

## ***Session 7. Prophetic Ministry in the End Times (Rev. 10-11)***

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is session seven of the book of Revelation series. We are looking at Revelation 10-11. We are covering the entire book in just twelve short sessions. Revelation 10-11 is about prophetic ministry.

This is really personal for many of you in the room tonight. This will be—this chapter 10—a really important passage for IHOP–KC, and a really important passage for people who are contending in their hearts to grow in the prophetic spirit, in the prophetic ministry.

Roman numeral I. The introduction. Paragraph A. Revelation 10-11 is one of the parenthetical sections. It is a section in parentheses. The storyline of what is happening on the earth has been put on pause—the sequential storyline or the events that are happening in sequence one after the other.

### **ANGELIC EXPLANATIONS**

Chapter 9 was the release of the trumpet judgments. The way I present chapter 10 is that I imagine John being overwhelmed by what he saw and heard in Revelation 9 as the storyline is unfolding. I imagine the angel coming to John and saying, “John, let’s just pause for a second. How are you doing?” That is how I always picture this.

John’s question is, “Well, what is going to happen to the saints when all this is taking place?”

The angel says, “Good question. That is what I am going to tell you right now.”

So he puts the storyline on pause in the parenthetical sections or the sections in parentheses. He is going to have a heart to heart talk with John about what is happening with the saints—see paragraph C. In the chronological sections the storyline unfolds. They describe what God is releasing against the Antichrist. That is the chronological storyline. The parenthetical sections describe what happens to the saints. There the question is, “What about me?”

### **THE CONTEXT OF CHAPTERS 10-11**

The context is Revelation 8-9, and particularly chapter 9, the judgments of the trumpets. The judgments are so devastating. One third of the human race, those who are saying yes to the spirit of darkness, die under the judgment of God. There is unprecedented demonic activity released, as described in chapter 9, on a scale never seen in history. There is unprecedented evil emerging in the earth, as described in Revelation 9:21. The demonic activity is so unprecedented, that there is the disaster of human death on a scale never known in history, and there is escalating sin as described in Revelation 9:21.

The question John has and we will we have is, “What about me? Where are the saints going to be? Are we going to be protected?” Well, we know from the first parentheses back in chapter 7, that we will be protected. God is going to put a seal on the saints, because there will be so much demonic activity. We are we going to be protected from deception.

### **AN UNPRECEDENTED PROPHETIC ANOINTING**

The answer is that God is going to release a prophetic anointing, a prophetic movement far beyond the book of Acts. The greatest move of God in history is yet ahead. God has revelation reserved for the end-time church, about which He has already told John. That is what chapter 10 is saying. He has held it back, but He is going to release the anointing and the activity of the Holy Spirit to make this information known in power.

Then in chapter 11 the two greatest prophets in history—except Jesus Himself—are going to be released in power. It will be far beyond anything in which Moses operated and far beyond anything in which Elijah operated.

Those two prophets are going to be at the epicenter, if you will, of the prayer movement giving encouragement, releasing signs and wonders for strength and encouragement, and hindering the work of the enemy—they will be at the very center of the prayer movement.

Because prophecy and prayer always go hand in hand in the Bible. Without prayer, prophecy is only words. That which is prophesied must be released through intercession. Without intercession, prophecy is only half there and without prophecy, intercession does not have the same motivation as with the prophetic unction.

### **GOD IS RAISING UP PROPHETIC MESSENGERS**

Paragraph D. God is going to raise up prophetic messengers. These prophetic messengers are not just these two witnesses, these two prophets—because the two witnesses are prophets—but there are going to be prophets on the local and regional level, around the world. Through the Holy Spirit these prophets will be connected to the burden of the Lord which God is giving the two witnesses.

Some might think that the two witnesses in Jerusalem will just say the word and it is done globally. I think that they will be carrying the weight of the burden of the Lord: that which the Holy Spirit is saying worldwide. They will have the strongest measure of it, the strongest authority, but what they declare must be released regionally across the earth by the intercessors and the prophets.

It is like it says in Habakkuk, that the glory of the Lord will cover the earth like the water covers the sea. In some places in the ocean the water is only five inches deep and in other places it is five miles deep. In some places in the ocean there is a hurricane, in other places it is completely still and calm. The glory of God will move in varied measures all over the earth.

### **THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRAYER MOVEMENTS**

It is not as if the two witnesses declare it and it is equally distributed worldwide. Some regions of the earth will have greater measures of glory, others will have greater measures of trouble. It will be in the hands of the local and regional prayer movements in those regions of the earth.

Some people might be tempted to say, “The two witness are going to get it anyway. Why do I not just wait, get the memo and then I will just say yes.”

We want to be operating in authority regionally—when I say regionally, I mean a one and two and five hundred mile radius, nationally and regionally, I am talking about regionally on a global scale.

We want to be understanding what the Spirit is saying. Yes, He will give the real impetus and the breaking forth will start with those two witnesses, those two prophets, but we will be connected to them by the Word and by the Spirit. This means that they are going to be following the sequence of the judgments which is outlined in the book of Revelation; and so will we, across the earth. When they are focused on it, we will be really encouraged, although we have them numbered. We know the fourth trumpet comes right after the third one.

