

Notes on the Greek New Testament
Day 353 – December 19th – Revelation 10:1-11

Works frequently referenced in these notes on the book of Revelation

Morris, Leon	<i>The Revelation of St John</i> (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries), Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1969
Mounce, Robert H	<i>The Book of Revelation</i> (New International Commentary on the New Testament), Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1977
Peterson, Eugene H	<i>Reversed Thunder</i> , San Francisco, HarperCollins, 1991
Witherington, Ben	<i>Revelation</i> (New Cambridge Bible Commentary), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2003

Chapters 10 & 11

"between the sixth and seventh seal there was an interlude consisting of two visions – the sealing of the 144,000 (7:1-8) and the heavenly multitude (7:9-17)... With the close of chapter 9 six of the seven trumpets have sounded. Once again we encounter an interlude of two related visions – the angel with the little book (10:1-11) and the two witnesses (11:1-13). These interludes are not so much pauses in the actual sequence of events as they are literary devices by which the church is instructed concerning its role and destiny during the final period of world history." Mounce.

10:1

Καὶ εἶδον ἄλλον ἄγγελον ἰσχυρὸν καταβαίνοντα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, περιβεβλημένον νεφέλην, καὶ ἡ ἶρις ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ, καὶ τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ὡς ὁ ἥλιος, καὶ οἱ πόδες αὐτοῦ ὡς στῦλοι πυρός, ἰσχυρός, α, ον strong, mighty, powerful καταβαινω come down, descend

Some suggest that the 'angel' is Christ, but Mounce says that this must be rejected since Christ never appears as an angel in Revelation. Witherington writes that "we probably should see this as the angel or messenger of Christ who partakes of some of the features of Christ mentioned in Rev 1."

περιβεβλημένον Verb, perf pass ptc, m acc & n nom/acc s περιβαλλω clothe, dress
νεφελῆ, ης f cloud
ἶρις, ἰδος f rainbow; varicoloured halo
κεφαλῆ, ης f head
πρόσωπον, ου n face, appearance
ἥλιος, ου m the sun
πούς, ποδος m foot
στῦλος, ου m pillar, column
πῦρ, ος n fire

"Farrar notes that the description of the angel fits his message – the affirming of God's fidelity to covenants (10:7): the bow reminding of God's promise through Noah, the pillar of fire God's presence in the wilderness, and the scroll the tablets of stone." Mounce.

Verse 2

καὶ ἔχων ἐν τῇ χειρὶ αὐτοῦ βιβλαρίδιον ἠνεωγμένον. καὶ ἔθηκεν τὸν πόδα αὐτοῦ τὸν δεξιὸν ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης, τὸν δὲ εὐώνυμον ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς,

χειρ, χειρος f hand
βιβλαρίδιον, ου n little book or scroll

Cf. Ezek 2:8-3:3.

ἠνεωγμένον Verb, perf pass ptc, m acc s & n nom/acc s ἀνοιγω open

I.e. what it reveals is no secret.

ἔθηκεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s τιθημι place, set

δεξιός, α, ον right
θαλάσσα, ης f sea
εὐώνυμος, ον left (hand side)

A picture of immense size – and possibly indicating the scope of the relevance of his message.

Verse 3

καὶ ἔκραξεν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ ὡς περ λέων μυκάται. καὶ ὅτε ἔκραξεν, ἐλάλησαν αἱ ἑπτὰ βρονταὶ τὰς ἑαυτῶν φωνάς.

κραζω cry out, call out
ὡς περ as, even as, just as
λεων, οντος m lion
μυκαομαι roar

Cf. Hos 11:10; Amos 3:8.

ὅτε conj when
λαλεω speak, talk
ἑπτα seven
βροντη, ης f thunder
ἑαυτος, ἑαυτη, ἑαυτον him/herself, itself

"Premonitions of God's anger about to burst forth in judgement." Beckwith. (Cf. 8:5; 11:19; 16:18).

Verse 4

καὶ ὅτε ἐλάλησαν αἱ ἑπτὰ βρονταί, ἤμελλον γράφειν· καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ λέγουσαν· Σφράγισον ἃ ἐλάλησαν αἱ ἑπτὰ βρονταί, καὶ μὴ αὐτὰ γράψῃς.

ἤμελλον Verb, imperf act indic, 1 s & 3 pl
μελλω be going, be about
γραφω write
σφραγιζω seal, secure with a seal

Contrast 1:9. Mounce suggests that the seven thunders, "like the seals and trumpets, formed another series of warning plagues. Man's adamant decision not to repent (9:20-21) would render another series useless. Possibly it is too late to record any further warnings... In the verses which immediately follow, an angel under oath will declare that there shall be no further delay (vss 5-7)."

Verse 5

καὶ ὁ ἄγγελος, ὃν εἶδον ἐστῶτα ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἤρεν τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ τὴν δεξιάν εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν,

ἐστῶτα Verb, perf act ptc, n nom/acc pl
ἵστημι stand

ἤρεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s αἶρω raise

Cf. Gen 14:22-23. The lifting of the hand was part of making an oath.

