REVELATION 10

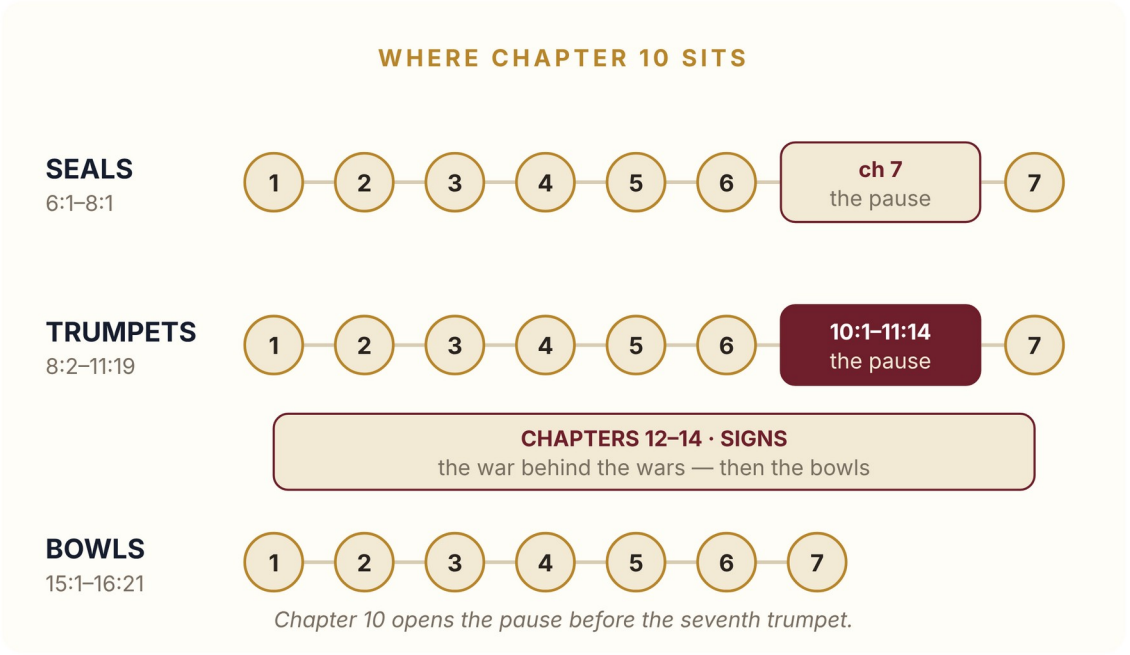
The Little Book: Sweet and Bitter

> *"I took the little book out of 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."*
> REVELATION 10:10

Where John has brought us

1. Revelation unfolds in three numbered sevens: seven seals (6:1–8:1), seven trumpets (8:2–11:19) and seven bowls (chapters 15–16).

2. Chapter 10 opens that pause, and it runs until 11:14.



The Strong Angel and the Seven Thunders

A glorious messenger claims sea and land — and some things stay sealed.

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;

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik does not think the strong angel is Jesus, though the cloud, the rainbow and the fiery feet lead many readers to say so.

WHAT IT MEANS

Before the last trumpet, God sends a messenger who carries heaven's glory: a cloud, a rainbow, a face like the sun.

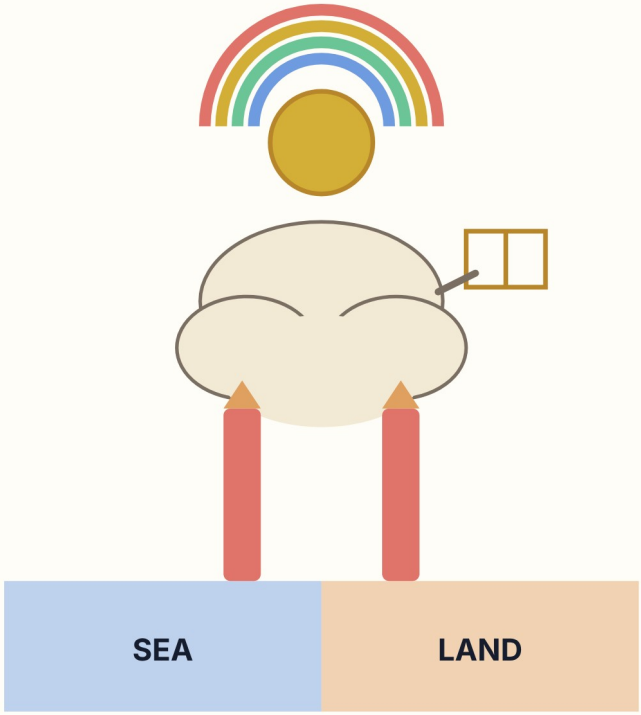
βροντή

BRONTĒ · "THUNDER"