When the two witnesses say it we will say, “Yes.” We will say, “Yes, we already knew it. Four always comes after three.” It will give us that extra strengthening of our faith.

### **SEE THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU**

Paragraph D. Jesus talked about deception. He says it over and over, “See that no one deceives you.” Deception will be the premier issue, even for the saints.

The prophetic ministry of the forerunners will be an issue of life and death. It really will be. It is an irresponsible and just a completely boring response to say, “Well, let the two witnesses get it, and then we will figure it out.” No, we want to be alive, vibrant, and deeply involved with the understanding of what God is doing.

Matthew 24:5: “Many will come...and will deceive many”—many deceivers and many who are deceived by them. Many of those deceivers will be in the church and many will be outside the church. Verse 11, “Many false prophets...will deceive many.” There it is again: many deceivers and many deceived. It says the same thing in verse 5 and verse 11: there will be many deceivers and many deceived.

Verse 24—and this is the most troubling of all—“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

If we are founded on the Word of God and we are paying attention to the Holy Spirit, in community with one another, we are going to be on solid ground. That is what Revelation 10-11 is saying. You don’t need to fear deception because there will be an anointing of the Holy Spirit for the people who are pressing into God.

## **THE CHURCH'S GREATEST HOUR**

Paragraph F. It will be the Church's greatest hour in history. Some will say, "With that much deception, that is scary." No, it really is not. If we are going to be deep in the Word of God, connected deeply with one another, and pressing in towards a whole hearted love for God, beloved, we will be safe. In that context the weakest among us will be safe, because there will be a multiplied prophetic anointing. God will not leave those who are pressing into God without sufficient and abundant direction and protection.

It will be our most exciting hour in history. This will be the hour Joel prophesied about in Joel 2—the famous passage. We pray it all the time—Acts 2 or Joel 2. Peter quoted Joel in Acts 2. It is the same passage, "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh"—all the nations is the idea. It will be a global outpouring on men and women, old and young.

Joel 2:31 is going to happen before the second coming. This is not after the second coming, it is before it. This will be an outpouring of the Spirit pre-second coming, far beyond the book of Acts. As we read in Revelation 10-11, we find that the two witnesses will be at the helm of this. They will have the greatest measure of insight and authority to release this kind of power.

## **THOSE WHO CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD**

We are all going to be involved in it—all the sons and daughters. It will be those who call on the name of the Lord—Joel 2:32. It will be those with a prayer life. Some might read that and think, "Well, I answered the altar call once, I called on His name." No, this is talking about a lifestyle of prayer.

The prophetic anointing is imparted to the people whose lifestyle is calling on the name of the Lord. This is what we are trying to do, even in our weakness and brokenness. This is what we are trying to do: Live a life of calling on His name. That means intimacy, intercession, and asking Him for revelation as we read the Word in a personal way—the many ways of calling on His name—it is worship. Even when you say, "I love you," you are beckoning His presence to touch your heart.

Revelation 10. I really urge you to search out Revelation 10-11. At the very center, the epicenter of the praying church, is the prophetic anointing from the Word of God and directly from the Spirit, the two of them working together in our hearts.

## **A MIGHTY ANGEL**

John had a vision of a mighty angel. John saw a mighty angel who was filled with the glory of God. He saw a might angel three times in the book of Revelation.

This is a unique experience, even for John. Even though he saw many angels in the book of Revelation, he says "mighty angel" only three times. He is letting us know that something of an unusual caliber is happening, even for the book of Revelation.

The description of this angel—we are going to look at seven descriptions in paragraph A—but the description of the angel is important because the description of this angel is a prophetic statement of how the anointing of the Spirit is going to be upon those who are going to carry the prophetic ministry which this angel is talking about.

When an angel appears, it is not just in a vacuum. The caliber of the angel, or the stature of the angel is a better way to say it, is commensurate with the purpose of the commissioning given to the person they visit. If a mighty angel comes, the commission will be mighty. This angel has unusual glory, therefore the prophetic commission is going to release the glory in an unusual way.

### **THE GLORY OF THE ANGEL**

This angel was clothed, was robed, in the glory of God. The angel comes robed in the shekinah glory, so we know that there is going to be a release of glory in the commissioning about which this angel is talking.

There is a rainbow on his head. We know the angel is going to focus on the certainty of God's promises and of His tender mercy. These forerunner prophets of chapter 10 are going to be mercy focused. They are going to have confidence in the rainbow, in the covenant promises of God.

The angel's face was like the sun. The only one whose face was like the sun in the book of Revelation was Jesus Himself and that is talking about a mighty spirit. Jesus' countenance was shining because of the power of His spirit as a man. He is a man with a mighty spirit. There is no wavering. There is brightness in His countenance, brightness beyond anything we can imagine.

This angel has a mighty spirit as well. The end-time forerunners will have brightness in their spirit. A bright countenance means a bright spirit. John the Baptist's spirit was like a burning and shining lamp. John had a bright spirit. I do not mean a big smile. He probably smiled a good amount of times. What I mean a brightness, a vibrancy in his spirit.