Verse 6

καὶ ὥμοσεν τῷ ζῶντι εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων, ὃς ἔκτισεν τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτῷ καὶ τὴν γῆν καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτῇ καὶ τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτῇ, ὅτι χρόνος οὐκέτι ἔσται·

ὥμοσεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ὀμνῶ and ὀμνυμι swear, vow, make an oath
ζω live, be alive
αἰων, αἰωνος m age, eternity
κτιζω create, make

"The One who brought all things into being can carry them through in fulfilment of his redemptive purpose. The end of history, as was the beginning, is under the sovereign control of God." Mounce.

χρονος, ου m time, period of time
οὐκετι adv no longer, no more
ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἶμι

I.e. no more delays of God's judgement – not that time itself will be swept away.

Verse 7

ἀλλ' ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις τῆς φωνῆς τοῦ ἑβδόμου ἀγγέλου, ὅταν μέλλῃ σαλπίζειν, καὶ ἐτελέσθη τὸ μυστήριον τοῦ θεοῦ, ὡς εὐηγγέλισεν τοὺς ἑαυτοῦ δούλους τοὺς προφῆτας.

ἑβδομος, η, ον seventh
ὅταν when
σαλπίζω sound a trumpet
ἐτελέσθη Verb, aor pass subj, 3 s τελεω complete, finish, fulfill, carry out
μυστηριον, ου n secret, mystery

God's plans for the consummation of human history encompassing both the salvation of his people and the judgement of sinners (cf. Eph 3:1-6; Rom 11:25; 1 Cor 15:55; 2 Thess 2:7). In summary, it is God's purpose to establish his kingdom (Mt 6:10; Rev 11:15).

εὐαγγελίζω act. and midd proclaim the good news
δουλος, ου m slave, servant

Cf Amos 3:7.

Verse 8

Καὶ ἡ φωνὴ ἣν ἤκουσα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, πάλιν λαλοῦσαν μετ' ἐμοῦ καὶ λέγουσαν· Ὑπάγε λάβε τὸ βιβλίον τὸ ἠνεωγμένον ἐν τῇ χειρὶ τοῦ ἀγγέλου τοῦ ἐστῶτος ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

παλιν again, once more
λαλοῦσαν Verb, pres act ptc, f acc s λαλεω
ὑπάγω go, go one's way, depart
λάβε Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s λαμβανω
βιβλιον, ου n book, scroll
ἠνεωγμένον see v.2
ἐστῶτος Verb, perf act ptc, m gen s ἵστημι see v.5

Verse 9

καὶ ἀπῆλθα πρὸς τὸν ἄγγελον λέγων αὐτῷ δοῦναί μοι τὸ βιβλαρίδιον. καὶ λέγει μοι· Λάβε καὶ κατάφαγε αὐτό, καὶ πικρανεῖ σου τὴν κοιλίαν, ἀλλ' ἐν τῷ στόματί σου ἔσται γλυκὸ ὡς μέλι.

ἀπῆλθα Verb, 2 aor act indic, 1 s ἀπερχομαι
δοῦναί Verb, aor act infin διδωμι

Cf. Ezek 2:8-3:3, see also Jer 15:16ff.

κατάφαγε Verb, aor act imperat, 2 s
κατεσθιω eat up
πικρανεῖ Verb, fut act indic, 3 s πικρανω make bitter
κοιλια, ας f stomach
στομα, τος n mouth
ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 3 s εἶμι
γλυκυσ, εια, υ sweet
μελι, ιτος n honey

Cf. Ps 119:103. The scroll is sweet to the mouth because it is the word of God. It is bitter to the stomach because it speaks of the trials that God's people must face before they enter glory (Ch 11).

Verse 10

καὶ ἔλαβον τὸ βιβλαρίδιον ἐκ τῆς χειρὸς τοῦ ἀγγέλου καὶ κατέφαγον αὐτό, καὶ ἦν ἐν τῷ στόματί μου ὡς μέλι γλυκόν· καὶ ὅτε ἔφαγον αὐτό, ἐπικράνθη ἡ κοιλία μου.

ὅτε conj when

ἔφαγον Verb, aor act indic, 1s & 3pl ἔσθω
and ἔσθω eat

ἐπικράνθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3s πικραίνω
see v.9

Verse 11

Καὶ λέγουσίν μοι· Δεῖ σε πάλιν προφητεῦσαι ἐπὶ λαοῖς καὶ ἔθνεσιν καὶ γλώσσαις καὶ βασιλεῦσιν πολλοῖς.

δεῖ impersonal verb it is necessary

σε Pronoun, acc s συ

πάλιν see v.8

λαος, ου m people, a people

ἔθνεσιν Noun, dat pl ἔθνος, ους n nation

γλώσσα, ης f tongue, language

βασιλευς, εως m king