

Rebooted for Service

Revelation 10:1-11

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Computers, smart phones, tablets are marvelous pieces of modern technology which enable productive work.
- But at times computers need to be “rebooted”, loading a fresh copy of the operating system into memory.
- People can also become overwhelmed, overloaded, confused, disoriented, and may need to be “rebooted”.
- The Apostle John is completely overwhelmed by what he has experienced and seen. He has been dealing with some pretty heavy stuff.
 - Exiled on the island of Patmos for the preaching of the gospel
 - Received an incredible series of visions from God.
 - Told by God to write a book of what he had seen.
 - Revelation 1:7-- *“the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last” that “what you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia.”*
 - Revelation 1:19-- *“write the things which you have seen, the things which are, and the things which take place after this.”*
 - John wrote Jesus’ evaluation of the seven churches in Asia minor-- Revelation 2-3
 - John is caught up to heaven where he was privy to the transfer of the title deed to the earth from God the Father to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God
 - He watched as the sealed judgments were opened one at a time. The Antichrist riding on the scene with a white horse, followed by wars, famine and disease, resulting in one-fourth of the world’s population dying.
 - He heard the cry of the martyrs.
 - Revelation 6:10-- *“How long, O Lord, holy and true until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*
 - And he also heard the cries of trapped men after the sixth sealed judgment
 - Revelation 6:15-17-- *“The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man hid themselves in caves and the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”*
 - He witnessed the war in heaven between Satan and Michael, and then Satan being banished to the earth and the events that followed-- the antichrist being turned into the beast, his demands to be worshiped, and the economic sanctions he imposed.
 - He watched as Jesus Christ opened the seventh sealed judgment which begins the *“great day of His wrath to come.”*
 - He witnessed the devastation on the earth with the first four blasts of the trumpets. 1/3 of the vegetation, sea and sea-life, fresh water supply, and the heavens themselves affected.
 - He witnessed the horrific sight of demons tormented men for five months and then the sight of death returning with one-third of the world’s population dying.

Rebooted for Service

A. Stop What You are Doing!

- Revelation 10:1-4-- *“I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.’”*

1. **Identity of the “Mighty Angel”**
 - a. Some believe that the “mighty Angel” is the Lord Jesus Christ because of the similarities between the description of the angel and that of Christ in Revelation 1:12-17, and the fact that both are seen as descending in a cloud (Revelation 1:7).
 - b. Objections: Why the “mighty angel” cannot be Jesus Christ.
 - 1) Described as “another mighty angel”. The word “another” is “allos”, “another of the same kind”
 - 2) Other “mighty angels” are mentioned in Revelation.
 - Revelation 5:2-- *Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals!’*
 - 3) This mighty angel comes down from heaven. If this is Christ, then we have another coming of Christ to earth unforeseen elsewhere in Scripture.
 - 4) Other angels in Scripture are described with the same splendor.
 - Daniel 10:15-16--*“I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.”*
2. **Description of this “Mighty Angel”**
 - a. *“clothed with a cloud”*-- indicates His power, majesty, and glory
 - b. *“rainbow on his head”*-- represents God’s mercy in the midst of judgment
 - c. *“face like the sun and feet like pillars of fire”*
 - d. *“had a little book open in his hand”*-- the Word of God which details still future judgments
 - e. *“set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land”*-- the breadth of God’s sovereign control
 - f. *“cried with a loud voice, as a lion roars”*
 - ^a Jeremiah 25:30-- *“The LORD will roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.”*
 - g. *“seven thunders uttered their voices”*-- warning of impending judgment
 - 1 Samuel 7:10 -- *“Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.”*
 - 1 Samuel 2:10-- *“The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed.”*
3. **Prohibition by the “Mighty Angel”-- STOP! Do not write! “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”**
 - a. We today do not know the content of the seven “thunders”. We assume they are warnings of impending judgments.
 - b. Others were prohibited by God to write what they saw in prophetic visions.
 - Daniel 8:26-- *“the visions of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision for it refers to many days in the future.”*
 - Daniel 12:9-- *“Go your way for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”*
 - c. Some truths God has chosen not to reveal to us. We are on a “need-to-know” basis.
 - Deuteronomy 29:29-- *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*
 - d. Stopping gave John time to process and to reflect upon all he has seen and experienced.

B. Gain a Fresh Perspective, God's Perspective

- Revelation 10:5-7-- *"The angel that I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about the sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets."*
1. **"there should be delay no longer"**. The prayers of the martyrs is about to be answered
 - Revelation 6:10-- *"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*
 2. With the sounding of the seventh trumpet, **"the mystery of God would be finished"**
 - a. A "mystery" in the Bible is something that is concealed in the Old Testament but revealed in the New.
 - Romans 16:25-26-- *"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began, but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting god, for obedience to the faith."*
 - b. A number of things are "mysteries" in the New Testament
 - c. What is the **"mystery of God that would be finished?"**
 - Ephesians 1:9-10-- *"having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him."*
 - 1) The consummation of God's plan for the ages.
 - 2) Culminates in the kingdom of Christ established here on earth
 - Revelation 11:15-18-- *"the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.' And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.'"*
 - 3) Includes the salvation of the elect and the judgment of the unredeemed
 - 4) Includes the destruction of the present heavens and earth, and the creation of the new.
3. **The fresh perspective then is this:** Then end is about here! Hang in there a little bit longer. The worst is yet to come but there is light at the end of the tunnel-- the Return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom here on earth.

C. Rebooted for Continued Service

- Revelation 10:8-11-- *"Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, 'Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.' So I went to the angel and said to him, 'Give me the little book.' And he said to me, 'Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.' Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, 'You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.'"*

1. The unusual assignment is not without precedence.
 - Ezekiel 2:9--3:4-- *"now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold a scroll of the book was in it. Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. Moreover He said to me, 'Son of man, feed your belly and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.' So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. Then He said to me, 'Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak My words to them.'"*
 - Jeremiah 15:16 -- *"Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts."*
2. The "little book" is the Word of God, particularly that which details coming judgments and what follows.
3. **The Process of "Rebooting"**
 - a. **Ingesting God's Word--** "eating the scroll"
 - b. **Digesting God's Word--** meditating on the Scriptures
 - Psalm 1:2-3-- *"...delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bring forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."*
 - a. **"sweet as honey to your mouth"**
 - Psalm 19:10-- *"More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."*
 - b. **"make your stomach bitter"**
 - c. **Expressing God's Word--** "You must prophesy again"
 - a. John again picks up his quill to write
 - Revelation 14:13-- *"Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the LORD from now on."*
 - Revelation 19:9-- *"Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb."*
 - Revelation 21:5-- *"Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'"*
 - b. Write so that "many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings" might be warned of the coming judgments.

Applications for us today:

1. Some of us may need to be "rebooted" spiritually. To do so follow the same formula: Stop what you are doing and seek a fresh perspective from God! Gain that fresh perspective by returning to the basics: Ingesting or reading God's Word; Digesting or meditating on God's Word; and then acting upon God's word, starting afresh with renewed confidence and commitment to the Lord.
2. The "bittersweet" taste of Biblical prophecy should motivate us in our service for the Lord. The "sweetness" encourages and comforts us as we trust in Jesus and take Him at His word. But the "bitterness" of knowing what our unsaved friends and loved ones will face should move us to share the gospel so that they might escape God's coming wrath.