

The devastation of the three woes, portrayed in Revelation 9 and 11:14-19, could easily dishearten the reader. However, at the end of the sixth trumpet, as also after the sixth seal and the sixth plague, there is an interlude of encouragement. This encouraging message, found in Revelation 10:1-11:14, will be the focus of this seminar. The darkness of conflict is contrasted with a vision of heaven's gospel *MESSAGE* and the people of God or His *MESSENGERS*.

THE MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN



Q1 Whom did John see coming down from heaven? Revelation 10:1

A

The mighty angel of *REVELATION* 10 bears the characteristics of Jesus Christ. The angel is "robed in a cloud" (Revelation 10:1) which is symbolic of the Lord's glory and judgement. (See Revelation 1:7. Compare Psalm 104:2-4; Ezekiel 1:28.) The rainbow above the angel's head reminds us of the rainbow of mercy encircling the throne of God. (Revelation 4:3. Compare Genesis 9:12-17.) Of the angel we read, "his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars." Revelation 10:1. Of Jesus Christ we read, "His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace... His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance." Revelation 1:15,16. It is obvious that the *MESSAGE* of this mighty angel will be very significant.



Q2 What was the angel holding? Revelation 10:2

A

There is an obvious contrast between this open, little scroll and the sealed scroll in the right hand of the Father in Revelation 5:1. The seven seals have been opened. (Revelation 6:1-17; 8:1.) There is also a contrast between the instruction given to Daniel to "close up and seal

the words of the scroll until the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4) and the little scroll lying open in the angel's hand. Both the scroll in Daniel, and God's "last will and testament" in Revelation, concern salvation and judgement. Here is a *MESSAGE* from the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has opened the prophecies and heaven's message of salvation and judgement.



Q3 Where did the heavenly messenger stand while bearing his message? Revelation 10:2

A

The *SEA* and *LAND* represent all people. The sea represents the multitudes, whereas the land, earth or desert was a place of refuge for God's people. (Revelation 12:5,6,13,14;17:15.) This *MESSAGE* is for all people. It is to be preached world-wide. (See Revelation 10:11.)



Q4 In what three ways did the angel draw attention to the importance and truth of his message?

A

- 1. Revelation 10:3
- 2. Revelation 10:3,4
- 3. Revelation 10:5,6

This **MESSAGE** from is vital - accompanied by:

1 The "roar of a lion": Jesus is the "Lion of the tribe of Judah." Revelation 5:5.

2 The "voices of the seven thunders": Thunder accompanied the presentation of the ten commandments from Mount Sinai. (Exodus 19:16-19.) When Jesus spoke of His death a voice "thundered" from heaven. (John 12:28-30.) At the time of the seventh plague, when Jesus Christ says, "It is done," (Revelation 16:17) there will be "peals of thunder." (Revelation 16:18.) In Scripture, the great declarations of Christ are accompanied by thunder.

3 The raising of "his right hand to heaven": The mighty angel appeals to the highest authority, the Creator. (Compare Daniel 12:7.)



Q5 **What is the message of the little scroll?**
Revelation 10:6,7

A 1

2

"THERE WILL BE NO MORE DELAY" : The great prophetic eras spoken of by Daniel, Jesus Christ, Paul and John have run their course and now the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet. "There will be time no longer" (KJV).

"THE MYSTERY OF GOD WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED" : The "mystery of God" is the everlasting gospel. (1 Timothy 3:16. Compare Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:8,9; Colossians 1:25-27.) The purpose of the preaching of the gospel is to gather out a people for God. (Acts 15:14.) The end of all things will come when the gospel has been preached to all the world. (Matthew 24:14.)

This may be a response to the question asked in Revelation 6:10. God's people were suffering for the Word of God. Now they are assured that the mystery of God is accomplished. (See Romans 16:25,26.)

The MESSAGE of the mighty angel is : the end of time is near. The day of the return of Jesus Christ is near for the GOSPEL MESSAGE has been preached.

THE MESSENGERS

I John



Q6 **What was John told to do with the message of heaven?** Revelation 10:8,9

A

John, as a representative of the people of God, was told to "eat" heaven's **GOSPEL MESSAGE**. These words remind us of the words of Jesus Christ, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever." John 6:51. (See John 6:25-59; Matthew 4:4; 26:26. Compare Jeremiah 15:16; Ezekiel 2:6-10; 3:1-4.)



Q7 **What was John told he would experience upon taking the message of the scroll?** Revelation 10:9,10

A

The **GOSPEL MESSAGE** in its fullness and glory brings sweetness and joy to God's faithful people. The message of the cross and the soon return of Jesus Christ brings hope and encouragement. However, the **GOSPEL MESSAGE** also brings suffering. The Christian can expect disappointment, betrayal, hatred and persecution. (Compare Matthew 24:9-14.)



