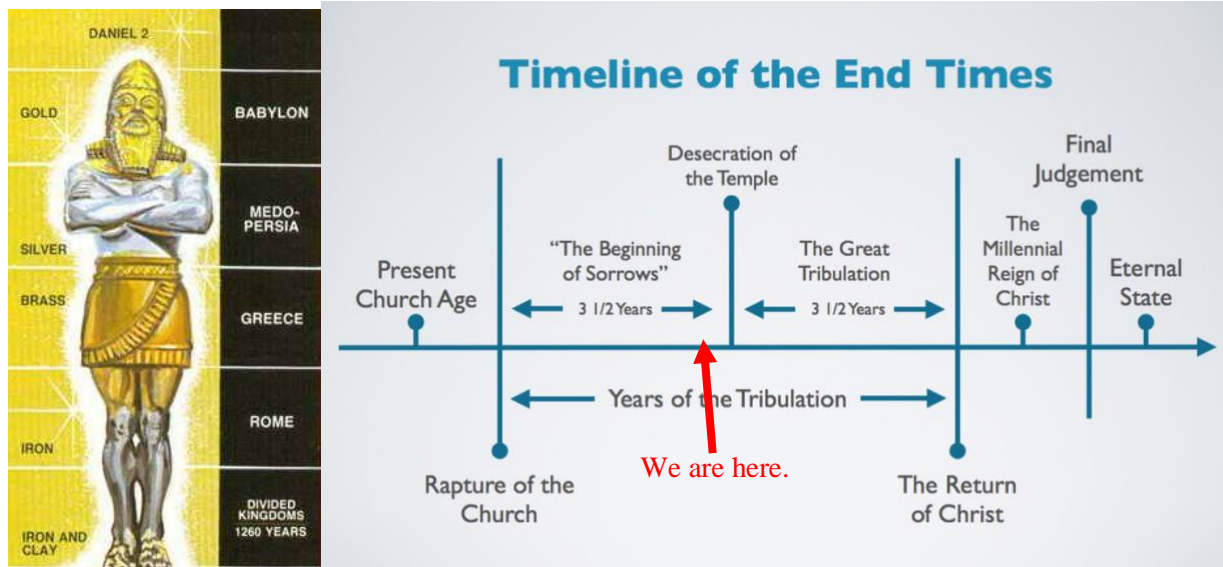


The Strong Angel



²⁴ Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city-- to bring the rebellion to an end, to put a stop to sin, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place. ²⁵ Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until an Anointed One, the ruler, will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will be rebuilt with a plaza and a moat, but in difficult times. ²⁶ After those sixty-two weeks the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the coming ruler will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come with a flood, and until the end there will be war; desolations are decreed. ²⁷ He will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and offering. And the abomination of desolation will be on a wing of the temple until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator." (Dan. 9:24-27 CSB)

Revelation 10:1 "I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; (Rev 10:1)

Tonight, our text finds us almost in the middle of the Tribulation just before the last (7th) trumpet sounds.

... but before the 7th trumpet sounds there is another parenthetical pause.

In the midst of John reporting all of the sorrow and horror, John pauses to remind us of the glory and wonder of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

He is described and identified here as the "Strong Angel."

How do we know this Jesus? Well, look at how Ezekiel describes this same scene:

²⁷ From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him. ²⁸ The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the LORD 's glory. (Ezek. 1:27-28 CSB)

1. How do we know this is Jesus?

A. First, He is clothed with a cloud.

This description is of Christ in His glory because it brings to mind the Glory-Cloud that attended Israel's way through the wilderness.

- In Exodus dark clouds surrounded Mt. Sinai when God gave Moses the OT law.
- In Exodus a glorious cloud led the children of Israel through the wilderness.
- The Psalmist in 104:3 tells us that *"God makes the cloud his chariot."*
- After his earthly ministry, Jesus ascended back into heaven on a cloud.
- Here Jesus is CLOTHED with a cloud.

The cloud is the physical garment of the Lord's divine presence.

Matthew 17 records what happened when Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a mountain and it says in **verse 2** of that chapter: *² And He [Jesus] was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. (Mat 17:2)* Then in **verse 5** it says, *⁵ While he [Jesus] was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" (Mat 17:5)*

Jesus is up on this mountain with Peter, James, and John and when Peter saw the royalty and majesty of Jesus he wanted to just stay on the mountain top, build a tabernacle and do nothing but worship Jesus...but that's not the Lord's plan.

Worship is not fixed on a place it is fixed in a person—the glorious person of Jesus our Savior.

No matter what is going wrong you need to **always be aware of, divine presence of the Lord Jesus Christ**—that is the **first ingredient of inward peace.**

B. Second, there is a rainbow on his head.

The rainbow is the most familiar symbol of God's promises to man.

I wonder what went through Noah's mind when he walked out of the ark, and saw all of the carnage and devastation of the flood ...

... but then suddenly Noah looked up and saw that God had wrapped the new sky with the ribbon of a brilliant rainbow.

Every rainbow is the physical evidence that God keeps every promise that he has made to man—**that is the second ingredient of inward peace.**

- The cloud of the **constant presence** of Jesus
- The rainbow of Christ's **unfailing promises**

C. His Face was like the Sun.

[Earlier, in the first chapter, John said that the Lord's face was "like the sun shining in its strength."]

