, and swear by Him that liveth for ever and ever, who created Heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when He shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets." The mystery of God as He hath declared.

Now, I want you to understand how the book of the Revelation works. Out of the last of the seven seals comes seven trumpets. And when the seventh trumpet is to sound, out of the seventh trumpet, there comes seven thunders. And so here is John, he's seeing all of this. Now the seals have been opened. And now the trumpets have sounded. The last trumpet is about to sound, and he discovers that in the last trumpet there are seven thunders. And it's all very mysterious to him. There comes to him a message.

Now I want you to notice several things about this message. Number one: It is a startling message. Look again in verse 3, "And He cried with a loud voice." Who is this, with a loud voice? It's this mighty Angel. It is the Angel of God's presence. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. The word angel literally means messenger. Angelos means messenger. It doesn't depict someone with wings, but somebody who speaks for God, someone. "And He cried with a loud voice," that means He shouted, "As when a lion roareth: and when He had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices." Can you imagine Jesus speaking with a roar of a lion? Now, we see Jesus over here depicted as a sacrificial lamb. Jesus, in the book of the Revelation, is not only the Lamb of God; He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Put in your margin, Revelation chapter 5 verse 5, "And one of the elders saith unto me, 'Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book.'" Now He has opened the book. There is in His right hand the book; it is opened. The Lion has prevailed and now the Lion roars! A lion roars when he's about the pounce to petrify his prey. Joel chapter 3 and verse 16, "The Lord shall roar out of Zion." Now listen to me, when Jesus Christ was crucified, "As a lamb is dumb before its shearers, so He opened not His mouth." Isaiah 53:7. One of these days the Lion will roar. Jesus said, "This is your day; My day is not yet come."

Here is a startling message, the Lion roars. But not only is it a startling message, it's a sealed message. Look now in verse 3 and 4. "And He cried with a loud voice, as a lion roareth: and when He had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices." Now thunder means that it's about to storm. "And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, 'Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.'" That's very interesting. Seven thunders have been sealed up. John is sitting there about to write and God says, "Put your pen down. Don't write what you've seen." Now what does that tell me? It tells me, friend, that in the ways of God, the mysteries of God, some things are too wonderful for explanations and some things are too terrible for description. God said, "Just don't write it, just seal it up." Now it's amazing how many people will try to explain these seven thunders. They try to explain what is not supposed to be explained.

Will Rogers, the philosopher from Oklahoma, of another era, no relation to me, but I wish he were. Said, "People don't show their ignorance by not knowing so much as they do by knowing so



much that ain't so." And here some people try to explain what these seven thunders are. And God said "Just seal them up." There are some things you will not understand until it comes to pass.

I think the classic verse is in Daniel chapter 12. Put it in your margin. Daniel chapter 12 verses 8 and 9, "And I heard but I understood not." Daniel heard what God said but he said, "I don't understand it." Have you ever been that way? Have you ever picked up the Bible and said, "Lord I can read it but I don't know what it means." How many of you ever been like that way? All of us! Well, does that mean that you are unspiritual; you are out of the will of God? No, you might be a Daniel. Daniel read it, he didn't understand. Look again in Daniel 12:8 and 9, he heard it. He said, "O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And He said, 'Go thy way Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.'"

There are certain things about prophesy that you will never know until they come to pass. There're certain things in the book of Daniel, the book of the Revelation, the book of Jeremiah, and other things. Don't try to explain them; because you can't explain them. People can ask questions about the resurrection body. What's our resurrection body going to be like? We've got a little baby in Heaven. What's my baby going to be like when I meet him? Will it be a man? Will it still be a baby? Will it be this? Will it be that? I don't know. You don't know. You see it doth not yet appear what we shall be like. That's what John says. Well, if it doth not yet appear, why do you try to explain what doth not yet appear? God said to Daniel, "Seal it up it's for the time of the end."

Here are seven thunders. There are certain mysteries. There are some things that God reveals and the Bible says, "The secrets belong to God." Can you live with that? You say, "Well I sure would like to understand everything." Friend, I wouldn't have any confidence in a God you could understand, much less one I could understand. No. God is above us and beyond us, His ways, His thoughts, His plans. But you can be certain friend that God knows the future. And so we don't live by explanations, we live by promises.