### **MORE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ANGEL**

This angel's feet were like pillars of fire, meaning, he is going to operate in the judgments of God and the holiness of God.

He had a little book in his hand. That book had prophetic revelation in it. He put one foot on the sea and his other foot on the land. That means "possession" in the Word of God. Wherever the feet go talks about possession and inheritance. What this angel is doing will affect the whole earth—the land and the sea and all dimensions of human life. In other words, there is a dimension of global authority in this angel.

He cried out like a lion. When this angel prayed and prophesied, he had the boldness of a lion.

All of these seven issues will be operating in the people who are meant to be influenced by the contents of this chapter, those who are saying yes to the prophetic anointing, those whom the Lord is dealing with. These are seven dimensions which will be operating in the vessels on whom this angel is focused and the ones he is commissioning.

### **THE ANGEL HAD A LITTLE BOOK IN HIS HAND**

Roman numeral III. He had a little book in his hand. The fact that the little book was open is important. There is prophetic information in the book. Because this book is open, it means that the contents are knowable. When a book is closed, you cannot know it. When a book is open you can. The contents are supposed to be used. That is the point.

By the way, this is not the same book back in Revelation 5 when Jesus went to the Father and took the book—the scroll—out of the Father’s hand. This is a subunit of that, if you will. Only Jesus takes that book from the Father. There is no one else who operates in the fullness of what is in the book of Revelation. And much more is involved in the book that Jesus took.

This is a little book and it is a common opinion by commentators on the book of Revelation, that this is possibly the same prophetic information Daniel had back in Daniel 10-12. I think it is a reasonable opinion—I want to call it an opinion, because it is not clear. I like to distinguish when it is clearly in the Bible and when it is an informed opinion.

Daniel was given a little book back in Daniel 10-12. It did not say little, but it was a book. Daniel was commanded to seal it, just like John is commanded to seal the information he is going to receive here.

This mighty angel had this little book. I think it is the same prophetic information that Daniel had about the end times. He set his right foot on the sea and the left foot on the land: this talks about his global impact and influence in the earth.

### **THE SEVEN THUNDERS**

Revelation 10:3 (paraphrased): “The angel cried out.” When the angel cries out, a very surprising thing takes place: seven thunders utter their voices. The thunders are personified as though they are people. There is a mystery as to what this is. Whatever it is, we know that it is the voice of the Holy Spirit. Are these thunders angelic beings? We don’t know and we don’t have to know.

We don’t necessarily have to know the way these thunders are operating in their ministry. What we care about is the source of the message behind these thunders, because when we think of thunders we do not think of a person, but this is personified. The thunders are described as beings who are giving a prophecy.

Verse 3 (paraphrased): “When the angel cries out”—and the assumption is that the angel is reading the little book—“the information in the little book stirs up these seven thunders.”

We assume that they are spirit beings, angelic beings of some sort. It does not say so, but we know they have voices and they are speaking the prophetic word of the Lord. We know it is the Holy Spirit at the end of the day. It is Him giving it to them, whoever they are.

The point I want to make is that when the mighty angel read the little book and made the contents of the little book known, it made an impact in the spirit realm and these seven prophetic messages were released.

### **WHAT ARE THE SEVEN THUNDERS SAYING**

John was really enthusiastic about these messages. Verse 4 (paraphrased): “When the seven thunders uttered their voices, John was ready to write.” He was eager. In his spirit he was saying something like, “Wow, this is something really important.” He was ready to write so that we would all know what those seven prophetic words are.

Then a voice comes from heaven—the Holy Spirit’s voice no matter what vessel is used to communicate that voice. We do not know who is speaking, but we know it is the Holy Spirit speaking through them.

So the voice of God is saying to John, “No, hold it. This is information we do not want to be made known at this time” (v. 4, paraphrased).

John is thinking, “We don’t want it known? This is really important information!”

“No, we are going to seal it.” Whenever in the Bible—there are several occasions—God gives a prophecy to a prophet and says, “Seal it,” it means, “Hold back the information, but only until the appointed time.”

The appointed time is always the end times. This happens several times in the Bible where the prophet receives a word and seals it. This is God’s way of saying to the rest of the body of Christ, “I have something to say, but I am going to hold it back. I am going to give it strategically at the appointed time.”

### **OUR RESPONSE**

You can respond to that in one of two ways. “Well Lord, you have my address. You know where I live if You want to give it to me.” It is the passive, “If God wants to do it, He will do it.”

There is another mode, “Father, there is something on Your heart You want to say and I want to put myself in a position to receive the testimony of Your heart.”

Of course that is the response God wants us to have. The voice of God, through whatever vehicle, we do not know—again we do not know what the vehicle of the seven thunders is; an angelic being of some sort, it doesn’t really matter—the Lord says, “John, seal it up. Do not write it.”

The clear implication is the same thing that happened in Daniel's day, "I will give it to the people of God later. I will give it to the people of God later as they seek Me."

