

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Placerita Baptist Church
2012

Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 1. Preparation for the Seven Trumpet Judgments (8:2–6)
 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 3. The Last Three Trumpet Judgments—**Three Woes** (8:13–11:19)
 - a. Introduction to the Woes (8:13)
 - b. **Fifth Trumpet**—Fiery Locusts from the Pit (9:1–12)
 - c. **Sixth Trumpet**—Loosing of the Four Angels Bound in the Euphrates (9:13–21)
 - d. **Parenthesis** (10:1–11:14)
 - The Mighty Angel (10:1–7)
 - ✓ Who is this angel (vv. 1–2)?
 - ▶ His identification (v. 1a): “another (*allos*) strong angel.”
 - ▶ His location (v. 1b): “coming down out of heaven.”
 - ▶ His appearance (v. 1c)—cp. 1:12–16, but similarity does not mean identity.
 - ▶ His possession (v. 2a)—“a little book which was open” (same as in chapter 5?).
 - ▶ His stance (v. 2b)—cannot be Christ—cp. 19:11–16.
 - ✓ The utterance of the seven thunders (vv. 3–4).
 - ▶ See 2 Corinthians 12:4.
 - ▶ The angel speaks, then the seven peals of thunder occur (v. 3).
 - ▶ A voice from heaven commands John not to write the content of what the seven peals of thunder have said (v. 4).
“seal up”—cf. Revelation 22:10; Daniel 12:4
 - ✓ The strong angel swears that there will be no more delay (vv. 5–6).
 - ▶ The oath refers to the eternally living God who created all things.

Barrick, **The Testimony of Jesus in the Book of Revelation**

- ✓ “then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached (*euangelizo*) to His servants the prophets” (verse 7).
 - ▶ God reveals mysteries: cf. Amos 3:7 and Daniel 2:17–47.
 - ▶ New Testament definition of a “mystery”: Romans 16:25–26.
 - ▶ The fulfillment of this mystery relates to the sounding of the seventh trumpet.
 - ▶ The content of this mystery: Why does an omnipotent and holy God allow evil to go unpunished and His people to suffer? Why does God delay the establishing of His Kingdom on the earth?
- The Book (10:8–11; cf. verse 2)
 - See Ezekiel 3:1–3; Jeremiah 15:16–18.
 - ✓ Receiving the book (verses 8–10).
 - ▶ A voice from heaven commands John to take the book from the hand of the angel (v. 8).
 - ▶ The angel told John to eat the book (v. 9).
 - ▶ John ate the book (v. 10).
 - Significance of the sweetness and bitterness?
 - What does eating the book signify?
 - ✓ Receiving the commission (verse 11).
 - ▶ “they said to me” = “I was told”
 - ▶ John will receive additional prophetic revelation affecting many nations and kings.
 - ▶ Apparently the entire front of the scroll has now been exposed and John is being told that he must read the content on the back of the scroll. After the seventh trumpet, the scroll is reversed to reveal the prophecies concerning nations and kings.

Front of the scroll:

7 SEALS	/	7 TRUMPETS
	/	
	8:1	
6:1	/	11:19
	/	

Back of the scroll:

MISCELLANEOUS	/	7 BOWLS
WRITINGS	/	
	/	
12:1	/	20:1
	/	

Questions for Discussion

- a. What is the mystery that will be finished when the seventh trumpet sounds?
- b. About which peoples, nations, tongues, and kings will John yet prophesy?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ Jesus, as the Word of God, speaks from heaven.
- ▶ Jesus is the eternal living God.
- ▶ Jesus is the Creator of all things.
- ▶ Jesus will finish the mystery of God.