What do the 7 Thunders Mean? March 6, 2022

*Revelation 10:1-11 Series: Understanding the Book of Revelation*

The idea that a civilization might destroy itself is both ludicrous and likely. – Brian Cox

Intro: How should you live when the end is approaching?

1. Remember that God’s in control, and we only see part of the picture
2. God’s angels are greater than your biggest fears

v. 1 *I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire.*

Genesis 9:13 *I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.*

Matthew 17:2 *he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light*

Exodus 13:21 *the LORD went before them … by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel*

1. God’s Word can drown out your voices of doubt

v. 2 *his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land*

v. 3 *and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring*

v. 3 *When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.*

1. We operate on a need-to-know basis

v. 4 *I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”*

Deuteronomy 29:29 *secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law*

* When our problems overwhelm us, why is it so important to reflect on God’s greatness and His character?
* What aspects of God’s character does the angels’ appearance and voice bring to mind?
* Why don’t parents tell their small children everything? Why might God not tell us everything we want to know?

1. Look forward to God fulfilling all of His promises
2. Trust in the promises of the God who has authority to speak

v. 5 *the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven*

v. 6 *and swore by him who lives forever and ever*

v. 6 *who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it*

Daniel 12:7 *And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.*

1. Victory will come as we follow Jesus to the cross

v. 6 *there would be no more delay*

v. 7 *in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets*

* Why would the angel need to swear that what he’s saying is true? What makes us tend to doubt God’s purposes when times are tough, and the world seems out of control?
* What are some doomsday scenarios that our world imagines?
* How is the idea that our world will end with the fulfillment of “the mystery of God” better than those?

1. Devour and proclaim the message God has given us
2. God’s Word is to be devoured not just tasted

v. 8 *Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.*

v. 9 *Take and eat it …*

Ezekiel 2:8 *Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.*

v. 10 *I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it*

1. Acknowledge the sweetness and bitterness of God’s purposes

v. 9 *in your mouth it will be sweet as honey*

v. 10 *It was sweet as honey in my mouth …*

Jeremiah 15:16 *Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.*

v. 9 *it will make your stomach bitter*

v. 10 *when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter*

1. God has commissioned us to speak His words to a dying world

v. 11 *I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”*

Matthew 10:18 *you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles*

* Why does it mean to “eat” God’s scroll?
* What would help you devour rather than just taste the Bible?
* What keeps us from witnessing when life is difficult?
* Who do you most need prayer to share God’s Word with?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Revelation 11:1-14

Notes