

# The Extraordinary Preparation Needed to Finish God's Work!



**Revelation  
10–11  
Study Two**

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# **Lesson Two**

## **“A Divine Judicial Scene”**

*A production of Prophecy Research Initiative*

Christ and a retinue of angels have come down to assist God's people during earth's last events! It is noteworthy to observe that during this event-filled time, in another "interlude," Jesus ascends from the east with two missions (Rev. 7:23):



1. Using God's seal, He completes the task of identifying a corporate body of people – His eternal family – His church.
2. Ordering the *four angels of strife* to hold back their destructive mission until that sealing process is complete!

The intriguing question: “How could Jesus “ascend” if He had not already “descended?” The answer is here in Revelation 10. During the time Jesus, with His vast retinue of angels, is here on behalf of God’s people, the sealing work commences AND the winds of strife are held back!



John’s prophecy now moves forward with divine drama:

An oath between two divine beings is recorded in several places in the Bible (e.g., Deut. 32:40, Isa. 45:23). John is about to witness such a symphony of purpose. That actually occurred with Daniel, related to this “little open book!”



*“I heard the man clothed in linen [Jesus], which was upon the waters of the river [Ulai River], when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half.”*  
(Dan. 12:7)

An oath is a legally binding promise! Can you imagine what it means between the supreme Beings of the universe?



In the book of Daniel, Jesus raises both hands!

Right hand – a promise that what He said was 100% true. That prophecy included three end-time timing periods.

Left hand – He pledged His blood to assure their fulfillment and that there would be a righteous body of believers.

Here, with John, Jesus raises only His right hand. The other held the little open book.

*“The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven.” (Rev. 10:5)*



Why didn't He now raise His left hand? Jesus had died and spilled His blood! The great purpose of the incarnation and Cross was complete. It is now time to legally move forward to fulfill those Daniel prophecies, finish the work and bring an end to redemptive history!



A “sacred oath” between two divine beings always represents a divine notice, a heavenly bulletin, of utmost gravity.

**The guarantee of its fulfillment  
is as real as all created  
matter known to man!**

*...and the things  
that therein are, and the earth, and the  
things that therein are, and the sea, and the  
things which are therein.” (Rev. 10:6)*



This is an electrifying buildup!

It identifies the great authority base of what He is about to announce! In fact, this relates to the “remember” word in the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment – His authority – He’s the Creator! It was associated with a “time!”

Now – we come to the moment that “loud, lion roaring, voice” says something:

“That there should be delay no longer!” (Rev. 10:6 NKJV) [Note: The KJV is incorrect. The NKJV here is a corrected phrase – as is the NET, NIV, etc.]



Amazing! This oath is tied to time also. What does He mean that “time” will no longer be “delayed.” Sounds like something has been on hold! A significant prophecy has been waiting to be completed. We have been in a “tarrying time” or prophetic delay. Jesus is announcing that this is about to end. What follows is a 3½-year period – this will be addressed in the next chapter. That “period” is about to begin!

Expositor White was fully aware of this when in 1902 she noted that there would be a reapplication of Revelation 13 with its 42 months. (19MR 282)



Habakkuk alluded to this time:

*“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” (Hab. 2:3)*

Paul also referred to this period: *“For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” (Heb. 10:37)*

It is important to understand – this has not been a delay in Christ's coming. There has been a "timeout period" or "tarrying time" **within** a prophecy. That is now to end and the "**appointed time,**" given first by Daniel, is about to begin.



God's purposes in redemptive history are about to be completed. Jesus confirms this in the next verse (recall that we are in an "interlude" between trumpet events):

*"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."*  
(Rev. 10:3)

This verse is a continuation of the oath promises. The word "mystery" is associated with the end of time (e.g., Rom. 11:25, I Cor. 15:55).

God's spiritual kingdom was inaugurated at the first advent; it will be consummated at the second advent – when that trumpet sounds!



Shortly before that trumpet, the “everlasting covenant” will be delivered to God’s people! (GC 640) This beautifully represents when the marriage between Christ and His church is complete.

The “mystery of iniquity”  
will also end at the  
termination of those  
3½ years.





## Revelation of that mystery of Godliness:

*“The seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”* (Rev. 11:15)

*“There was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”* (Dan. 7:14)



Attention is now  
directed to the  
open scroll!



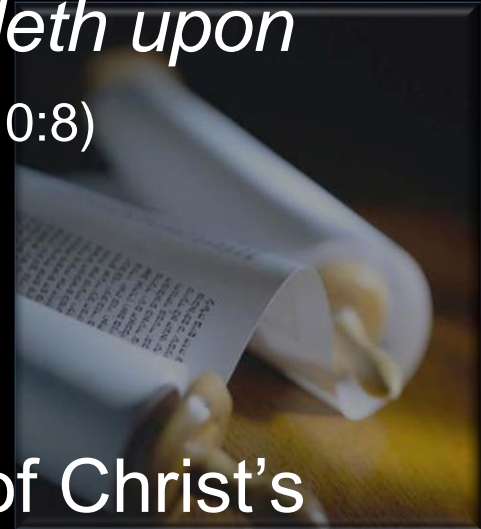
Another transition now occurs in this prophecy! Another chapter in its ongoing story begins.

*“And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.”* (Rev. 10:8)

The voice that John originally heard was that of God the Father asking him to seal the message of the seven thunders. He is now speaking again:

*“Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.” (Rev. 10:8)*

Ezekiel was given a similar commission. (Eze. 2:8-3:3)



This is the third time the location of Christ's feet are described. It informs us that the little book can be understood preceding the 3½ years (11: 2-3)! In THIS setting, God is “ordering” John, the 144,000, His church, you and me, to go and take that open book!