### **THE SEALED BOOKS**

I think that there is a link. You have to kind of pay attention to this carefully. There are two sealed pieces of prophetic information. Number one, the little book, I believe—my opinion—was the sealed book back in Daniel 12. The sealed book about which the angel told Daniel, "Do not tell anybody, but I will tell my people at the right time."

Now it is five hundred years after Daniel. John is on the island. The book is now open. I believe John was seeing what Daniel was supposed to hold back. Daniel saw it but was not supposed to communicate it. The book is opened and it is as if John is saying, "Lord, this is incredible information." So when this angel is declaring the contents of this book to John, it has some kind of impact in the spirit realm. These seven thunders are stirred up and they start prophesying.

John is in the same position as Daniel was in earlier. The Lord says, "No, I am going to have you do exactly what Daniel did. Hold it back."

"Lord, they need to know."

"Hold it back. I will give it to them when they cry out for it."

John is able to peer into what Daniel held back, but we want to peer into what Daniel and John held back. I want to know what is in the little book mentioned in the book of Daniel, and I want to know what is in those seven thunder prophecies. They are two bodies of information, so to speak, which are related to the word of God. I want to know them both. The answer—I believe—of the Lord is, "That is exactly what I was hoping you would conclude."

### **HOW TO KNOW THE CONTENTS OF THE LITTLE BOOK**

That little book was opened to Daniel and to John, but I want to know what is in that book. I am not just happy that the seven thunders are stirred up. I want to be stirred up by that book. I want to know what is in that book and I want to know what the seven thunders were saying.

I know how to get it: humility and seeking the Lord with prayer and fasting and abandonment in our obedience to Him. That is how revelation increases. There is no secret. It is the same for every man or women in every generation.

We do know this: we are in the generation of the greatest outpouring of the spirit of prophecy. We just read it in Joel 2: 28-32 (paraphrased): "Our sons and daughters will prophesy... and whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Everyone who calls out with a spirit of prayer will end up prophesying in major ways. "Lord, I have my focus on the written Word of God"—our primary focus. "I want to know what is in that little book which Daniel held back and which is related to Daniel's revelation."

The Holy Spirit might say, “Read the revelation of Daniel over and over and over.”

“And I want to know what those seven thunders are saying.”

“Then read the book of Revelation over and over and over.”

The book of Revelation and book of Daniel, OK. I am also going to read the rest of the Word of God. I do not have any time to waste. I have lots of things to devour and so do you.

## **DANIEL 12**

Paragraph C. I am making the point of the parallel situation between Daniel and John: they both have information, they both seal it, they both have a mighty angel.

The angel raises his hand to heaven, swears an oath to God, and they both talk about the final three and a half years. It is unmistakable that these are meant to be parallel passages to be searched out in the Spirit together.

Let’s read Daniel 12. This is Daniel’s little book. It does not say “little.” I am adding that in there. Every book is little compared to the book Jesus took from the Father’s hand—that is the big book. Every other book is little from there on. In Daniel 12:4, Daniel sealed the book. We have the book of Daniel, but Daniel has this additional information that he seals.

We have the four visions he gives us in Daniel 7-12, but he has this additional information. He seals it, which means that he will not let anyone know it, because the Holy Spirit told him to seal it.

The angel is telling him, “Daniel, seal the book until the end time” (v. 4, paraphrased). Verse 6 (paraphrased): “How long shall it be?” Verse 7 (paraphrased): “Then angel holds up his hand and swears by the God who lives forever that it will be time, times and half a time.”

It is universally agreed upon throughout church history—although there are some guys who say “no”—that time, times, and half a time is three and a half years. Time is one year. Times is two—plural. Half a time is half a year. It is three and a half years.

## **INFORMATION FOR THE END TIMES**

The angel tells Daniel in verse 9 (paraphrased): “Go your way, for these words are sealed up.” In other words, “I have given them to you, but I am not going to reveal them to the people until the end times.”

Of course John gets a peek at it. He gets a look at it because the angel is roaring like a lion reading this book. That is how I understand it. My opinion—a common opinion—is that this is the little book that was in Daniel’s hand as well.

Look at what it says in verse 10 (paraphrased): “But many will be purified”—believers. “Many will be made white”—holiness. “Many will be refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly and none of the wicked will understand what is happening, but the wise will understand.”

There will be a group of people in the earth in the end times who will be called “the wise ones” and they will understand. The same exhortation was given to Daniel by the angel in the same vision a little bit earlier. Just a moment before this, the angel said this to him slightly differently, but it is the same general idea—Daniel 11:33-35—talking about the end times.

### **FUTURE FULFILLMENT**

It had an application after Daniel’s day, but only a partial application. For those who study the book of Daniel, there was a partial fulfillment in Antiochus Epiphanes’ day—some of you know that name—that Syrian king in 175 B.C—but this prophecy in Dan. 11:33-35 has its major application in the end times.

The reason I mention this king is because you will read the commentators and most of them are secular in their thinking. They want to get rid of all end-time prophecy, so wherever there is a partial fulfillment, even a little fulfillment, they want to put the whole prophecy there, to dismiss the possibility that it is a future event which is still to come. But we are not going to let them do that. Our faith is going to be strong. We are not buying the cynicism of intellectualism when it comes to the Word of God.

