The Open Scroll, the Two Witnesses, the Last Trumpet pt. 1

By Charles Feinberg

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This study. Is our fourth. In the book of the revelation. It covers chapters 10 11. And 12.
Study four then in the Book of Revelation by Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg dean emeritus professor of Old Testament. At Talbot. Theological Seminary in La Mirada, California. The tenth chapter. Of the revelation. Deals with a little open book. Now from Chapter 10 verse one to chapter 11 verse 14. There is a parenthetical section between the sixth and seventh trumpets. There is orderliness in the book of Revelation. In Chapter 10. We have. Two main or principal thoughts before us. The first seven verses speak of the strong angel. The passage reads and I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven arrayed with a cloud and the rainbow was upon his head. And his face was as the sun and his feet as pillars of fire.

And he had in his hand a little book open and he set his right foot upon the sea and his left upon the earth and he cried with a great voice as the lion roareth. And when he cried the seven thunders uttered their voices and when the seven thunders uttered their voices. I was about to write says John and I heard a voice from heaven saying seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not. And the angel that I saw standing upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his right hand to heaven and swear by him that liveth for ever and ever who created the heaven and the things that are therein and the earth and the things that are are therein
and the sea and the things that are therein that there shall be delay no longer. But in the days of the voice of the Seventh Angel when he is about to sound then is finished the mystery of God according to the good tidings which he declared to his servants the prophets. That is revelation. Chapter 10 verses 1. Through 7.

He's speaking of this strong Angel. From the description of this angel which follows. The reference is to the Lord Jesus Christ. In Chapter 8 first 3 we saw him in a priestly office. Here we see him in a royal office. Now why does the Lord Jesus Christ appear in the book of Revelation as an angel? It would appear as though. Revelation. Doctrine. Is not progressing. But. Regressing going backward. Because in the Gospels Christ has been revealed as the incarnate. God the Son. Well he's revealed as an angel friend because reference is made to Israel before the Messiah had been revealed to them. He takes the same position in the book of Revelation as he occupied in Old Testament times. Another incidental proof that the tribulation period mentioned in the revelation is a part of the Jewish age unfinished.

At the first coming of Christ. You see friends morally and spiritually. Israel will be at that time just where they were when Christ came the first time. When. The Old Testament canon was closed, not having received him already. They are in exactly that same moral position awaiting his first coming just as we who know him are awaiting his coming again. He comes down. We read for heaven is now intervening openly in the affairs of the earth. He's arrayed with a cloud; it's the sign of the glory and majesty of the Lord. Remember the cloud led the people of Israel through the wilderness. The cloud rested upon the tabernacle, later upon the temple. Ezekiel saw the cloud depart from the temple. There was a cloud upon the amount of transfiguration. When Christ ascended to heaven a cloud received him out of the sight of the disciples and when he comes again thank God there will be a cloud.
Then there is also besides the cloud a rainbow. There's a rainbow upon his head which brings to remembrance divine mercy for creation as seen in Genesis. In the promise to Noah. His face the face of this angel is as the sun. This statement and the next description are exactly the same that we have in the first chapter verses 15 and 16. He comes here then with the highest authority the one seen here is exactly the same one Saul saw on the Damascus road the same person. His feet are as pillars of fire. Speaking of the firmness of God's penetrating judgment. Notice in his hand a little book opened, the little book is opened which book is this. Some take this little book to be the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the tribulation period and ending with the appearance of Christ, his visible appearance to the earth. Well that's the position of a number of expositors.

We prefer to take this little book with others as the same title deed of the earth that was seen in Chapter 5 Verse 1. The book that was so sealed there that no one on earth could prevail to open it except the lamb the lion of the tribe of Judah the lamb slain in the midst of the throne. Here he makes his indisputable claim to all creation as his inalienable right. It's open because the seals have been broken so that now it is visibly open. Verse three tells us of that voice. Compare Joel 3:16 roars as a lion in chapter 5 he was seen in the role of the lamb. Here is the picture of his wrath. Those who know not God can well be afraid of his wrath. We who know the savior can rejoice in his power and might. And then we have the seven thunders God's voice is full of judgment. The message of the Thunders is sealed up. And it would be useless to try to imagine what is indicated there. Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us that the things which are revealed are for us and for our children.

