

# Revelation 6—The Tribulation explained Part 3—How to Read the Book of Revelation

In the last two sermons we demonstrated that the events in Revelation are simply an expansion or add more detail to other Old and New Testament prophecies. The most important of these was Daniel 9:24-27. Today, as a reminder we'll just read verse 27 as this is the part of the seventy sevens prophecy that deals specifically with the tribulation. This will set us up to go through chapters 6 through 19 and get an overview of the section of the book of Revelation that deals with the 7 years predicted in Daniel 9:27

## Daniel 9:27 explained

Daniel 9:27 NLT paraphrase

**The ruler** will make a **treaty** with **the people** for a period of **one set of seven**, but after **half this time**, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.”

- **The ruler:** the roman prince who is to come from verse 26, the antichrist.
- **Make a treaty with the people:** The words ‘the people’ here is a *specific* reference to Israel, not a *general* reference to a group. The ancient Hebrew says, “*covenant with the many.*”
- **Treaty or covenant:** With this **covenant** Israel will embrace the Antichrist as a political messiah, if not the literal Messiah. Jesus predicted this in John 5:43, *I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*
- **For a period of one set of seven:** this is one “week” or one “seven”, meaning seven years of 360 days.  $7 \times 360 = 2,520$  days or 84 months.
- **But after half this time:** Half of this is 1260 days or 42 months or 3 1/2 years, as referenced in Revelation 11:3 and 12:6 plus other references. We’ll only look at two for now.

Revelation 11:3 NKJV

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Revelation 12:6 NLT paraphrase

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days.

Fristly, Revelation 11:3 refers to the two witnesses that will prophecy from Jerusalem. We will learn a little about them today as we do our survey of Revelation 6-19. But simply put, they are God’s two very special prophets who are supernaturally protected and will have a supernatural ministry. They will truly be a thorn in the side of the antichrist and anyone who follows him. These two prophets or witnesses are given or allocated 1260 days to prophecy, corresponding to the first half of the tribulation.

Secondly, Revelation 12:6 refers to the second half of the tribulation, the last 1260 days. Again we will learn more about this during our survey of Revelation 6-19, but simply put, the woman is Israel, and when the antichrist breaks his covenant half way

through the 7 year tribulation, then he will turn on Israel and try to destroy them. But God will supernaturally protect and provide for them for the last half of the tribulation (1260 days or 42 months) in what is modern day Jordan, specifically around the area of Petra (Sela in the OT), once a city of Edom.

- **He will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings:** Again, this is when the antichrist turns against the Jews, breaking his 7 year peace treaty with them at the midpoint of the tribulation. The treaty will allow the temple to be rebuilt next to the Dome of the Rock on the temple mount. The Jews will once again be offering animal sacrifices according to the law.
- **He will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration:** This is the abomination of desolation that we learned last week is also predicted by Paul and Jesus. The antichrist will desecrate the Holy of Holies of the temple in Jerusalem.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 NLT paraphrase

He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.

Revelation 13:5-8 tells us that he will blaspheme God and will make war with and overcome the saints and the unbelievers will worship him. He will be given this authority for 42 months, the last half of the tribulation, the time after he defiles the Holy of Holies in the temple of God.

- **Until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him:** Revelation 19:20 tells us that the antichrist and the false prophet will be thrown alive into the Lake of Fire. They will be the first guests in “hotel torment”.

### **The Church must be removed (raptured) before the Antichrist can be revealed and the 7 year Tribulation can begin**

So in summary: first the church (which is every living believer), is going to be snatched out of the world. Then right after the rapture, the antichrist will be revealed or unveiled. And He will immediately mesmerise the world. The world will be going through really tough times and will be desperate for a strong leader who can solve their problems. Now the good thing is that I've read the end of the book and we aren't going to be here.

### **The church must first be removed so Israel can fulfil their purpose: to evangelise the world during the Tribulation**

Now, as we learned last week, this is going to be the fulfilment of why God created Israel. They are going to accomplish what God created them for, to be a light to the gentiles. They are going to do in seven years what they haven't done in their whole history. They are going to evangelise the whole world, led by 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams. They are going to be specially anointed and specially gifted. We'll see that as we go through chapter 7. So it really important that we understand that that is one of the things that the Israelites have not completely fulfilled and that they are there in the tribulation to do it.