Many prophecies have a partial and a local fulfillment, but there is a final, global fulfillment of these prophecies which is still to come.

### **PEOPLE OF UNDERSTANDING**

In Daniel 11 the angel says, “The people who understand—forerunners—they will instruct multitudes of people” (v. 33, paraphrased).

You say, “I am not a preacher.” Well, the pulpit of the future is your laptop, it is your cell phone, it is your iPod. That is where the pulpit of the future is. I do not mean that there will not always be pulpits where people preach to numbers and groups, but the information technology explosion that is taking place, means that you can preach to millions through technology. Do not sign off because you are not a public preacher, “Ah, I am not a part of this.” You may write the paragraph that changes a nation. Let the people who understand instruct multitudes.

Some of those of understanding are going to be martyred. There are going to be men and women—prophetic messengers—who will fall. They will be martyred. They will not fall into sin, this is talking about being killed. When they fall, it will purify the rest of the body of Christ, because the time of the end is still to come.

My point is that I want to be a person of understanding among a people of understanding.

### **GOD IS BECKONING US TO SEARCH IT OUT**

Daniel and John the apostle are in parallel experiences—seeing information that was held back for the end-time prophetic movement. The reason Daniel received information and was told to hold it back and the reason John received a different piece of information and told to hold it back—the reason it was recorded in the Bible is so that we would be hungry to go after it in the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history.

It was recorded so that it would stir us and focus us. We know there is more God wants to give us because these very experiences which are in canonized Scripture, are beckoning us to search these things out. We do not just search them out in subjective ways. We search the Word of God. We meditate on the written Word and we posture ourselves just like Daniel and John did to receive insights that are unlocking these keys which are in the Word of God.

### **TAKE THE BOOK AND EAT IT**

Roman numeral IV. “The angel whom I saw standing by the sea raising his hand, swore by Him who lives forever and he swore to the God who created the heavens and the earth, the God who created the sea” (Rev. 10:6, paraphrased).

This is the same oath the angel took with Daniel. It is probably the same mighty angel. He takes the same oath. He says in essence, “These things are all going to come to pass, I assure you.” That is the essence.

Roman numeral V. Now the voice of God through some messenger of sorts—an unnamed messenger—the voice says to John the apostle, “John, do you see that book in the angel’s hand, the one that Daniel sealed? Go get it” (Rev.10:8, paraphrased).

The angel roared the contents of the book is what I believe we are led to conclude. And the opinion is, that it is Daniel’s book. And because the parallel experiences are so clearly working together, I think it is a good opinion.

The voice says, “Go take the little book”—we’ll just call it the book of Daniel—“which is in the angel’s hand” (v. 8, paraphrased).

So I went up to the angel and said, “Give me the book.”

### **BITTER AND SWEET**

And the angel said, “OK, I am going to give it to you, but there is something you have to do if I give you this prophetic information. You have to eat it. I am warning you it will make your stomach bitter.” ( v. 9, paraphrased).

Because the contents which Daniel saw, made Daniel’s stomach bitter. When Daniel had this revelation, he was grieved beyond measure at what he saw.

Not only is it bitter, it is sweet. Because the note of victory, the release of justice, is such a clear part of the message, but it is—as the prophets say—great and terrible. It is great for those who

say yes. It is a sweet message for their lives. To those who say no, it is a bitter message. We love the people who say no, so it is bitter to us too, and it is a terrible message for them.

It is sweet for our personal lives, but we care about more than our own lives. It is sweet because justice will cover the earth and evil will be driven off the planet, but in the process of this, real people are going to go through anguish and pain because they are saying no to Jesus. God Himself is deeply grieved over the people who say no.

It does not remove the fact that trouble is coming. The angel says, “I am going to warn you. It is bitter, but it is sweet.” There are two dimensions. It is sweet for you personally and it is sweet because you want to see the kingdom take over the earth and see evil driven off the planet. There is victory and justice is coming, but it will wound your heart when you really grasp it.

### **DIGESTING THE MESSAGE**

Verse 10 (paraphrased): “I took the book and I ate it and it was sweet.” It means that he is digesting the message. The message is, “Jesus is going to take over all the nations of the earth and establish His glory in the nations.”

“Wow, what a great message. All the oppression of the earth is going to be stopped.”

“Yes, that means that the oppressors are going to be converted or killed.”

“Oh, killed?”

“Yes.”

“OK, let’s kill them.”

“Here is the problem. There are hundreds of millions of them.”

“Can the oppressors just go away somewhere? Let’s liberate the oppressed and have the oppressors in neutral. Tell them to go somewhere and not do something bad. Just go somewhere.”

It does not work that way. When the oppressed get liberated the oppressors get mad and they fight back. It goes up a notch and causes pain everywhere. He said, “Well, when I had eaten it—verse 10—my stomach became bitter.”

Then the angel said in effect, “I want you to know that now that you have this message, you are in a new dilemma. You need to prophesy it to the nations, because if you taste it and you are touched by it then you are now responsible to proclaim it.”