Here was a message that was a startling message. Here was a message that was a sealed message. But now watch it. It's also a sure message. Look, if you will, in verses 5 and 6 of our Scripture, "And the Angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up His hand to Heaven." This is Jesus. Now He's got one foot on the earth, the other in the sea. "And He swear by Him that liveth forever and ever, who created a Heaven, and the things that are therein are, and the earth and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer."

God the Son swears by God the Father that time should be no more. Actually, He swears by Himself. Hebrews chapter 6 verse 13, "For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swear by Himself." Here the Lord Jesus lifts His hand and says in a solemn oath, "Time shall be no longer." He swears by Himself because He can swear by no greater. And as God told Abraham, "By My very existence, these things are going to come to pass." That's the reason we have such a sure Word of prophecy; the Word of God. This startling message, this sealed message is a sure message. God stands on His Word.

And now, next, it's also a solemn message. What is the message? In a sense, an enigma. In a



sense, a secret and yet so sure; so startling like a lion roaring, like thunder pealing. What is it? Well, part of it is this. Not the sealed part, we don't understand that. But we do understand what He has declared, "That time shall be no longer."

Now, what does He mean by that? Does He mean that history will cease? Oh, no. Because there's the thousand years of the millennium that is to follow. This word time literally may be translated, and may be in the translation that you have, delay. Delay shall be no longer. There's one more trumpet judgment that is going to come. And when that last trumpet judgment sounds, when that final trumpet of these seven trumpets that have come out of these seven seals, when that seventh trumpet sounds, then the mystery of God is going to be finished.

What is the mystery of God, the mystery of God's plans? That's what we're talking about. What is the mystery of God? Why does God allow the devil to do what he does? "Pastor, why did my child die?" "Pastor, why do I have this disease?" "Pastor, why this, what that?" "Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Oh, God, why?" Mystery, mystery. But it's gonna be finished. One of these days, sin's clock will be stopped. And the mystery of God will be finished and delay will be no more. Sin has been on a rampage, righteousness seems to have suffered. It's now coming to a conclusion. God has given the inhabitants of the earth time for repentance. But time has run out. The clock has struck its last note and sin's clock is about to be stopped.

Don't get the idea that you have time before the rapture. That may come at any moment. Don't get the idea that even after the rapture, that God will continue to give you time, even if you've never heard the Gospel before. All of you have.

I read a story recently about a man who rushed into a railroad station in a suburb early in the morning. He was almost out of breath and he asked the agent this question. He said, "What time does the 8:01 train leave?" The agent said, "At 8:01." He said, "Well it's 7:59 by my watch and it's 7:57 by the town clock, and it is 8:04 by the station clock. Which one should I go by?" He said, "You can go by any clock you want, but if you want to go by the 8:01, it's too late, it's already left." It's gone.

Now friend, when God's clock stops, that's it. And if you are not on God's train, you are going to be left. Now, if I see the majesty of His Person, that means Jesus, my Savior, is due my total worship. When I see the mastery of His power, that means that Jesus my Lord is worthy of my total confidence. He is the one who has everything under control. I have a sign on my desk that says this, "Adrian trust me, I have everything under control."

Now here's the fourth thing I want you to see here. The ministry of His people. I want you to see the ministry of His people. What is the ministry of the people of the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, begin here in Revelation 10 verse 8 and read down to verse 10, "And the voice which I heard from Heaven spake unto me again, and said, 'Go take the little book which is open in the hand of the Angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.' And I went unto the Angel, and said unto Him, 'Give me the little book.' And He said unto me, 'Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall make thy mouth sweet as honey.' And I took the little book out of the Angel's hand and ate it up; and it was in my hand sweet as honey: but as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter." Or sour. Now, what is this little book again? By the way, the word for book here is biblion, meaning little book.



It's the word we get our word Bible from. We've already seen this book. I'm telling you it is the title deed to all creation. It belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His by creation; He made it. It is His by Calvary; He died for it. It is His by conquest; He is come in power and great glory.

Now, that represents the Word of God, The Word of God. And it's in the hand, the nail-pierced hand of God's mighty messenger Angel, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, we've talked about the majesty of Jesus' person. We've talked about the mastery of Jesus' power. We've talked about the mystery of Jesus' plans. And now, the ministry of His people; we are His people. John represents us. And the Lord says, "John, go take this book. There it is. It's in my hand. Take it!" John takes it. Now the Lord says, "John, eat it." And John eats it. And then the Lord says, "John, I want you to go and tell it." Look in verse 11 of Revelation 10, "And He said unto me, 'Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.'"