### **God will use the trials and judgements of the Tribulation to make Israel look up**

The second reason is that God is going to use these terrible events that take place during the 7 years to so drive the Israelites to despair, that they will finally look up and see who their real messiah is. Zechariah 12:10 says:

Zechariah 12:10 NLT paraphrase

Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.

It's all prewritten. When Jesus comes back to earth with the church, the Jews will see Jesus wounds and they will feel personally responsible for them. During this time there will be a tremendous number of Jews that will be brought to faith in Jesus as their Messiah.

### **Nothing happens on earth until it is established in Heaven—God is in control**

Another important observation that we will make as we go through the book of Revelation is that nothing happens on earth until it is established in Heaven—God is in control. Again, nothing happens on earth until it is established or announced in Heaven—God is in control. We will see this throughout the book of Revelation. Nothing happens on earth unless it was first authorised in Heaven.

## **Revision of Revelation Chapters 1-5**

Before we start our survey through chapters 6-19, I'll quickly recap what we covered in Revelation chapters 1 through 5 so we get the big picture.

- **Chapter 1** is Jesus revealing Himself to John.
- **Chapters 2 and 3** represent the church age chronologically, the seven stages of church history, from pentecost to the rapture. We are currently in the last stage of church history, the Laodicean or lukewarm church.
- **Chapter 4** shows the church in heaven before the throne of God.
- **Chapter 5** shows the saints, which means us, watching the throne of God, looking for an official, legal justification for the judgements that are about to fall on the earth. And there was a search for one who was worthy to open the seals. Remember the scroll with the seven seals, which contain all of the judgements that are about to fall on the earth. Chapter 5 asks the question, who is worthy to open the seals and unleash these judgements on the earth.

All the judgements are contained in the scroll. It works like this: the seventh seal opens the 7 trumpet judgements, and the seventh trumpet opens the seven golden bowl judgements—they are telescopic, they overlap and last one of each series opens the next series. And of course we studied how the Lamb that was slain, the Lion of Judah was the one who was worthy to open the scroll.

## **Chapter by chapter summary of the Tribulation (Revelation chapters 6-19)**

### **Understanding the Hebrew (Jewish) writing style**

Now we come to Revelation chapter 6, the beginning of Jesus opening the seven seals and unleashing judgement on the earth. From chapter 6 to chapter 19 of the book of Revelation we have a chronological unfolding of the events that are going to happen in that seven years of tribulation that the prophet Daniel predicted would precede the coming of the Messiah. Now, I say chronological. It is, but, I want to bring out something about the peculiar writing style of Hebrews (Jews or Israelites).

As an example, you can see it clearly in first in the first two chapters of Genesis. Typically, they would go chronologically through the events and then come back and take out of those events only the part that God wanted them to emphasise and explain more. That's just typical Hebrew writing style. For example, Genesis chapter 1 goes strictly chronologically throughout the six days of creation. Then, the second chapter of Genesis is an expansion and further explanation of only one part of the first chapter, the sixth day, especially focusing on the the creation of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve.

Now, the book of Revelation might be written in Greek, but it was a Hebrew who wrote it (the apostle John). So what John does, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is he shows the chronology, but in addition to the main facts, he intersperses, through chapters 6 through 19, vignettes (brief accounts or descriptions) in which he explains main characters, main purposes, and main organisations that we find in the book of Revelation. Again, a vignette is a short or brief account or description of something—like a summary. John takes the time to explain to us who the main characters, events and organisations are.

In these vignettes, some go back to the start of the nation of Israel (e.g. chapter 12), and then bring it to a sharp point as to how it's going to be developed in these seven years.

So let me explain how to read the book of Revelation. The chapters that explain or carry the chronological order forward are: Chapters 6, 8, 9, 16, 19. So each one of those carries forward the chronology of the seven year period. Are you with me? You can see this on the chart that I gave you (download from the website or podcast).