### **EZEKIEL**

Paragraph A. What is happening to John is parallel—similar—to what happened to Ezekiel. Ezekiel received a message for his generation, and John received a message for the end-time generation. The similar circumstance is unmistakable.

The angel says in Ezekiel 3:1 (paraphrased): “Son of man—he is talking to Ezekiel, that is the name he is called in the book of Ezekiel—eat the scroll.” This means, “Digest the message and then go and speak it.” Verse 2: “So I opened my mouth and He caused me to eat that scroll. Verse 3 (paraphrased): “Then he said, ‘Son of man, feed on it. Fill your stomach with the scroll.’”

This means that you need to consume this message completely, so that it becomes part of your being: it changes your thought processes, your paradigms and it transforms your emotions. You are sad when God is sad and you are glad when God is glad if it is politically correct or not.

The nations are opposing it. The nations are glad about things that grieve God. The nations are really mad about things that God is doing.

He tells Ezekiel—verse 4—“Ezekiel, you have to speak the words.” That is the down side which is the upside. If you eat the scroll you have to speak the words. There is a down side because it gets you into big trouble.

There is an upside, because you are a friend of the Bridegroom. You are doing the things that are nearest and dearest to His heart, causing His kingdom to go forth in the earth. That is a good upside. Ezekiel got into big trouble for this, just like John did: he is in prison.

### **GOING HARD AFTER GOD FOR MANY YEARS**

Paragraph B. Daniel and John both received unusual revelation, but in context to a lifetime. John and Daniel both started in their youth and both sought God, I mean six or seven decades. I am not talking about a summer or a good year at Bible school. They went fifty, sixty, seventy years—more like seventy, both of them actually—hard after God, straight through with fasting and prayer, and they would not turn to the right or to the left. They both devoured the Word and they were both visited later on in life with end-time revelation.

You have heard the phrase, “A king can be anointed in one day, but it takes a lifetime to raise up a deliverer.” You can pick a president in a day or anoint a king, but it takes a lifetime with God to raise up a deliverer of a nation. These guys were deliverers in that sense.

My prayer is that God would raise up 10,000 forerunners. He stirred my spirit on this in 1997. I do not mean in the whole world, but just in my sphere. He is going to raise up many more worldwide.

I was to pray and believe Him for 10,000 forerunners—mostly young people—who were going to go after this like John and Daniel. That is one of the major mandates of the IHOP–KC Missions Base: to raise up forerunners who eat the scroll. They do not care if it takes them a

decade or five decades. They are like John and Daniel. They are going after the eating of the scroll. And then they are going to be faithful to speak the message, even though it makes their stomach bitter, and others as well.

### **ELIJAH AND THE TWO WITNESSES**

We are just going to look at this second part briefly. This is about the two witnesses, the two greatest prophets in history who will emerge, besides Jesus Himself who is more than a prophet.

These two prophets function in an anointing which is similarly to Moses and Elijah. Therefore, some people have concluded that they are in fact Moses and Elijah, but there is just nothing that says they are. We want to stop where the Word of God stops. It is OK to have an opinion, but you need to call it an opinion when it is one. It never says it is Moses and Elijah, but they will operate in a similar anointing of miracles as Moses and Elijah did.

My guess, my opinion, is that it is not them, but that it is two new guys who are going to operate in that spirit and that anointing. Someone says, “Yes, but did the Bible not say that Elijah is coming back?”

Yes, but I think that he is another one. I think there are two plus Elijah, and thousands of forerunners operating in power. I could be wrong. One of them could be Elijah. I do not mind if there are two of them or three of them.

Elijah is coming back and the two witnesses. There may be some overlap there. I am not really that concerned about it. What I am concerned about is getting my life, not just my lifestyle, but my understanding aligned. So when they prophesy, I won’t say, “Huh? Where is that in the Bible?” I will say, “Are you kidding? I have been eating that scroll for decades. I know exactly what you are talking about. I am on, I am ready.”

They will say, “Man, we’ve got a guy over here who has been feeding on this for years.” I mean that. I do not care who they are. I want to be ready and responsive. Jesus said in Luke 18:7-8 (paraphrased): “When they pray night and day for justice, will I really find faith? Will I find agreement on the earth with what I am doing?”

I am saying, “Yes, in this place and many places like it, we will be in agreement because we will eat the scroll.”

### **TENSION AROUND THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE**

The first thing that happens—now this is surprising—is in chapter 11:1-2. It is very significant. We are out of time, so I will say the briefest statement on it. It is what I call the paradox and the tensions related to the Jerusalem temple, the tribulation temple.

Revelation 11:1-2 is all related to John’s prophesying because in the verse before—chapter 10:11—the angel said, “You must prophesy,” and this is his first sentence. What I am suggesting is that there is going to be a tension around what God is doing in the Jerusalem temple.

