

A Bittersweet Revelation

Revelation 10:1–11 · Pastor Raul Granillo · August 30, 2026

Today's Text

“And I saw another **mighty angel coming down from heaven**, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face was like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. He held a **little scroll open in his hand**. ...He said to me, ‘**Take it and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach but sweet as honey in your mouth.**’ ...You must **prophesy again** about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

— Revelation 10:1–2, 9, 11

Big Idea

The gospel is **sweet in the mouth and bitter in the stomach**. Carrying God's word is a joy — but the cost of delivering it faithfully to people who may not listen is real. Before John can prophesy about the beast, he must **eat the scroll** and let the word become part of him.

Key Truth

Judgment alone does not produce repentance — only **grace** does. That is why God halts the seven thunders: more warnings will not soften a hard heart. Instead, God **commissions a prophet**. The Church is God's plan to reach the lost, and every one of us has been handed the scroll.

What John Sees on Sea and Land

SCENE	WHAT JOHN SEES	WHAT IT MEANS FOR US
THE MIGHTY ANGEL (v.1–3)	An angel wrapped in cloud, rainbow over his head, face like the sun, legs like pillars of fire — one foot on the sea, one on the land, shouting like a lion.	The description echoes Ezekiel 1 — the glory of the Lord. God's messengers bear the likeness of Jesus. Sea and land: God's authority covers all creation. No corner of your life is outside His reach.
SEVEN THUNDERS SEALED (v.3–4)	The seven thunders speak and John starts writing — but heaven stops him: “Seal it up. Do not write it down.”	God won't keep piling on warnings that don't work. Judgment alone doesn't change hearts. He's not out of patience — He's out of methods that fail. Grace is His plan.
NO MORE DELAY (v.5–7)	The angel raises his hand and swears by the eternal God: “No more delay. When the seventh trumpet sounds, the mystery of God will be fulfilled.”	The end is real. The salvific work of Jesus — the mystery — will be completed. Death is already defeated at the cross. Time is not endless. Repent today.
EAT THE SCROLL (v.8–10)	John is told to take the scroll and eat it — sweet as honey in his mouth, bitter in his stomach. Echoes Ezekiel 2–3.	The gospel is good news that tastes sweet. But carrying it to people who reject it, and holding God's love together with the seriousness of judgment, leaves a bitter stomach. You can't deliver a word you have not swallowed.
COMMISSIONED AGAIN (v.11)	“You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”	Every person — whatever race, status, or nation — faces the same judgment and needs the same grace. This message is above every human authority. The Church is sent to reach them all.

Define This

The Hyperlink — Before printed Bibles had chapter and verse numbers, ancient Jewish readers referenced a passage by quoting its opening words. Revelation is full of these “hyperlinks” back to Ezekiel, Daniel, Exodus, and the Psalms. John expects you to open them. **The mighty angel in Rev 10 is a hyperlink to Ezekiel 1 and Daniel 12** — signaling that this is the same God, in the same story, still working through the same kind of commissioned messengers.

Quote To Remember

“God’s mysterious plan of salvation has been accomplished by the death of the Lamb on the cross and will be brought to its consummation in the coming kingdom.” — Carol Rotz

Take It Home — Reflection

- Where has following Jesus been genuinely sweet for me this year — and where has it turned bitter because of the cost of witness? Am I willing to keep both?
- God stops the seven thunders because more judgment won’t change hardened hearts — only grace does. Where am I still trying to use pressure, guilt, or fear to change someone (or myself), when what’s really needed is patient love?
- “You must prophesy again.” Whom has God placed in my life who needs the gospel — and what would it look like this week to hand them a piece of the scroll I have eaten?

My Notes