

Revelation 10 Part 2

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we're on to part twenty-two in our study of the book of Revelation. We are in chapter ten.

Just a quick background. We know that the seven church ages, the time that we're looking at is the last church age, the seventh church age. Now here, in chapter ten, we know that Christ has come down, and He has brought with Him the opened book. So it is after the time of the opening of the seven seals. And we pick it up at chapter ten verse five.

'And the Angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up His hand to heaven,

'And swore by Him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:'

So the Angel has come down, this is Christ, as we say, He's come down with the open book, the book has been unsealed, and He's stating time shall be no more. This is end, this is the finish of the church ages, of the old church or world order, it's the finish of everything. One may question the – He swore by Him who lives for ever and ever. Surely Jesus Christ lives for ever and ever. Well, of course that's true. But Hebrews chapter six verse thirteen says *'For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself,'*

What we have here – Abraham was the beginning of the followers of belief, of grace. Abraham was called by grace, he was not called by law. Moses had to bring the law in later, but Abraham was called by grace. And Abraham's spiritual children are those that live by grace, and by faith.

And here we have at the end of time Abraham's children once again, so when God Himself comes down He swears by Himself.

Verse seven (Revelation chapter ten), *'But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.'*

This is a key verse. Because this is the seventh church age messenger, the seventh angel. Remember the seven churches had an angel or a messenger to each church age. The last three were Luther, Wesley, and, we believe, William Branham.

William Branham we think is the seventh church age messenger. He's the one that's come from God to bring the message to the seventh church age, the Laodicean church, in history.

Laodicea is, of course, the church that is lukewarm. It's neither hot nor cold. It has its own riches, its own salvation. It says 'I am rich and increased with goods and need nothing, I don't want a prophet or anyone coming to tell me what's right or what's wrong'. They think they have riches, they have gold, but God says 'No, you need to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, real gold, real things.' The fire, of course, is the Holy Spirit. And He also says 'well, you need eye salve that you may see'. In other words the church itself is blind. And as Jesus said, if the blind lead the blind they will both fall in the ditch.

Now the last book in the Old Testament is Malachi. It's only four chapters, but it's the last two verses of the Old Testament that I want to look at right now, verses five and six.

'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

'And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.'

So, Elijah the prophet is to come.

Now in Matthew chapter seventeen verse ten Jesus's disciples asked him, saying *'Why then say the scribes that Elias'* that's the Greek version of the name Elijah, *'must first come?'*

'And Jesus answered and said unto them, "Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

'But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed.'

Of course, then the disciples realised that Jesus was talking about John the Baptist. Or was he?

See, there's two different Elijahs there. The first is – Jesus is saying 'Elijah shall first come and restore all things'. The disciples recognised He was talking about John the Baptist. This was the Elijah that is to prepare the way for the Lord. And that's exactly what the angel said to Zacharias when in chapter one of Luke he explains to Zacharias what sort of son he and his wife Elisabeth are going to have.

In verse seventeen of Luke chapter one it says, *'And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'*

What the angel was doing was confirming two Old Testament scriptures. And that is Isaiah chapter forty verse three, *'The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD,'*

And also in Malachi chapter three verse one, *'Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple,'*

So, that's fine. The angel is in line with that, but Malachi chapter four being sent the prophet Elijah, *'And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children,'* that part the angel confirmed John the Baptist would complete. What he didn't complete *'and the heart of the children to their fathers,'* and Jesus said that Elijah shall come and restore all things.

Think about that thought. Turn the heart of the children to the fathers. What's he doing? He is restoring back what was originally there. And in the church age sense, he is restoring the original faith that was in the book of Acts to His believers, to the real believers of Christ at the end time, at the time of the Laodicean church age.

And bear in mind, in the Laodicean church age Jesus is outside the church. He's been put out. Men are running the church, men are organising. Jesus, Who is, of course, the Word, is not in the church. The church itself does not accept the Word of God, the bible as the final authority. It has its own doctrines, its own traditions and so on, and its organisation. The last thing it wants is actually to accept the bible as being absolutely true, as being God's Word.

So an Elijah has to be sent to bring the true believers back to the original faith. And that is what we think is happening in these days. But more on that next time.

Thanks for reading. God bless you.