He is going to raise up the temple in Jerusalem, but it is not just all good or all bad, that is the problem. He calls us to measure it. To measure it means to carefully evaluate it, weigh it, and discern it. Because in the midst of that temple, there will be terrible activities, and related to that temple, there will be redemptive activities. So the answer is not one or the other, it is not all bad or all good. We have to measure it. We have to measure the temple itself. We have to sort it out with discernment by the Holy Spirit, because there are going to be complexities to it.

### **THE JEWS AND THE TEMPLE**

The Antichrist is going to be operating in that temple. And around that temple there will be God-fearing Jews who hate the Antichrist, but who are not born again yet. So we will rejoice in some of what is happening, but we will hold the line. They have to be born again in Jesus to be saved.

Most folks will go one way or the other. They will either write them off as irrelevant because they are in the process of being saved, or they will rejoice with great joy that it is all done and not bother with the Jesus dimension.

What we plan to do by the Holy Spirit is discern the bad and hold out for the good; rejoicing in the activity of God but never being content until they are abandoned to Jesus in their faith.

There is no salvation outside Jesus, none, zero. There is not a little Jewish track somewhere over there: if they do the Torah and go really hard, somehow the justice of God will be dismissed. No, there is only one way: Jesus, period. In our zeal for Jerusalem, we cannot throw away the Bible. In our zeal for Christian orthodoxy, we cannot cast off this unusual set up which is taking place in Jerusalem. It will take discernment.

Jerusalem—verse 2—is going to be trampled. Jerusalem has been trampled a bunch of times in the past, but the major trampling of Jerusalem is yet ahead.

Out of these God-fearing Jews will come the 144,000, the salvation of Israel. Many of these will come to saving faith. That is their only future. And we will be partnering with them in various ways.

### **IT WILL TAKE DISCERNMENT**

Not everything they do will be right. Some people will say, “They are going for it. Everything they do is right.” No, that is like the man who said, “Do not be so open minded that your brains fall out.” Some of what they do will undoubtedly be wrong, because they are weak and broken men. We need to measure the whole situation, measure the temple, the altar—which means the prayer and worship dimensions—and the worshipers themselves. They will be partly right and partly wrong as they are proceeding forward. We are there to be a support, but we are also there to be a guide with the Word of God.

It is going to take discernment. It is going to take men and women who have been eating the scroll to measure this thing rightly.

And then there is the crisis of the Gentiles trampling the city. And there is the horror of the Antichrist setting up part of his government in that temple. There are so many complexities going on here. The salvation of Israel is related to some of the people around that temple in the future.

### **EATING THE SCROLL LONG TERM**

It is going to take more than a cut-and-paste answer. It is going to take people who have been eating the scroll and who have boldness like a lion to say what God says, even if it makes the Jews mad, or it makes the Muslims mad, or the Antichrist mad, or the orthodox Christians mad.

We have to eat the scroll and speak what He speaks like a lion. We need to feed on this long term, not just a course in a Bible school.

This is stuff I have given myself to for years and I am going to be focused on this in my pursuit of loving Jesus with all my heart, obeying Him, and preaching the Gospel. This is what I want to feed my spirit on, so that I can be in sync with the Spirit instead of resisting the Spirit, even as a Spirit-filled believer—resisting the Holy Spirit, it happens all the time. As a matter of fact, most of the Spirit-filled movement, in my opinion, is resisting the Holy Spirit. Though the title means that they are Spirit filled, they are at odds with the Holy Spirit.

These two prophets will prophesy for three and a half years—1360 days. They will wear sackcloth: their garments will depict the eschatological mourning in which they are walking.

### **A DRAMATIC SHIFT OF HISTORY**

There is an eschatological shift of history. We are moving from this age to the age to come. It is not the end of the world. The world will never end. The age will end, not the world. The way the world is governed is going to end. There are not going to be any more demons influencing the government. They will all be in prison. Really, it is going to be a dramatic shift.

These guys will carry the burden of the Lord and have the greatest authority and revelation of anyone. They will be at the very point of the arrow. What they will see is what John is touching. They will feel the bitterness, but they will know the sweetness too. They will have both.

They will see the King as moments away, but they will see the task before them and the onslaught of resistance against Jesus and the judgments of God.

Their very garments will depict mourning, because of the mandate they understand and in which they live. It will not be *like* sackcloth, it will be real. They will be in mourning, but they will see the glory as well. They will release the glory, but they will be in pain about the multitudes who are saying no.

Verse 5: “If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths” —that is like Elijah. Verse 6. They will pray and there will be a drought. They will have power to shut the heavens when they pray.

### **THE GLOBAL MANDATE OF THE TWO WITNESSES**

I do not believe that these two guys will be locked into Jerusalem. I believe that they will have a global mandate. They will end up dying in Jerusalem, but nowhere does it say that they will be confined to the city of Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses did most of their ministry outside Jerusalem. Of course Moses did all of it outside Jerusalem, except that moment on the Mount of Transfiguration, then he was in Jerusalem for part of a day. Elijah and Moses did most of their ministry outside Jerusalem. I think that these prophets will be outside Jerusalem most of the time, because they are constantly referred to as standing before the God of the whole earth.