The rest of the chapters (7, 10-15, 17-18) are all vignettes (brief accounts or descriptions) in which he explains main characters, main purposes, and main organisations that we find in the book of Revelation.

As we already know, Chapters 4 and 5 introduce the church in Heaven, and the basis of Christ's authority to bring the awful judgements upon the Christ rejecting world.

## **Revelation Chapter 6—chronological—The seal judgements**

Chapter 6 is the first chronological chapter that describes the 7 year tribulation. It describes the first six **seal judgements** (We will study these next week):

- **first seal** - Antichrist conquers by peace,
- **second seal** - World War 3,
- **third seal** - Famine,
- **fourth seal** - 1/4 of earth's population dies,
- **fifth seal** - the martyred tribulation saints under the altar,
- **sixth seal** - Great earthquake.

## **Revelation Chapter 7—vignette—The 144,000 Jewish evangelists**

Now Chapter 7 is the first vignette. Chapter 7 explains God's grace in immediately calling 144,000 evangelists to offer salvation to this Christ rejecting world—right in the midst of all this judgement. And that's why this is brought in in chapter 7, and it shows that even in the midst of judgement God still shows grace. He will not have an earth that does not have a witness. You see, when we, the church are caught up, there won't be any believers left.

So chapter 7 begins with an angel saying, do not hurt the earth, the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads—12,000 from each of the tribes of Israel. So, anyone who thinks that there are lost tribes, well, God knows where they are. He even knows where 12,000 of them are that He wants to use in a special way. So chapter 7 explains God's grace in having evangelism during this time. Most likely, these 144,000 Jewish witnesses or evangelists are chosen, sealed and supernaturally protected at the start of the 7 year tribulation and survive right through to the end. We will see that when we look at chapter 14. Chapter 7 tells us that there will be a multitude of people who will believe because of the witness of these amazing evangelists. The following verse explains God's heart:

Habakkuk 3:2 NLT paraphrase  
I have heard all about you, Lord.  
I am filled with awe by your amazing works.  
In this time of our deep need,  
help us again as you did in years gone by.  
**And in your anger,  
remember your mercy.**

## **Revelation Chapters 8 and 9—chronological—The seven trumpet judgements**

In chapters 8 and 9 John moves the storyline forwards. They describe the seventh seal judgement, which includes the **seven trumpet judgements**:

- **first trumpet** - 1/3 of all trees and all the grain/grass burned up,
- **second trumpet** - 1/3 sea turned to blood,
- **third trumpet** - 1/3 fresh water poisoned,
- **fourth trumpet** - partial darkness over the earth. Remember how the three sets of judgements are telescopic, the last judgement of each includes the next seven.

(Chapter 9 is a continuation of the trumpet judgements)

- **fifth trumpet** - immense torment for 5 months with no death allowed during this time,
- **sixth trumpet** - army of 200,000 kills 1/3 of remaining population.

## **Revelation Chapter 10—vignette—Explaining God's Judgement**

Now, the second vignette is chapter 10. This is another gracious interlude, after the seal and the trumpet judgements, and before the horrific golden bowl judgements, which are beyond anyone's imagination. They are beyond terrible. And so it explains God's judgement, and it's like the world is so numbed by the impact of the seal judgements and the first 6 trumpet judgments that God causes there to be a pause to let mankind collectively sit back and say, now what does this tell me. God is still trying to give them a chance to repent and be saved.

## **Revelation Chapter 11—vignette—Explains The Tribulation Temple and the two prophets**

The next or third vignette is Chapter 11. This is one of the strangest of them all. It begins by predicting that a temple will be built by the Israelites. It's going to be built on the site of the previous temples (in the same place). And yet the court of the gentiles is said to be left out, because it has been given to the gentiles.

The real site of the temple is to the north of the Dome of the Rock—The Muslims got it wrong. This is fortunate because it allows room for the Jews to build the temple on the exact site and still leave room for the Dome of the Rock to remain standing. This is why the court of the gentiles is left out, because there would still be about 21 metres between the nearest point of the inner court of the temple and where the Dome of the Rock starts. So it explains that.

