

**Revelation 10 (NASB)**  
**The Angel and the Little Book**

*10:1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;*

After the sixth seal, there was a pause. After the sixth trumpet ended chapter 9, there is also a pause. The pause occurs to show God is giving people a chance to choose Jesus. John first describes seeing another mighty angel. He is described as *"another mighty angel, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire"* This is not Jesus. Revelation 1:15-16 describes Jesus differently, *"His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength."* Besides "mighty" John used the word "another" to describe this angel. The original Greek word is 'allos' which means "another of the same kind". We can know that this is not Jesus because he did not bow down and worship Him. Revelation 1:17 say *"When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man."* We can know from just this one verse that this is not Jesus because he came down from heaven to earth. Jesus is going to meet us in a cloud first. This is the Rapture. On this angel's head is a rainbow. In Genesis 9:13-15 tells us the rainbow symbolizes a covenant that God will never destroy life with a flood again.

*10: 2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.*

The "little book" here and the scroll in Revelation chapter 4 are alike in that the Scriptures do not tell us what is written on it. The fact that the angel stands on both land and sea shows that it is not Jesus and that they have complete authority. The seven thunders are most likely the voice of God. Job 37:2-5 says several times that *"God thunders with His voice wondrously."* In Psalm 29:3-9, the voice of God is mentioned seven times.

*10:4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."*

God tells John something and then tells him not to write it down. God is in control and this is not the proper time. God is the only one who needs to know. Maybe it is more than we can take.

*10:5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by 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 there will be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.*

Verse 5 and 6 further confirm that the angel is not Jesus in that "the angel swore by Him who lives forever and ever. If this was Jesus then He would be swearing by Himself. The "mystery" means that the truth is revealed with no more delay. We could already know this mystery because it was already announced to the prophets but the people refused to listen.

*10:8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he \*said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. 11 And they \*said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."*

We know that this is the same voice that spoke to John in Revelation 4:1 because it was the second time that John heard from God, "*I heard again speaking with*". The following verses tell us about times when God told others to 'eat' His Word, it tasted like:

Jeremiah 15:16	Good
Ezekiel 3:1-3	Sweet as honey
Psalms 34:8	Nothing wrong with God's word

It was "sweet" to his mouth but "bitter" in his stomach because it is Good News also God's word reveals judgment. God tells John he must prophesy "again because the Jews rejected Jesus the first time. Verse 11 tells us that God does not give up. He still offers grace and salvation up to the very end.