John is giving us an example! He isn't reluctant to obey! He clearly senses the divine order – imperative! It is to be under his control!

*“And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book.”* (Rev. 10:9)

Isn't it interesting that John asks for the “little book?” One would think that Jesus heard God's request and might simply hand it to John!



But – man has a part to play! He goes to Christ, then asks to grasp His Word.

## Jesus immediately responds:

John's request is a prayer that Jesus is always ready to respond!

*“And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.”* (Rev. 10:9)



“I’ll give the Word to you. I’m always ready and willing!” We can hear an echo from the faithful prophet, Jeremiah:

*“Thy words were found, and I did eat them;  
and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing  
of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O  
LORD God of hosts.” (Jer. 15:16)*

*“How sweet are thy words unto my  
taste! yea, sweeter than honey to  
my mouth!” (Psa. 119:103)*



Jesus said that these words would turn bitter in John's stomach. This comes as we experience rejection and persecution from sharing those stunning messages!





Ezekiel was given a book to eat that was sweet in his mouth and also became bitter! (Eze. 2:8-3:3)

His message was quite specific for the Jewish people (God's people):

1. To warn them of impending doom if they did not repent
2. To be aware that a spiritual leader with prophetic insight was among them
3. To make distinct that a judgment hour was pending from which there would be no turning back

John's eating of Daniel was part of his preparation to witness to the world. It would become part of the Three Angels' Messages. (Rev. 14) A key difference between Ezekiel and John is the scope of its contents:

“John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel's prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels' messages to be given to the world.” (19MR 320)

The eating of the scroll has the same meaning for John as it did for Ezekiel. Both prophets were to fully understand its contents and personally identify with it so well that they could teach what it said!

This was a prerequisite to fulfill the prophetic service which would follow!

That message would carry with it the power of God's Word, because it is His Word!



*“And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.”* (Rev. 10:10)



The cause of the “bitterness” is protean among Bible scholars. It is important to observe that the initial experience is sweet. The individual is excited about this “new” understanding.

As its truths excite the believer, it is naturally shared among others of like faith. This is where the bitterness begins! As the body of believers “prepare” for the last days, this has been relegated to past history (which then is not relevant)!



This is the unsealed part of Daniel, as we have seen. The acceptance that it is part of an end-time message receives great resistance from Christian Bible expositors!

Note: This bitterness comes even before the commissioning of the Bible student!

“New light will ever be revealed on the word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God. Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God.” (CSW 34)

“A great work will be done in a short time.  
A message will soon be given by God’s  
appointment that will swell into a loud cry.  
Then Daniel will stand in his lot, to give his  
testimony.” (21MR 437 – 1903)

If the unsealed portion of Daniel applied to ancient history, it would have little bearing or relevance to the very end of time. God’s people are to “eat” that prophecy and understand it fully because it relates to the very end.



Jesus now has an additional request to convey to John (and each one of us)!



*“And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.”* (Rev. 10:11 – KJV)

The NET Bible is more accurate:

*Then they told me: “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”* (Rev. 10:11 – NET)

The command to “prophecy again” comes from both the Father and the Son. The word “again” appears to be linked to previous mandates. (Rev. 1:11, 19; 4:1) The mission of the two witnesses in the next chapter is to “prophecy!” (Rev. 11:3)



Contextually, the witnessing message originated from the book of Daniel that has been eaten/imbibed. An analysis by many scholars reveals that it is one of repentance and a judgment warning. The end is in view.

*“many peoples, nations, languages, and kings”* suggests a universal gospel invitation. This will be earth’s last warning!



“All must now arouse and search the Scriptures, for God will make known to His faithful ones what shall be in the last time.... We are to be brought into strait places in a way in which we have not been brought heretofore.... We need an experience that we have not yet had, that we may have the assurance that the God of all grace is a very present help in time of need.” (2MR 20 – 1906)

## What was in that scroll that John ate?

- PRI's ten-lesson PowerPoint series on Daniel 8–12 outlines the details of those missives.
- It covers the collective messages of what Daniel identifies as “the vision.” (*ha hazon* – H)
- It gives prophetic insight as to the final wars between good and evil as earth's history draws to a close.
- Lest any “timing doubt” should arise, Gabriel says this to a shaken Daniel:



*“So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.”*

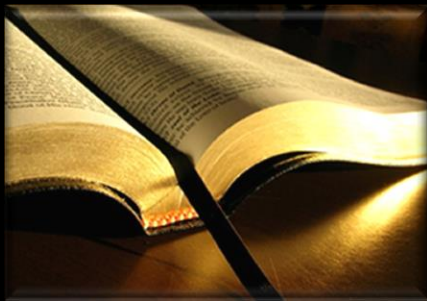
*“And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. (Dan. 8:17, 19b)*

The “time of the end” is called  
the “time appointed.”

Gabriel and Jesus both told Daniel that the *ha hazon* vision would be sealed until the “time of the end.” (Dan. 12:4, 9) That means that those messages could not be understood until recently!



What did Daniel see in that collection of prophetic notices?



Here is a brief outline of those dispatches:

1. The ram and rough he-goat prophecy
2. Little horn horrors
3. The amazing three-part series of:
  - a. Kings/leaders that would arise during the 490 years of probation
  - b. First rise of the papacy
  - c. Second rise of the papacy
4. Timing prophecies of Daniel 12





We are to know those prophecies to merge them into the Three Angels' Messages!

In the next lesson are amazing key issues related to this “time of prophesying.”

**The End**