And now it starts to get really interesting. Chapter 11 explains God's grace again in sending two of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament to be a constant thorn in the side of everybody not saved. They will preach and nobody will be able to shut them up. They will preach for the first 3 1/2 years of the seven year tribulation period. Most likely they are Moses and Elijah. Why? One shuts up the heavens so that it doesn't rain for 3 1/2 years—that's what Elijah did. The other one turned the water into blood. Who did that? Moses. We are given another hint. Jesus told His disciples that there were some standing there who would not taste death until they saw the Son of Man come in all His glory. Then six days later, it says that Jesus took three of them up onto a mountain top, and they got an exact preview of coming attractions. Light began to shine out of Him and He became as bright as the sun, and they saw Him as He will appear when He comes in the second coming. Now, who was talking to Jesus about His soon departure? Moses and Elijah. God the Father then speaks and says, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him."

So, this chapter shows us that God will send His two greatest prophets to warn the world of the false messiah, the antichrist, and the false prophet. It then shows how the two prophets will be murdered by the antichrist. This shows that God is absolutely justified in all the fierce judgements that He will pour out on the earth. Because, instead of having any sympathy for these prophets, the world declares a holiday where they give gifts to each other, celebrating the deaths of the two witnesses. It says that the whole world will rejoice over the death of these two prophets and that they will let the bodies rot on the ground, lying in the streets, with the whole world seeing them. This points to the technology that was only fairly recently developed—TV and satellites.

Then after 3 1/2 days, they will be raised up in front of the whole world and caught up to heaven. The whole world will see this. God is showing us that all of these people who reject His constant efforts of grace to them, deserve everything that they are getting. And when the prophets are raised and taken up, it marks the exact middle of the 7 year tribulation period—the 3 1/2 year point.

We know what this is. In essence God is removing His two official ambassadors. Now when a country removes its ambassadors, what does it mean? War. And that is exactly what happens then. Because it's at this point that the Roman antichrist will sit in the temple of God and proclaim himself to be God, after these prophets are raised from the dead. So that's what Chapter 11 is all about, and we'll go into more detail when we get there.

## **Revelation Chapter 12—vignette—Explains Israel and the mystery of antisemitism**

The next or fourth vignette is chapter 12. Chapter 12 is about Israel and the mystery of antisemitism, and it adds one of the major reasons why Christ is judging the Christ rejecting world. It's because of the way that the world has mistreated the nation that He created when all nations were going away from God and trying to push the knowledge of God out of their memory. That's why God choose Abraham. That's why

God created the nation of Israel, so that He could deposit in this nation His written revelation. They would preserve it. They would demonstrate by their obedience to God that God blesses them and that's why they should know that He is the true God, and how they should act. Also, when Israel didn't obey God's written revelation, the other nations learnt by that to, because God judged Israel just like He said He would.

God judged or disciplined Israel, but He never let go of them. Why? Because God created the nation of Israel to bring all the other nations to Him. Now, Israel didn't always understand that mission, but nevertheless, that's why they were created. God also created them so that through the physical ethnic group of the Israelites, the Saviour of the world would be born—and He was. Through Abraham, through Judah, through the sons of David. So one way of labelling chapter 12 is “the mystery of antisemitism.”

### **Revelation Chapter 13—vignette—Explains the antichrist and the false prophet**

Chapter 13, the fifth vignette or explanation, is a prophetic biography of the careers of the Roman antichrist and the false prophet. These are two of the main characters of this period, and so it gives you a prophetic biography of these two people. It shows what they will be like and what they will do etc. This is a really important chapter.