But the hidden things belong to God. God does not want to indicate what these seven thunders are. Now what does the angel declare. That there shall be delay no longer. This is not
the end of time. Some translations say that time shall be no more. But the Greek word is. In
thought and in actuality. Delay. This isn't the end of time or the end of eternity that comes after
the thousand year reign of Christ. As we read in the 20th chapter the revelation. Now there will
be no more delay, delay in what? In writing and setting right to wrong government of the earth.
Sin has held sway long enough. God's secret dealings are over and his public dealings begin.
Heaven is silent no longer. Man's day is about to close. In verse seven we find the mystery of
God finished. According to the good tidings which he declared to his servants the prophets?
What is the mystery of God?

Many have been the answers. In all probability it is his silence in the affairs of Earth. The
mystery is his permission of evil to go on in its present course with seeming impunity. This
speaks of the whole conflict between good and evil going on in the world as it has from Genesis
time. Is it not a real mystery friend that God allows evil to flourish and his own loved ones to be
oppressed on every hand? Present world conditions amply. Sufficiently illustrate this mystery.
According to an old Jewish proverb. Michael flies with but one wing and Gabriel with two.
Beautifully stated. It means God is quick in sending angels of peace and they fly swiftly. But the
messengers of wrath. Come slowly. But remember friends. They do come. Now in verses eight
to eleven. We have the little open book we read and the voice which I heard from heaven. I heard
it again speaking with me and saying go take the book which is open in the hand of the angel that
standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

And I went unto the angel saying unto him that he should give me the little book and he
said to me take it and eat it up and it shall make thy belly bitter. But in thy mouth it shall be
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 when I had eaten it my belly was made bitter and they say unto me
thou must prophecy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings. The symbolical act of John meant that he must prophesy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings. This eating the little book is the appropriating by faith of what God is to reveal through the Apostle John. To eat it means to incorporate it into one's being as in a similar situation in the book of Ezekiel.

And just as in John 6:49-58 when our Lord said you are to beat my flesh and you are to drink my blood. He did not mean it in a carnal fleshly way. He meant it with the sense of appropriation. It's remarkable how little people really assimilate what they hear. Like John we should ponder well these things. The reference here is to study and meditation on prophetic and dispensational truth as we have it here in the Word of God. It will be both sweet and bitter. It will gladden because of the promises but it will also threaten and that will sadness because of that was just to come upon the unbelieving believing in the world around us. The truth of the Lord's coming reign on earth was sweet to the Apostle John but the judgements whereby it will be brought about will be bitter. Is it not sad to read in the last book of the Bible how men will be no more ready to receive the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes the second time than they were ready to receive him when he came the first time.

Sad indeed. What is meant by eating the book then is seen from Chapter 12 on to the end of the Book of Revelation. It's an approach to the subject of Chapters 1 to 11 but from a different angle. It's the little book on the other side. And again it concerns the same people. The truth is duplicated just as pharaoh's dream of the Famine in Egypt was doubled for him in the time of Joseph. All these truths keep knocking at our hearts friends telling us time is surely short. Be prepared for that hour in order to escape it. Delay no longer. In the eleventh chapter. The subject is of the two witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet. This chapter through verse 14 continues the
parenthesis that was begun in the tenth chapter between the Sixth and Seventh Trumpet and that passage reads in this way. Revelation 11 1 to 14 and it was given me a reed like unto a rod and one said rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and them that worship therein and the court which is without the temple leave without and measure it not for it hath been given unto the nations and the Holy City shall they tread under foot 40 and two months. And I will give unto my two witnesses and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days clothed in sackcloth.

These are the two olive trees and the two Lamp Stand standing before the Lord of the earth. And if any man desires to hurt them fire proceedeth out of their mouth and devours their enemies. And if any man should desire to hurt them in this manner must he be killed. These have the power to shut the heaven that it rain not during the days of their prophecy and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to smite the earth with every plague as often as they shall desire and when they shall have finished their testimony the beast that cometh up out of the abyss shall make war with them and overcome them and kill them and their dead bodies lie on the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt where also their Lord was crucified and from among the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations do men look upon their dead bodies three days and a half and suffer not their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.