Brontē is plain thunder, but in Scripture thunder is the sound of God's power. Guzik connects these seven peals with Psalm 29, where 'the voice of the LORD' thunders over the waters.

The Strong Angel: Nothing Outside His Claim

THE STRONG ANGEL · 10:1–3



- "clothed with a cloud" — v1
- "the rainbow was upon his head" — v1
- "his face was like the sun" — v1
- "his feet like pillars of fire" — v1
- "a little book which was open" — v2
- "his right foot on the sea and his left on the land" — v2
- "as when a lion roars" — v3

Sea and land: nothing outside God's claim (vv2, 5–6)

Cloud, rainbow, sun-bright face and fiery feet — and one foot planted on the sea, the other on the land.

The Oath: Delay No Longer

The angel swears by the Creator that God's long waiting is over.

REVELATION 10:5

Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven,

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik hears finality in the oath. The angel lifts his hand and swears by the eternal Creator of heaven, earth and sea, and the end is now set in motion — in Guzik's words, 'absolutely no turning back.'

WHAT IT MEANS

The angel swears "by Him who lives forever and ever," the God who made heaven, earth and sea and everything in them. When the eternal Creator puts His own name on a promise, it is settled.

χρόνος
CHRONOS · "TIME, DELAY"

Chronos is a span of time, the clock time we measure. The KJV renders v6 'that there should be time no longer,' which sounds as if time itself stops.

The Little Book: Sweet, Then Bitter

John must take the Word inside himself, then speak it to the nations.

REVELATION 10:8

Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land."

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik reads chapter 10 as a real pause before the final trumpet, not a symbol floating free of time.

WHAT IT MEANS

The voice from heaven tells John to go and take the book. The Word is offered, but he has to reach for it.

βιβλαρίδιον

BIBLARIDION · "LITTLE BOOK"

Biblaridion means a small scroll — a little form of the ordinary word for book. It is probably not the sealed scroll of chapter 5, and Walvoord notes that its contents are nowhere revealed in Revelation.

Take It, Eat It, Speak It



The Word John receives is sweet in the mouth and bitter in the stomach, and it sends him back out to prophesy.

What to carry from this chapter

1

An interlude, not an intermission.

God pauses between the sixth and seventh trumpets just as He paused between the sixth and seventh seals in chapter 7.

2

Not every glorious angel is Jesus.

Guzik notes angels are never clearly identified with Jesus in the New Testament and leans toward Michael, from the oath scene of Daniel 12.

3

Mercy over his head.

The rainbow recalls God's promise after the flood — mercy is still in view as judgment draws near.

4

The one thing John could not write.

The seven thunders are the only words in Revelation John hears and is forbidden to record.

More to carry

5

Humility for chart-makers.

Guzik counts the sealed thunders a lesson in humility for anyone who builds prophetic charts with confidence.

6

Delay, not time.

Chronos in v6 means the waiting period is over, not that the clocks stop.

7

No turning back.

Once the angel swears by the eternal Creator, the end is set in motion — in Guzik's words, absolutely no turning back.

8

Eat it before you preach it.

Biblaridion is a small scroll, and John must eat it up — katesthiō — before he can prophesy again.

Talk it through

1. Why do you think God pauses the judgments right before the last trumpet?

2. What does the angel's stance on sea and land say about God's claim on your world?

3. Why would God let John hear the thunders and then forbid him to write them?

4. Where are you counting on a delay God has sworn will end?

5. When has God's Word been sweet to you and then bitter to carry?

CLOSING

The angel has sworn it: the delay will not last forever. Before that last trumpet sounds, take the book God holds out to you, eat it, let it be sweet and let it be bitter — and then go tell somebody. Next, chapter 11: two witnesses who did exactly that.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides, reflection journal and film: see the Revelation study page.