### **Revelation Chapter 14—vignette— Describes the ultimate victory of the 144,000**

Now, Chapter 14, the sixth vignette, describes the ultimate victory of the 144,000 and Christ's special connection to them. It shows them at the end of the tribulation, all standing on Mount Zion with Jesus. It shows that they are on the earth. Jesus will miraculously protect them from being killed during the tribulation. They will suffer, but none of the 144,000 will die, despite all of the terrible judgements that will happen during the 7 year tribulation. I believe that it's about these 144,000 that Matthew 25 is written where it says, “I was in prison and you visited me. I was hungry and you gave me food etc.” And it says, “In as much as you did it for the least of these **My brethren**, you did it for Me.” It seems that this is the sign of whether somebody is a believer or unbeliever, by how they treat these 144,000 people. Remember that Matthew 25:31-46 refers to the judgement of the gentiles at the end of the tribulation period. Also consider that helping the 144,000 during the tribulation period will be risking your life.

So chapter 14 describes the ultimate victory that comes to the 144,000 after they have worked through the whole 7 years, and it again shows the guilt of the world by their rejection of these 144,000 witnesses.

### **Revelation Chapter 15—vignette— Describes the victory of the martyrs who died for their faith during the tribulation**

Chapter 15, the seventh vignette, talks about the victory of the martyrs who died for their faith during the tribulation. You see, most of the people who believe in Jesus during the tribulation will die, they will be martyred. You think it's hard to believe in Jesus now—it will be much harder then if you wait till after the Rapture and you find yourself in the tribulation. But this teaches about God's grace, and at the end of chapter 15 it shows something that, if you are on the earth, it would be the most frightening thing that you could ever learn—God's grace is finally exhausted. Because

from this point on there is no more grace. And this opens the way for chapter 16 which carries this forward chronologically. Chapter 16 shows the greatest judgements that will hit this earth. When we go through that, I will show you some things that are there that will show you that you won't even want to be close to planet earth—it's terrifying what's going to happen.

## **Revelation Chapter 16—chronological—The seven bowl judgements**

Chapter 16 is chronological and lists and describes the **Seven Bowl Judgements**:

- **first bowl** - horrible sores on those who have taken the mark of the beast,
- **second bowl** - all oceans turn to blood and everything in them dies,
- **third bowl** - all fresh water sources becomes blood,
- **forth bowl** - great heat over all the earth,
- **fifth bowl** - darkness and pain on the main city, the economic headquarters of the antichrist,
- **sixth bowl** - Euphrates river dried up to make way for the armies of the east to come to the battle of Armageddon,
- **seventh bowl** - massive earthquake and massive hail and Jerusalem split into three parts.

## **Revelation Chapter 17—vignette—Explains the mystery of Babylon and it shows the religious aspect of the antichrist's system**

Now we have the last two vignettes, chapter 17 and 18. Chapter 17 explains the mystery of Babylon and it shows the religious aspect of the antichrist's system. It shows that mystery Babylon started a long time ago, and how it will reach the zenith or climax of its power under the antichrist during the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

## **Revelation Chapter 18—vignette—Explains the mystery of Babylon and it shows the economic aspect of the antichrist's system**

The we go to chapter 18. This vignette is the explanation of the mystery Babylon in the economic aspect, because it shows that the antichrist will have a very special, world dominating economic system, and it shows how that will happen. I won't give it all away now, because we will study it when we come to it. This is the last of the vignettes that explain the different movements, people etc.

## **Revelation Chapter 19—chronological—Jesus comes back with the church to earth to claim it as His own**

Chapter 19 is the last chapter that describes the tribulation. It is chronological. It describes what happens when Jesus comes back with the church to earth to claim it as His own. The antichrist and his armies are destroyed and the antichrist and the false prophet are thrown alive into the Lake of Fire. They will be the first ones to experience this dark and awful place. They will be there forever.



## **Revelation Chapter 20—chronological—The Kingdom of God on Earth**

Chapter 20 shows what will happen immediately after the Lord comes back and the tribulation is finished, and it introduces the Kingdom that Jesus will establish. The kingdom was promised throughout the Old Testament. The only thing that wasn't known in the Old Testament is how long the kingdom would last—how long the Messiah would reign on the earth. Revelation 20 says that it will last 1,000 years.