Q8 **In spite of the bitterness, suffering and disappointments, what was John asked to do?** Revelation 10:11

A

John, as a representative of the people of God, is told to "prophesy" or preach again. Although the reaction to the *GOSPEL MESSAGE* and the *SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST* is negative and bitter, God's true people are to preach again and again. The preaching of greater light and deeper insights from the Word of God is always a sweet and bitter experience. The "sweetness" of the renewed preaching of the second coming of Jesus Christ in the Advent Revival of the mid-nineteenth century was followed by "bitterness" and disappointment.

REVELATION 11 outlines the bitterness that comes when God's people preach again. It tells of the suffering and persecution that comes to those who proclaim the sweet tidings of the gospel and the near return of Jesus Christ.



Q9 **John was told to preach again. He was given a measuring rod. What was he told to do with the measuring rod?** Revelation 11:1

A

In preaching again John was to give special attention to:

1 The TEMPLE: In Revelation, the temple portrays the ministry of Christ in heaven. (Revelation 4:1,2; 5:1-14; 8:2-5.) This is not a literal temple upon earth for the earthly temple represented both the Saviour who has come and His present ministry in heaven. (See Hebrews 9:8-14.)

2 The ALTAR: The altar draws our attention to the ministry of Jesus Christ as our sacrifice and Priest. In Revelation, the altar and temple that believers have their attention on, is the heavenly presence of the Father where Christ ministers as Saviour and High Priest. (Revelation 5:6-8; 8:2-5.)

3 The WORSHIPPERS: John was told to carefully investigate and verify the *MESSAGE*. He was also to give special attention to the worshippers or the *MESSENGERS* of God. The worshippers represent the believing church or people of God. (Compare Revelation 5:9-14.)



Q10 **John was to pay special attention to the GOSPEL MESSAGE and the WORSHIPPERS. What was he to exclude?** Revelation 11:2

A

Here is a separation of those who belong to God and who are sealed and protected, from the unbelievers or Gentiles who are in the "outer court." The "outer court" represents the blasphemous, persecuting world of unbelievers. It is later referred to as Sodom, Egypt and Babylon.



Q11 **What will these Gentiles or unbelievers do?** Revelation 11:2

A

The nations of unbelievers react against and persecute those who preach the *GOSPEL MESSAGE* of the sanctuary, the sacrifice of Jesus and the Holy City of God. (Compare Daniel 7:25; 8:10-14; 9:24-27.) This attack is directed against those who are faithful to and preach: (1) the eternal truth of scripture, (2) the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ, (3) the standard of the ten commandments and (4) the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The antichrist hates these pillars of truth. Satan: (1) distorts scripture, (Matthew 4:6) (2) rejects salvation, (1 John 4:3) (3) denies the standard of the ten commandments, (2 Thessalonians 2:9) and (4) counterfeits the second coming. (Matthew 24:4,5,11; 2 Corinthians 11:14.)



Q12 **How long do unbelievers trample down believers and the truth of the gospel?**
Revelation 11:2

A

This symbolic period would have reminded the first readers of the literal three and a half years that Elijah spent in the wilderness during the intense wickedness and persecution of Ahab and Jezebel's reign. (See 1 Kings 16-19; James 5:17,18.) Also, the prophet Daniel had been shown that the little horn power would challenge and oppress God's people for a symbolic period of three and a half years or "a time, times and half a time." Daniel 7:25. The beast of Revelation 13 exercises his blasphemous authority for the same period of time. (Revelation 13:5,6.) In Revelation 12, which closely parallels Revelation 11, the persecution of God's people for "1,260 days" (Revelation 12:6) or "a time, times and half a time" (Revelation 12:14) follows the ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven. (Revelation 12:5,6.) This was a time of intense persecution for God's true people.

2 The Two Witnesses: 1260 DAYS—TRIBULATION



Q13 **Even though they were trampled on and persecuted for "42 months" or "1,260 days," what were God's two witnesses given power to do?** Revelation 11:3

A

In Bible lands sackcloth was a symbol of distress and mourning. Suffering follows the faithful preaching of the *GOSPEL MESSAGE* by God's *MESSENGERS*.

Q14 **Who are the two witnesses?** Revelation 11:4

A

These symbols come from Zechariah 4 where we are told, "These are the two who are anointed to serve the *LORD* of all the earth." Zechariah 4:14. Lampstands represent the church or God's people. They stand as a witness, or light, for God before the world. (See Revelation 1:20; Matthew 5:14.) The oil from the olive trees provides the source of the light. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. (See Psalm 52:8; Zechariah 4:2-6.) The two witnesses are not to be understood as two literal men any more than the lampstands or the olive trees are to be understood as being literal in this symbolic prophecy. The two witnesses represent God's faithful *MESSENGERS* who proclaim the *GOSPEL MESSAGE*. This message is proclaimed from both the Old and New Testaments - and, in end times, may represent the witness of faithful Jewish believers and Gentile Christians. (See Psalm 119:105; Luke 24:27,32; John 5:36,37; 1 Peter 1:10-12.)