And they that dwell on the earth rejoice over them and make merry and they shall send gifts one to another because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth and after the three days and a half the breath of life from God entered into them and they stood upon their feet and great fear fell upon them that beheld them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them come up hither and they went up into Heaven in the cloud and their enemies
beheld them and at that hour there was a great earthquake and the tenth part of the city fell and there were killed in the earthquake seven thousand persons and the rest were affrighted and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is passed. Behold the third woe cometh quickly. My dear friends. This chapter through verse 14 continues that parenthesis. We were saying that was begun in the tenth chapter between the sixth and seventh trumpet. The Seventh Trumpet brings us to the end of time. You'll notice the background. Much can be gleaned by other portions of the word of God.

The background of Chapter 11 is this that Israel is returned to the land in unbelief. A preview of that we have seen already in our day. The temple is rebuilt with the intent of restoring the mosaic ritual according to revelation 11. Among the large unbelieving mass is still a small believing remnant. The first 14 verses deal with the two witnesses and their ministry. The Jews in Jerusalem are to the fore here and John told rise and to measure John has been an onlooker. But now he's commanded since his people are in view. The temple and the altars speak of Jewish worship and God owns it. On account of the true worshipers to be found there. The brazen altar or the bronze altar speaks of the basis of the drawing nigh to God. The measuring here reminds us of the measuring of the second chapter of Zachariah the fortieth chapter of Ezekiel and the 21st chapter of the book of the revelation. Measuring has the idea of marking off as we do today of one's possessions God recognizes a godly worshippers remnant in Jerusalem in the tribulation time.

But John is told not to measure the court which is without because. God has given it to the nations to the Gentiles. They treaded under foot forty and two months. The rejected court speaks of the mass of the nation in apostasy and rejection. And the butt and pray of the nation. The 42 months are the last half of Daniel's last week is Jerusalem's great hour of agony. Now
God never leaves himself without witness. Some think these two witnesses are Elijah and Enoch. Elijah and Enoch were both translated in order that they might not see death. Others think that they're Moses and Elijah still others think these two witnesses are just a remnant in Israel and not to actual literal men. Two. The number does speak of competent witness. Now we cannot be dogmatic there's not too much to go on. But judging from their ministry these two witnesses may refer to Moses and Elijah. It's admitted by the majority that the witnessing is like that of Moses and Elijah on the basis of the sixth verse.

They are clothed in sackcloths because of the afflicted condition of the witnesses indicating the judgmental character of that which they have to proclaim to those around about them. But the two olive trees remind us of the last verses of the fourth chapter of Zachariah. These have the power to shut the heaven that it rain not in the days of their prophecy. They have power over the waters to turn them into blood smite the earth with a plague as often as they desire. They have power to credit and to accredit and confirm their mission to apostate Israel. Miracles like that of Moses and Elijah will be performed. Israel will be in a state of slavery and of apostasy. Because the witnesses testify for God They will be hated of the apostate mass. The blessed truth for all of God's children to know.

Is that they are beyond injury until their work is done. So we have the words of verse seven concerning them that when they shall have finished their testimony the beast that comes out of the abyss shall make war with them and overcome them and kill them. These witnesses in a sense shall be immortal until their work is done. The beast is mentioned here for the first time in the revelation the same one that we're going to find in the thirteenth chapter of the revelation the same one of the book of Daniel the seventh chapter. This is the Roman beast the head of the revived Roman Empire. The nondescript beast of Daniel 7. The testimony of the witnesses has
gone out of Jerusalem while the beast has been persecuted. Now his evil arm reaches out to them. This act of killing the witnesses seems to be the last of the cruelties of the beast. Notice that the beast comes out of the abyss which is not his original source.

The revived Roman Empire is but this is his place of reviving. By Satan. It's the place from which he issues morally. Verse 8 tells us that when these two witnesses are killed their dead bodies lie in the street of the great city which spiritually, not governmentally but spiritually symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt where also their Lord was crucified. Think of the indignity and indecency of this act. These dead are not afforded nor accorded the dignity of a burial. What an indecency in the Middle East. In the ancient Orient. The city is called Sodom because of its wickedness. Egypt because of its opposition to the people of God. We know that it is Jerusalem for the Lord was crucified there. That people from tribes tongues and nations do look upon the dead bodies three days and a half and they suffer not the dead bodies to be laid in the tomb.

