

Revelation 10 Part 6

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at part twenty-six in our study of the book of Revelation. We're in Revelation chapter ten and we're going to pick it up at verse eight.

'And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the Angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.'

'And I went unto the Angel, and said unto Him, Give me the little book. And He said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.'

'And I took the little book out of the Angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.'

'And He said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.'

The voice which he heard from heaven was, of course, God. Even though the Angel standing in front of him is God, to me there is no issue to God being in all places at all times. I know that many people think of God as three persons, and the obvious, probably easiest way of looking at that is when Jesus was baptized, there was Jesus in the water, there was a voice from heaven and a dove came down. So you had the Father, Son and Holy Ghost seen as three separate entities but of course They're not, They're one. God is in all places at all times.

I love the story of the man who visited a church in China before the communists took over and clamped down on Christianity. And he stood there and the leader of the group said, 'Let us pray.' And immediately all the Chinese in the room started to pray out loud all differently, a great cacophony of noise, and the white man was confused. He said to the leader, 'Isn't all this confusing?' And the Chinese leader said, 'Confusing to whom?'

God can hear every single prayer from every single person in the world even if they pray at the same time from different places. He is everywhere. He reveals Himself in different ways. Obviously as a Pillar of Fire, but also as a Pillar of Cloud, He came as a man, He was a still small voice. Again and again God can appear in many ways, so just because there's lots of different ways doesn't mean there's lots of different gods. It's simply the same God.

Now, in this section here we have the Voice which spoke from heaven, 'Go and take the little book'. We know the little book is the book of the redeemed, the book that was sealed with seven seals. It is the Book of Life, the Lamb's Book of Life, and we are to take it and eat it.

Now, to eat something is to take something into one's self. Jesus spoke to the disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees. Now leaven is something you don't normally drink, it's something you eat. It goes in bread.

And we don't eat books. We read them. We take the contents of the book into ourselves. And this is the Book of Life. This is God's Word to us today. And I understand this to be the messages that William Branham preached, this is God's revelation for this day. So we take in those messages. We take in those books. And in doing so, we find that yeah, they're great, they reveal the Word to us, but boy, do they affect our physical body. We are to do things and live in a way that restricts our natural human body. And, of course, that's the part that makes our belly bitter.

Now, one of the interesting things about this whole book of Revelation is that it was only given to one man, to John the Beloved of God. And God is looking for a Bride. He always looked for a Bride. It looked as though Israel would be the Bride, but she didn't stay true. It looked as if the church would be the Bride, but she didn't stay true to God's Word, to Jesus Christ. She got her own man-made systems going. So, He comes again to call again and there's a message to go out to call to the Bride. There always has been through all ages, to stay true to Jesus and not to any person, not to any particular group, not to any denomination, creed, dogma or anything, it is to Jesus Christ the Word. Stay true to the bible. Stay true to the Spirit of the bible, not the letter of the bible for the letter killeth, but stay true to the Spirit of the bible. That's what the call is, that's how we should be living. For those that are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God. Not those that live by the letter.

So, we have here a beloved of God who is being shown all the things that will come to pass, and all that is wrong and is dangerous. The beloved is the Bride of Christ. John, in the book of Revelation, represents the Bride. He saw and heard the seventh angel, and then the instructions were to go to the Angel that came down from heaven with the book. Not to go to the seventh angel, but to go to Jesus Christ to get the understanding. It's the Holy Spirit that reveals the truth of God, not William Branham. He just produced the words, but hidden in the words is the Voice of God Himself. And, of course, we are to catch that Voice. That's why, of course, in the seven church ages they all finish with 'those with an ear to hear, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches'. We have to catch the Spirit.

So John here is being told to go and take the book off Jesus, take the understanding, take the real Word itself, Christ Himself, into himself, and it will taste good, it will taste wonderful, like honey or something like that, really nice, but the belly, no. It will make it bitter. It's not what the body wants to do.

When we are brought to salvation, when we are changed by the Spirit of God, our soul is given eternal life. Our spirit is to be controlled and led by the Holy Spirit. But our body is still a human body. It will still fall down. It will still make mistakes. That's just the way it is. That's just the on-going battle we're going to have, and we're going to have the biggest battle in our mind. Because our mind will try and find logical, reasonable, conscience-soothing ideas and concepts that will make us comfortable, but that's not the way God wants us to be. He wants us to live by His Spirit and live in that next realm, the soul realm.

Now, some people teach that the centre of us is the spirit and the soul is the earthly or whatever human nature. Now that's not correct. It's the other way round. Our spirit is naturally human. Our soul – you know, you have a spirit but your soul is you. That's the real you. The nature you have is the spirit, the nature of the soul that's at the centre. What God comes to do when He saves us is to change our soul, make our soul eternal. And then we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which, regrettably, has to fight often against our own spirit and our own way of doing things, looking at things, and then finally, of course, we try and control the body to live in such a way that we are acceptable or live a life that represents Christ. Not acceptable because that's sounding as if we have to work to make our salvation, no. Salvation is already given, it's already done. We are completely saved. That's all there is to it. Christ has paid the price. If we have the Holy Spirit in us He will change us so that we live the life He wants. But He's in charge, not us.

So finally, if we do that, we get to verse eleven.

'And He said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.'

And that is what's happening today. That's what's happening right now. You want to find scripture, for me, I'm in verse eleven. I've already eaten the books, and still eat the books. And yes, I still have bitter stomach. I still find the messages is sweet and nice and tastes great in my soul, but my body is bitter. But now, of course, I have to proclaim that message.

That doesn't mean that everyone has to be a missionary or anything like that. Each one of us is called to a certain position. But if we can support missions, if we can help those in the church, if we can help run the church, clean the church, help the person that is stuck at home, basically, live a Christian life, then that's fine. We are proclaiming the message. And it will go out into all the world. And that is what verse eleven is all about, and that is what is going on worldwide right now. So if you want to find a scripture that applies today, because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever then this one is it. Revelation chapter ten verse eleven. There's a lot more, but that's great.

God bless you.