

THE SCROLL

Revelation 10

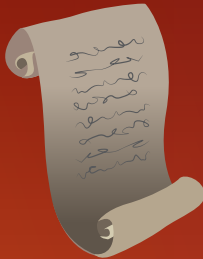
We've now reached the midpoint of the Tribulation. So significant is this moment, that 6 chapters of Revelation are devoted to describing the events at, and around, this 3.5 year mark. Chapter 10 introduces the mid-Tribulation events, with the arrival of a large, magnificent angel holding a little scroll. This scene closely connects with what Daniel saw in Dan 12, where he was instructed by an angel to write on a scroll, the events that would occur in the latter half of Tribulation. But back then, Daniel was not to reveal the contents of the scroll as the words "are concealed and sealed up until the end time." - Dan 12:9

But now in the middle of Tribulation, the time to reveal those words has arrived, so the same angel appears, this time to John, holding the same scroll. The angel asks John to eat the scroll, symbolically representing the taking in of the prophecy. John is then ready to prophesy over the nations, making the words of the scroll known, revealing the events of the second half of Tribulation.

“Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, “Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little scroll.

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.” I took the little scroll from 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. And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”

Rev 10:8-11 ”



MIDPOINT OF TRIBULATION
Rev 10 - John prepares to reveal the events in the second half of Tribulation. Rev 11 tells us what the two witnesses have been doing up to this point.



SWEET VS BITTER

There is a bitter-sweet nature to prophecy. It is sweet because knowing future events and the hope of the Kingdom is exciting, but also bitter, as the truth of what the world will go through, sinks in.

THE 2 WITNESSES

Revelation 11

Revelation 11 describes the Lord’s two witnesses. These two men have been operating since the start of the Tribulation and have the power to stop rain, strike the Earth with plagues and turn water to blood. Essentially, they can bring upon the Earth similar calamities to the Seal and Trumpet judgments and are therefore seen as being responsible for all the destruction. Naturally, the world hates these men and wants them dead, but they are able to destroy their enemies with fire from their mouths. God preserves them for 1260 days (3.5 years) to continue their work, ending at the midpoint of Tribulation.

Being called witnesses, we presume they are declaring the end of the world is near, and the current judgments are a preview of things to come. They testify to God’s purpose, explain the origins of the devastation so that nobody misses the point of Tribulation and doesn’t blame it on global warming or alien invasion.

When their time of ministry is complete after 3.5 years, they are killed by the beast that rises from the abyss. The world celebrates their death, as people believe the affliction will now end. But 3.5 days later, their joy turns to fear as God raises the two witnesses from the dead. However, they cause no further harm, as God calls them to heaven and they ascend, witnessed by their enemies. In that hour, an earthquake kills 7000 people and the remaining people are terrified and give glory to God.

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Chapter 11 ends with the 7th angel blowing its trumpet. This triggers the outpouring of the 7 bowl judgments and the second half of Tribulation - the beginning of the end.

MEASURE THE TEMPLE

Rev 11 begins with John measuring the temple. This confirms that the Jews have an operational temple during the Tribulation - a temple that seems to be spared the devastation of the world around it.