Our solar system works. It's not crumbling down or breaking apart at the seams. The solar system maintains its order because everything revolves around the sun.

Without the gravitation power of the sun our solar system would fall apart. [We learned that from Copernicus.]

Just as the earth is controlled by the gravitational pull of the sun our lives should be controlled by the gravitational pull of the Son of God.

Obedience to the light of Christ is the **third ingredient necessary for inward peace.**

If your life revolves around anything other than Jesus Christ then there is going to be constant disorder and recurring catastrophe.

Jesus Christ is not just the Son of God he is the Sun of our solar system.

Allowing the light of Christ to be the guide and rule of your life will give your life godly structure, order, and priority.

D. Fourth, his feet are as pillars of fire.

... fire consumes and cleanses.

Sometimes our soul gets so filled with the dust of neglect, and the cobwebs of indifference, that our faith and prayer life become almost non-existent.

We need the Lord in the full power of his majestic royalty to walk back into our lives and burn away the trash that we have allowed to pile up.

The cleansing of the fire of the Lord's holiness is the **fourth ingredient necessary for inward peace.**

When we look at Jesus we see:

- The **cloud** of His **constant presence**
- The **rainbow** of His **unfailing promises**
- The **light** of His **guiding power**
- The **cleansing fire** of His **purity**

Life is neither consistent or trustworthy and sometimes you can get completely lost in all the business, stressed out, frustrated...when all else fails to comfort you just remind yourself of the Regal Royalty of the Lord Jesus Christ and it will bring peace to your troubled soul.

2. The Authority of Jesus gives us confidence

Revelation 10:2 and he held a little scroll opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea, his left on the land, (Rev. 10:2 CSB)

When the scroll was first given to Jesus, it was sealed but now the Lord has opened the seals to show us that He is coming to judge the earth and reclaim it for himself.

[Jesus is going to reclaim the earth.]

- **It is His by creation/Calvary/conquest.**

In Bible times, when a conqueror overthrew a nation and occupied a piece of land that had a shoreline, he would put one foot in the water and the other upon dry land and then raise his hand in victory.

This gesture meant that he had conquered everything—both land and sea. [Jesus is showing us that this is all his.]

If the **Lord's royalty gives us great peace**, then certainly **His Authority should instill great confidence**.

Not only do we know in whom we have believed, we know—beyond all doubt—He, and He alone, is able to keep that which we have entrusted him with—the safety and eternal destiny of our souls.

3. The Plan of Jesus gives us assurance

Revelation 10:3-5 and he called out with a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders raised their voices. ⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!" ⁵ Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. (Rev. 10:3-5 CSB)

Out of the seventh seal came seven trumpets and as this last trumpet is about the sound John hears 7 thunderclaps.

[Several times in the bible when a voice would come out of heaven and the intended hearer would hear the voice and understand but to everyone else it would just sound like thunder.]

That is what is happening here. There are 7 thunderclaps—at least this is how it sounds to everyone else but to John each thunderclap is a message about what God is doing.

After the 7 messages the voice then tells John to not write what he has heard.

Jesus Christ—Our Strong Angel—cries out and John is so amazed he is about to write it down **but Jesus says, "Stop"— why??**

Why doesn't the Lord want John to tell us what he has heard? **Answer:** I don't know. We aren't told. "So, what are we to take from this?"

I think it means that some of the mysteries of God are too wonderful to explain... they are beyond us. We will probably never be able to know all the factors and agencies that determine the future. There are some things we cannot understand.

We must learn to trust God in the details and not worry since He has assured us on the major point.

The major point: If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ one day you will see Him face to face and be with Him forever.

Revelation 10:5,6-“Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it: "There will no longer be a delay, (Rev. 10:5-6 CSB)

Here we read that God has sworn by himself. Why by himself? -because there is nothing higher.

But what does the Lord mean by this phrase in verse 6 “*that there will no longer be a delay*”?

This word “delay” is the Greek word ‘chronos’ and it can be translated as *time* or *delay*. Jesus is saying there will be no more delay, **no more time passing** before the 7th trumpet blows and the mystery of God is revealed.

Sin has been on a rampage ... and the clock is about to run out. Jesus-Our Strong Angel, declares that everything is going to come to a conclusion.

- There will come a time when the last opportunity to repent will be past.
- There will come a moment when it will be “too late” to be saved.
- Theirs is coming day when the grace of God will no longer be available.

Revelation 10:7-11 but in the days when the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets." ⁸ Then the voice that I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." ⁹ So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." ¹⁰ Then I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I ate it, my stomach became bitter. ¹¹ And they said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings." (Rev. 10:7-11 CSB)

This “little scroll” represents the Word of God. **It is the title deed to all creation**, and it belongs to our Savior. The Lord instructs John to take this book and eat it.

This is a metaphor but in a sense we should all do the same thing. We need to consume the truth of God’s word, let it nourish us, strengthen us, and change us—change how we love and live, and even how we speak.

Look at verse 11—John is commanded to tell others.

This world is headed for judgment and you can’t read the book of Revelation without seeing it...

There is not just a heaven to gain, there is a hell to avoid.