It is a global mandate. Whatever they are moving in, we are going to be in sync with it—I am talking about the praying church around the nations. They travel, so I want to have them come to IHOP–KC. I know that sounds cute, but I actually mean it. That sounds neat, because we have not read the whole script. If they come, whoever shows up at the meeting will be on the bad list, but I still want them to come.

There will be a bad list. The nations will hate these men. We will like them, but they will be hated by the nations. If they come—if it works that way—it will be politically incorrect to the highest degree, but I want them anyway.

### **HEARTS IN LINE WITH GOD’S HEART**

Verse 6 (paraphrased): “They will shut the heavens”—that is like Elijah. “They will have power over water to turn it to blood”—that is like Moses. Here is what they will do: “They will strike the earth”—notice that military language—“they will strike the earth...as often as they desire.”

The reason God gives them the blank check is because their hearts are so in line with the Spirit. They do not want to loose judgments. They are not trying to fill a stadium with a show of their power ministry so they can put it on their internet and mailing list. That is not what they are after. They have no interests apart from the glory of Jesus and the good of people. It is as if the Lord says, “With that kind of spirit, you can move any time you want.”

They are not moving out of vengeance or showmanship in any degree whatsoever. That is a powerful statement. They can strike the earth any time they want because their hearts are in line with God’s heart.

That is what we want to do: we want to eat the scroll to the point where our desires and thinking are fully in line with the Holy Spirit. That comes from eating the scroll. It is not just their desires, it is their thinking. It is not just their thinking, it is their desires. Sometimes our thinking gets

there before our desires. Sometimes our heart is there even before we get the information. We want to have both.

### **THE TWO WITNESSES WILL TORMENT THE EARTH**

Verse 10. These guys will torment the earth, they will not bless the earth. They will torment it, but only for one reason. It is not talking about tormenting all the earth's inhabitants, because the saints will love it. It is talking about the majority of the inhabitants, because the majority of the earth—billions—will hate Jesus.

We are seeing different reactions across the nations whenever any kind of righteousness rises up a little bit. There were riots in the streets throughout history when there was just a little spark of righteousness.

Paragraph F. When they finish their testimony, the Antichrist will make war against them and he will kill them—verse 8—he will kill them in Jerusalem. That does not mean that they will be in Jerusalem the whole three and a half years.

### **THE TWO WITNESSES WILL BE NATURAL MEN**

I believe they will be natural men. I am sure they will be natural men. I do not believe that they will descend from heaven like Moses and Elijah, in that way. I think Elijah is literally coming.

I think these guys are in the race like we are, like John the Baptist was: a real man with real passions, but he gave himself. They are feeding on the scroll. They will go to Jerusalem at the right time, but I do not believe that they will be confined to Jerusalem.

I think they will be giving prophetic leadership to the body of Christ worldwide. They will be at the very epicenter of the prayer movement at the end of the age. They will be praying, prophesying men.

### **THE TWO WITNESSES WILL BE KILLED**

Verse 9 (paraphrased): “Then those from all the nations will see these men, they will see their dead bodies out in the street, because the Antichrist will not let them be buried.” Why? I believe it is pride.

What I mean is that these men will be killed and all the nations will say, “Hey, we have been hearing those fanatics preach”—Revelation 11. “Are these the real guys from God or are they imposters?”

The Antichrist will say, “They are imposters. I am the real thing.”

They will say, “Are you nervous at all?”

“No.”

“Well, their book says that they will not be buried for three and a half days and all the world will be able to see it. It is all going to be televised. What do you think?”

His pride will overtake him, “I am not afraid of that book.”

He will know the script. It is not as if he does not know this. It is not as if everybody in the earth will not know this script. That is why God put it in the Bible. He is putting it right before them.

### **THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING**

The whole world will be watching this, billions. Everything will shut down that day, you can be sure—verse 10—the whole earth will be watching. I am talking about those who support Antichrist kingdom. I am not talking about the resisters or the believers. The believers will still be here. They will rejoice.

In this same chapter, Revelation 11:18 says, “The nations were angry.” They will have so much anger. They will be rejoicing over the death of these guys in the same measure as they were angry at their lives. They will be angry at Jesus.

These guys tormented the earth. Now from our point of view, they are releasing justice, they are driving oppression off the earth. That is the Biblical view.

Verse 11 (paraphrased): “Now after three-and-a-half days the breath of God entered them. They are on worldwide TV. Whatever it is, it will be some decades down the road if the Lord carries. There will be some real intense technology. The whole world will see them, and fear will fall on the whole earth.

### **THEY WILL ASCEND TO HEAVEN**

Verse 12. It does not end with them just waking up from the dead. They will actually ascend to heaven in the presence of everyone. The people will be thinking, “What is this?”

Verse 13 (paraphrased): “An earthquake hit the city and 7,000 people died, but the rest of the people gave glory to the God of heaven.” This is talking about the people in Jerusalem. 7,000 will die and the others will say, “O God, we love You, we love You.” They probably won’t say that, but that is how we would say it. I do not know what they will say. They will give glory to the God they have hated, because they will be struck that moment and multitudes will get saved in this event. Amen.