Q15 **What happens to those who defy these preachers and the *GOSPEL MESSAGE* they proclaim?** Revelation 11:5

A

Q16 **What power do the *MESSENGERS* of God have?** Revelation 11:6

A

None can afford to trample carelessly upon God's *MESSAGE* or *MESSENGERS*. The fire, drought and blood remind us of the judgements upon Sodom and Gomorrah, (2 Peter 2:6) the drought in Elijah's time, (2 Kings 18) and the plagues upon Egypt. (Exodus 7:14-21.) The destruction of the trumpets and the seven last plagues will fall on those who reject the *GOSPEL MESSAGE* and persecute God's *MESSENGERS*. (Revelation 8:7-10; 16:3,8,12.)

3 The Two Witnesses: LAST DAYS—TRIBULATION

As well as the great tribulation of the 1,260 days, (Revelation 12:5,6) in the days just before

the return of Jesus Christ, God's people face intense bitterness and persecution.



Q17 As they finish their preaching, who rises to attack and kill the people of God? Revelation 11:7

A

A terrible beast rises from the domain of evil and death. In Revelation 13 we have a parallel to this scene. The beast rises from the Abyss, or from receiving the "fatal wound," (Revelation 13:3) to attack God's people and God's Word. Revelation 11:7 and 8 are enlarged on in Revelation 13:11-18 where we read that those who refuse to worship the beast and his image will be slain.

Q18 Where are the *MESSENGERS* and the *MESSAGE* attacked and left dead? Revelation 11:8

A

The *GREAT CITY* in Revelation is the evil, symbolic Babylon. (Revelation 17 and 18.) It is "figuratively called Sodom and Egypt" (Revelation 11:8) because of its immorality and blasphemy. (See Jeremiah 23:14; Ezekiel 29:3,9.) Babylon is the city where Jesus Christ is rejected, blasphemed and crucified. The *MESSENGERS*, or believers, are attacked by those who reject the *GOSPEL MESSAGE* of salvation.



Q19 What will the people of the world do when God's Word and God's people are cast down? Revelation 11:9,10

A

People don't want to hear about the scripture, the Saviour, the standard of the ten commandments or the second coming of Jesus Christ. They celebrate when it seems that the faithful *MESSENGERS* and the *GOSPEL MESSAGE* have been suppressed.

Contempt is heaped upon those who have been faithful to Jesus Christ and His *MESSAGE*. (See Psalm 79:1-6.) This last tribulation caused by the attacks of the beast, although intense, will only last for a symbolic period of "three and a half days," or a day for each year of witnessing. This is a short period of suffering for God's last day people. (Compare Revelation 12:17.)

THE REWARDS



Q20 What will be the reward of God's faithful *MESSENGERS* who have suffered bitter persecution? Revelation 11:11,12

A 1 Revelation 11:11 They will be

2 Revelation 11:12 They will be

God's faithful *MESSENGERS* are vindicated. The truthfulness of the Bible *GOSPEL MESSAGE* will be clear. The ultimate reward for God's *MESSENGERS* is their resurrection and ascension to heaven. Persecution and martyrdom is not the end. The end will be the resurrection and ascension of God's people. The Living One will give life to those who have died for Him. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17.)



Q21 What will happen at the very hour of the ascension of the resurrected believers of *MESSENGERS*? Revelation 11:13

A 1

2

3

Those who have despised the scripture, the Saviour, the standard and the second coming of

Jesus Christ will be terrified by the vindication of the **MESSAGE** and **MESSENGERS** at our Lord's return. They will give glory to God, not in the sense of praise and adoration, but as the response of fear and terror. No longer can they haughtily deny the **MESSAGE**. No longer can they gloat over the **MESSENGERS**.

time? Revelation 11:18

- A 1 The servants and saints of God will be
- 2 Those who destroy will be



The return of Jesus Christ will be the time for giving rewards. The truthfulness of the Word of God, the scripture will be clear. The Saviour will be glorified and worshipped. (Revelation 11:15-18.) The ten commandments will be upheld as the standard in the judgement. (Revelation 11:19.) The second coming of Jesus will be a reality.

Q22 **The sounding of the seventh trumpet draws attention to the second coming of Jesus Christ. What will happen at that**

my response...

Do you accept the truthfulness of Scripture? Are you prepared to follow its counsel and instruction? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Have you chosen to live in harmony with the standard of the ten commandments? Are you ready for Jesus to return?



Are you willing to be one of God's *MESSENGERS* proclaiming His *MESSAGE*? In what ways do you think you could do this?

