

# LESSON 12

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## THE LITTLE BOOK

The previous two chapters revolved around the first six trumpets. As chapter 10 begins, the reader is waiting for the blast from the last trumpet. Instead, the narrative is interrupted by almost two chapters of other visions. The interlude between trumpets is intended to *challenge* the church. It addresses the question “What should the church *do* during these troubled times?”

1. How important are the “interruptions” in Revelation?

### **THE ANGEL WITH THE LITTLE BOOK (10:1–7)**

As Christians confront a sin-saturated society, they sometimes feel small and powerless. Members of the early church must have had similar feelings as they faced the might and power of Rome. The opening scene of chapter 10 presents a different perspective on power and strength as God sent a colossus to deliver a message to John.

2. In what sense is the “strong angel” of 10:1 stronger than other angels?
3. How is the description of the “strong angel” reminiscent of the terms used in connection with the Father and the Son?
4. Why is it unlikely that this “strong angel” was Jesus?
5. Why is the angel’s message considered bittersweet?
6. What statements can be made with certainty about the little book?
7. How do we know that the little book was not the sealed book of chapter 5?
8. What do writers believe the little book to have been?

9. Of what significance is the fact that the angel “placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land” (10:2)?
10. In addition to the three general purposes of seals, what purpose do seals sometimes serve in apocalyptic literature?
11. What do various commentators fruitlessly suggest that the message of the seven peals of thunder was?
12. What can be known about the message of the peals of thunder from the fact that God did not allow John to record it?
13. What was the significance of the fact that the angel “swore by Him who lives forever” (10:6)?
14. What is meant by the word translated “delay” in verse 6?
15. How does the New Testament use the word “mystery”?
16. What is “the mystery of God” (10:7)?

### **JOHN EATS THE LITTLE BOOK (10:8–11)**

Revelation 10 and 11 declare that in troubled times, the church is to be bold, courageous, even outspoken. Chapter 10 stresses that the church can meet such a difficult challenge by first *appreciating* the Word (vv. 1–7) and then *appropriating* it (vv. 8–11).

17. How familiar would John have been with the imagery of “eating” a book?
18. How does the Word figuratively make one’s stomach bitter, and how did it make John’s stomach bitter in his life?
19. What was the purpose of having John eat the little book?
20. Why was John told that he must “prophesy again” (10:11)?