

Revelation 10:1–11

The Redeemer Claims What He Purchased

Introduction: A Pause in Judgment, A Preview of Victory

As we move through the trumpet judgments in the book of Revelation, we come to an intentional pause. After the sixth trumpet sounds, but before the seventh is released, the Spirit draws our attention away from catastrophe and toward certainty. Judgment pauses so that hope can speak.

In Revelation chapter ten, John is given a glimpse of a future moment when Jesus Christ steps forward to claim what already belongs to Him. This is not the moment of final judgment, but a declaration of ownership. The One who paid the price is about to take possession.

Jesus redeemed the world with His blood. The earth was originally God's by creation, entrusted to man, and then forfeited through sin. Scripture calls Satan "the ruler of this world," not because he owns it by right, but because he holds it through rebellion. Yet Jesus came not to negotiate ownership, but to redeem it.

We are told plainly:

"Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ."

The purchase has been made, but the possession has not yet been fully realized.

Redemption Begun, But Not Yet Complete

The Apostle Paul reminds us that creation itself is restless:

"For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now... eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body."

Redemption is real, but it is not yet finished. Believers have been sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of what is coming, but we still live in a world that resists Christ's rule.

The writer of Hebrews says:

"You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under Him, He left nothing that is not put under Him. But now we do not yet see all things put under Him. But we see Jesus..."

That is where we live—between promise and fulfillment. We rejoice in the Spirit now, but we long for the day when Christ reigns openly. That longing is reflected in the prayer Jesus taught us:

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Revelation 10 shows us that this prayer will be answered.

The Mighty Angel: Christ Declaring His Claim

“I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud.”

The word “angel” means messenger, but the description leaves little doubt that this is a revelation of Jesus Christ Himself. The cloud speaks of divine presence and glory. Scripture already told us:

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him.”

John continues:

“And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.”

This mirrors John’s earlier vision of the risen Christ. The rainbow reminds us of God’s covenant faithfulness, now resting upon the head of the One who fulfills every promise.

“He had a little book open in his hand.”

Earlier, no one was found worthy to open the scroll—the title deed to the earth—until the Lamb who was slain stepped forward. Now the book is open. The authority has been claimed.

“He set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.”

This is not symbolism of influence; it is a declaration of ownership. Sea and land alike belong to Him. The Redeemer stands on what He redeemed.

The Roar of Victory and the Silence of Mystery

“And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars.”

This is not the cry of suffering, but the roar of triumph. Throughout the prophets, the Lord’s coming is described as a roar—a sound that shakes creation and announces that the King has arrived.

When He cries out, seven thunders respond, but John is told:

“Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”

God has revealed much, but not everything. There are truths we are meant to know, and mysteries we are meant to trust. Where Scripture is silent, wisdom requires that we remain silent as well.

No More Delay: God’s Patience Has a Purpose

The mighty angel lifts His hand and swears by the eternal Creator:

“That there should be delay no longer.”

This does not mean time ceases to exist. It means that the waiting is over. God’s patience has served its purpose.

Peter warned that scoffers would mock the delay, saying all things continue as they always have. But he also explained the reason:

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

The delay has been mercy. But mercy does not cancel justice. The day will come when delay ends and fulfillment begins.

The Mystery Completed: God’s World Restored

“The mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.”

The prophets spoke of a restored world—a healed creation, renewed humanity, and righteous rule. Scripture describes a time when creation is no longer corrupted, when justice flows freely, and when the knowledge of the Lord fills the earth.

We do not see the world as God intended it to be. Creation has been scarred by sin. Humanity has been distorted by greed and selfishness. Even nature no longer speaks as clearly as it once did.

But restoration is coming.

The same God who created the world will renew it. The same Christ who shed His blood to redeem it will reign over it.

The Sweetness and the Bitterness of God’s Word

John is told to take the little book and eat it.

“It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.”

God’s Word is sweet because it reveals hope, redemption, and the certainty of Christ’s reign. But it is also bitter because it tells the truth about judgment, suffering, and the cost of rebellion.

Both are necessary. We cannot preach only comfort and withhold warning. Faithful proclamation includes both sweetness and bitterness.

Commissioned to Speak Again

“You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”

The message is not finished. Until Christ returns, the Word must still be spoken. The gospel must still be preached. Truth must still be declared.

Practical Application for Believers

1. Live with Expectation
Christ has paid the price and will take possession. Do not live as though this world is permanent.
2. Trust God’s Timing
Delay is not denial. God’s patience is purposeful, and His promises are certain.

3. Devour God's Word Fully

Do not avoid the difficult parts of Scripture. Let both its sweetness and its warnings shape your life.

A Challenge for Believers

Are you living as though Jesus truly owns your life, or only as though He saved it? Redemption is not merely forgiveness—it is lordship. The One who redeemed you by His blood is worthy to reign over every area of your life.

An Invitation to Non-Believers

Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to redeem you. His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord. The delay you are living in is mercy—an opportunity to respond.

The day will come when delay ends. Today is the day of salvation. Turn to Him. Trust Him. Receive the forgiveness He purchased with His blood and the life He offers through His resurrection.

He is not only coming as King. He stands ready now as Savior.