I take it that these three and a half days are literal these verses show the utter depravity of the earth dwellers. They are happy because the voices of the witnesses are still, they'll not be heard any longer. Their words of condemnation their words of judgment. They rejoice over them. They make merry they send gifts one to another. Because these two prophets these two men of God tormented them. Their ministry was irksome and tormented. But notice the remarkable words of verses 11 and 12. The resurrection and translation are stated plainly here. Both were visible and are God's vindication of his servants. This is a literal earthquake which follows and the tenth part a full portion were smitten, killed, in that earthquake. Seven thousand persons and the rest. Those who were spared what happened to them. They were frightened and
gave glory to the God of heaven. This is merely the result of human fear with no practical outcome.

Their hearts were not really touched. Now our parenthesis between the six trumpet judgment and the seven seventh trumpet judgment the second and third woe judgment. As they're called ends with this verse. The second woe is passed we read in verse 14. And what happens. The third woe. Comes quickly. Now verses 15 to 19. And the Seventh Angel sounded and their followed great voices in heaven and they said the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and He shall reign forever and ever. And the four and twenty elders who sit before God on their thrones fell upon their faces and worshiped God saying we give thee thanks oh Lord God the Almighty who art and who wast because thou has taken thy great power in its reign and the nations were wroth and thy wrath came and the time of the dead to be judged and the time to give the reward to thy servants the prophets and to the Saints and to them that fear thy name the small and the great.

And to destroy them that destroy the earth. And there was opened the temple of God that is in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his covenant. And there followed Lightning and voices and thunders and an earthquake and great hail. These verses present the last trumpet and the final regime and the seventh Angel sounded and there followed great voices in heaven. And they said the kingdom of the world. Oh what a majestic verses it is the kingdom of the worlds become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign forever ever. Verse 19 to the end of this chapter belongs to the next chapter and the added details of the following chapters verses 15 to 18. Don't give the particulars of many events of the end to the tribulation period. The seventh Trumpet, this seventh trumpet does not bring in the kingdom. It only shows its proximity. The kingdom of this world.
Over which Satan rules now permissibly becomes the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. It's one universal unified sovereignty and kingdom. This is by way of anticipation. By way of looking forward. Not actually realized. As it's gloriously. Fulfilled view will be in chapters 19. And 20 in the Revelation. Wonderful that God gives us this preview at this particular point. Yes and the reigning of Christ is on Earth, an important verse that covers it all as the eighteenth verse which includes the whole millennial period to the judgment of the dead. Notice there will be rewards differing according to their distinct positions to be occupied in the kingdom the receiving of the reward is definitely the reigning with Christ. Verse 19 then resumes the whole history from a different point that of the chief actors in the coming events.

This verse really belongs to the following chapter. Again friend in view of these events. Rapidly to come to pass. Our hearts are exercised that you shall trust Christ. And be safe. And be saved. We come now. To the truly remarkable wonderful 12th chapter on the woman the man-child and the dragon. It's actually one of the pivotal chapters of the book. I would strongly urge you to realize that if we are not clear here in Revelation twelve there is great danger that the book of Revelation will be confused from Chapter 12 on. We have a new beginning and forward details. The last verse of Chapter 11 belongs here and shows Israel in prominence again. Now. Chapters 12 to 14 are a connected and important prophecy of the book. What's their purpose? In chapters 12 and 13. We have outlined for us the principle the chief actors for good and evil in the end time. Chapter 14 gives the consummation preparatory to the setting up of the kingdom. From Chapter 12:5 to 14:20 we are taken from the birth of Christ to the time of Christ treading of the wine press of God's wrath. In this chapter 12 friends we have a grouping together of Events second to none in this marvelous book of prophecy. It takes us back farther than any chapter in
the book. It has a simple direct threefold division. In the first six verses we have the birth. Of.

And a great sign was seen in heaven a woman arrayed with the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars and she was with child and she cried out travailing in birth and in pain to be delivered. And that was seen another sign in heaven and behold a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and upon his head seven diadems and his tail draweth the third part of the stars of heaven and it cast them to the earth and the dragon standeth before the woman that is about to be delivered that when she is delivered he may devour her child and she was delivered of a son a man-child who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron and her child was caught up unto God and unto his throne and the woman fled into the wilderness. Where she had the place prepared of God that there they may nourish her a thousand two hundred and three score days that's twelve hundred and sixty days. The Great sign was seen in heaven a woman arrayed with the sun. The moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child. And she cried travailing in birth and in pain to delivered a sign as you well know is something pointing to a definite subject or object.

[End Part 1]