What are we to do to serve the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, first of all, we are to appropriate the Word of God. Can you imagine the Lord Jesus before you right now with a nail-pierced hand? The Lord Jesus says, "Here's my Word, there it is. It's in my right hand. It's yours, take it." Are you willing to appropriate it? Are you willing to take from His hand His Word? You are to appropriate the Word of God. May God have mercy upon our biblical ignorance today. Now, we're to appropriate that Word and then we are to assimilate that Word.

He says, "Eat it." It's not enough to read the recipe book. We've got to cook, eat, and digest the meal. Amen. Eat it! Feed upon it! "Eat it up", He says, "And it will make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet." The Bible is to be eaten. It is to be digested. Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." We're to take this book and friend, we are to feed upon it. Read Job 23:12 where Job said, "I have desired the words of His mouth more than my necessary meat." Have you appropriated the Word of God? Have you assimilated the Word of God? Now what you appropriate and what you assimilate, and by the way, when you assimilate it will be both bitter and sweet.

There are some sad things, some horrifying things in the book of the Revelation. This world is headed for judgment. The Gospel is a saver of life unto life or death unto death. We hear today so much about the love of God that we've all gotten such a saccharine sweetness. We almost have a world that has spiritual diabetes.

God is a God of righteousness and justice and judgment. You can't read the book of the Revelation without seeing that. Heaven and hell, death and life, salvation, condemnation, bitterness and sweetness, it's all in the Bible. If you just preach one part without preaching the other part, you're dishonest. You preach the love of God without the wrath of God; you're dishonest. You preach the wrath of God without the love of God; you're dishonest. And you take part of the truth and make part of the truth all of the truth, that part of the truth becomes an untruth. We're to preach all the Word of God, the bitter part, the sweet part. But we are to appropriate it. We are to assimilate it. And then, my dear friend, we are to give it out. Disseminate it.

How many of you believe the Bible is the Word of God? How many of you are sharing the Word of God? Some have not even appropriated it. You don't even read it. Others have not assimilated it.





You've not digested it. But if you have, how can you be silent in a hell-bound world?

Listen to your pastor. The hope of any community is the Word of God. Your neighbors need the Word of God. Your children need the Word of God. There's power in the Word of God. "And John, you must take this to kings and nations and people, disseminate the Word of God." I don't want to be cruel, but if, friend, if the faith that you claim to have, if you have no desire to give it away, then you probably ought to give it up. You don't have the real thing. You'll never convince me that a person believes the truths in this Book; there is a Heaven to gain, a hell to shun, a judgment to face, a death to die. That Jesus hung in agony, in blood upon the cross, that your neighbor, your friends are without Christ, without hope in this world and you are sinfully silent. You don't have the real thing. You've never appropriated it if you never assimilated it. You don't see the bitterness and the sweetness that's in this Book. Friend, we have a wonderful Savior. We've seen His majesty. We've seen His mastery. We've seen His mystery. And we need to understand His ministry. We have a job to do. We have a calling. God help the church to awaken from its lethargy. You didn't come to church this morning to hear a sermon and think you've done God a wild favor. This is not the service. The service begins when you walk out those doors. Would you pray that God will give you a burden for souls; that you might appropriate, that you might assimilate, that you might disseminate the Word of God? Jesus the One and Only. He is the only hope of this world.

Do you believe that? Do you? I have to ask myself even as I preach; do I believe the things I preach? And I can tell you I do, I do.

Do you know Jesus? Do you know Him? Do you know this great Savior? "Neither is there salvation in any other, there's none other name unto Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." He is the Angel of God's presence and He wants to be your Savior.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. And if you don't know Jesus Christ, may I lead you in a prayer this morning? And you can trust Him. And I promise you on the authority of His Word, that He will save you if you trust Him. Will you pray like this? "Lord God, I am a sinner and I'm lost and I need to be saved. Jesus, You died to save me. You've paid for my sin debt with Your precious blood. You shed Your blood for me. I believe it. You were raised from the dead. I believe it. And now I invite You to come into my life. Take control of my life. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Save me. And begin this moment to make me the person You want me to be. In Your name I pray. Amen.



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