## **Revelation Chapter 21—chronological—The new heavens and earth and the new Jerusalem**

Chapter 21 describes the creation of the new heavens and earth and the new Jerusalem. Here, we enter into eternity with no more sin or death forever more. Everyone will have received their glorified bodies and will be incapable of sinning. How glorious will that be.

## **Revelation Chapter 22—vignette—An exhortation to be ready for Christ's soon return**

Chapter 22 further describes what the new world is like and tells us that we will reign forever and ever with Christ. It then finishes with an exhortation and a warning that Jesus is coming back, and that when He does come back, it will happen suddenly, unexpectedly.

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## **How what John saw about Jesus in Revelation affected the writing of the Gospel of John**

Just to finish, before we take communion together, I would like to look at an example of how what John saw, when he received the visions that became the book of revelation, affected what he wrote in the gospel of John. You know the super bible scholars, the higher critical school, which are not higher, but they are sure critical. These august theologians who attempt to tear the bible apart and say that it's full of errors and all of that, one of the favourite things they like to say is Matthew, Mark and Luke, the synoptic gospels are more historic than the gospel of John, because the gospel of John takes things from an entirely different point of view. John on Patmos just saw the end of the world and Jesus role in that. John then wrote the gospel of John later in Ephesus. This gave John greater understanding of some of the things that Jesus said that they didn't understand at the time. There were a lot of things that Jesus had said that they didn't understand at the time, especially in John chapter 16, but Jesus says that you will understand later. I'm going to send the Holy Spirit and He will bring to remembrance all the things that I have said.

Look at John 5. Jesus has just been challenged by the Jews for saying that He was God, the Son of God. He defends Himself in verse 19:

John 5:19 NKJV

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

Now you see here, John is clarifying something, that while Jesus was on earth, He only used His human power. Nothing He did, the miracles He performed, everything, He did not do them by His own divine power. If Jesus did, He would have disqualified Himself as being a true human, and to die for the sins of man He had to be a true man. So the Holy Spirit produced through Him everything that He did. And He did this by faith. And that's what it means when it says, "The Son can do nothing of Himself." So John understood this, and He's the only one that emphasises this, over and over again, through his gospel. Then He says:

John 5:20-24 NKJV

<sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. <sup>21</sup> For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent Him.

<sup>24</sup> "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life [already], and shall not come into judgment, but has (already) passed from death into life.

Isn't that wonderful. You have already passed out of death and into life. That's not going to be decided when you stand before the judgement seat of Christ. If you are there, it's already been decided.

Now, in verse 27:

John 5:27-29 NKJV

...and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done [the] good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done [the] evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Do you know why it is singular—"the good", and "the evil"? It's because there is only one thing that will cause you to be separated from God, and there is only one reason that a person will go to be in the presence of God forever. What is that? To believe that Jesus Christ died in your place and paid for all your sins, meaning from your birth to your death. All means all. And so when you believe in Him, in that moment, you pass from death to life.

The verse I want to emphasise is verse 27, "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man." You see, only a man who lived a perfect life and then willingly died for the sins of the world was able to purchase the title deed of the earth back from Satan. Satan won it by getting Adam to reject God's Word, and to voluntarily reject relationship with God. And so, by default, that gave ownership of the title deed of the earth to Satan. So it had to be another man, who would be perfect, and would voluntarily die to pay the penalty of sin that would be worthy to get the title deed of the earth back. And along with that, have the legal authority to judge the earth. Now that is very important, because that's what chapter 5 of the book of Revelation is all about. Who is worthy to open the seals? Well here, with John looking through that, writes what Jesus had said, and says, well yes, He told us that in the beginning—we just didn't understand.

## **Application:**

The vignette of John eating the little book or scroll in Revelation 10 is powerful. Jesus is coming back and we will rule and reign with Him—that's sweet. But before He comes back the world will be judged—that's a bitter and difficult message to share. But we need to be faithful to share the whole counsel of God, not just the "sweet" parts. Jesus said to do this in remembrance of me, both of when He came the first time, and also when He will come back the second time. Let us be thankful that we are in Christ, and if you are not, simply repent and ask God to forgive you based on that fact that He paid the penalty for your sins when He died for you on the cross.