



Sermon Series Notes

“The First Anti-Christmas” (Rev.10-11)

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Intro: Rev.1, John sees Jesus in His resurrected/glorified state. He is told to write what he has seen, what is, and what will take place later (the outline of the book). What he has seen is the resurrected, glorified Jesus, What “is” is the church age (seven letters of chapters 2-3), and what will take place later is the remainder of the book, and it deals with what is still future. In chapter four John is raptured, sees the Father on his throne, with twenty-four elders seated on thrones around him. In chapter five the Father holds in his right hand a seven sealed scroll, and a mighty angel asks. “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll? John weeps long and hard because no one comes forth. John somehow knows that contained in this scroll are events that will bring about the ultimate redemption of the entire creation. John is then told to stop weeping because the Lion of the tribe of Judah has triumphed and is worthy to open the scroll. John turns to see the Lion but instead sees a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain. This is of course Jesus. In chapter six Jesus begins to open the seals. The first brings the antichrist riding a white horse, and he is bent on world conquest. Daniel 7:23 says that he will rule a future kingdom that will “devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.” The second seal brings world war, the third famine. When the fourth seal is opened, one fourth of the population dies. The fifth seal are martyrs crying out for justice. When the sixth seal is opened, the heavens and the earth are shaken, and men hide in caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks to hide them from the face of him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. Chapter seven sees a multitude of Jews and Gentiles saved during this awful time. Habakkuk 2:4...in wrath remember mercy. Chapter eight is the opening of the final seal, and when it is opened there is silence in heaven for about half an hour. It is the greatest calm before the greatest storm in all of history. The seventh seal summons seven angels who stand before God, and they have seven trumpets to sound. The first brings hail and fire mixed with blood, and a third of the earth is burned up, a third of the trees are burned up, and all the green grass is burned up. The second trumpet brings something *like* a huge burning mountain that is thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turns to blood, a third of the creatures in the sea die, & a third of the ships are destroyed. The third trumpet brings a great blazing star that falls on a third of the rivers and springs of water. The star is called “Wormwood” (bitter), and many people die from the waters that have now become bitter. The fourth trumpet causes a third of the sun, moon & stars to not show their light, no doubt due to all the particles in the atmosphere.

I personally believe that nuclear weapons will be used in this final world war during The Great Tribulation. The hail and fire mixed with blood, and the resulting trees and grass being burned up sounds like the results of nuclear weapons. And the blazing mountain into the Sea, and the star that falls on a third of the rivers are no doubt meteors. In light of that thought, take a look at this news clip from just a few months ago. Show video.

We come today to chapter ten in our study of this fascinating book.

Revelation 10

vv.1-4 The mystery of the seven thunders

Why does God not allow John to record for us what the seven thunders said? And if He's not going to tell us what the seven thunders spoke, why even mention it? It's like someone saying, "I know something, but I'm not going to tell you."

Since all Scripture is God breathed, there must be a message for us here. But what message could there possibly be in what God has not revealed?

Perhaps we cannot handle what the seven thunders said; John 16: 12 I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

Will the revelation of what the seven thunders said be revealed in the future?

Deut.29: 29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever.

We should not focus on what God has NOT revealed, but rather on what He HAS revealed.

George Washington Carver, the son of ex-slaves, was a gifted botanist. It is said that he prayed for God to show him the mysteries of the universe, but God did not answer. Thinking he was asking God for too much, he then asked God to show him the mysteries of the earth. Again, no response from God. He then prayed that God would show him the mysteries of the human body, but still his prayer was to no avail. Carver is the man who, after much persuasion, convinced farmers in the south to plant peanuts and sweet potatoes instead of cotton. Because southern farmers had planted cotton for hundreds of years without crop rotation, the soil had worn out and the farmers were going into terrible debt due to the failure of their crops. When they finally listened to Carver, sweet potatoes and peanuts in time became number one crops in the South. But the market was not substantial enough for the bumper crops of peanuts and sweet potatoes. So much of the produce was then left to rot in the fields, and the farmers began to lose even more money than before. It was at this time that George Washington Carver prayed, "Mr. Creator, why did you make the peanut?" God then led him back into his laboratory and eventually revealed to Carver some 300 marketable products from the peanut. These included lard, mayonnaise, cheese, shampoo, instant coffee, flour, soap, face powder, plastics, adhesives, axle grease, pickles, and of course, peanut butter. Also, from the sweet potato he made more than 100 new discoveries, among them starch, library paste, vinegar, shoe blacking, ink, and molasses. Economists and agriculturalists agree that Carver contributed more than any other individual to rejuvenate the Southern economy.

If Carver had focused on what God had chosen not to reveal, he never would have succeeded by focusing on what God did reveal.

Rom.8:28 does not say we "see" all things working together for good, but rather we "know" that all things work together for good...

I Cor.13: 12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

vv.5-7 What is this mystery about to be accomplished?

Eph.1:9-10 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth under one head, even Christ.

Isa.9: 6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Daniel 7:27...the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.

See Isaiah 2:2-4

vv.8-11 Until that day, John has a message to proclaim, and it is a message for the whole world. And it is a bittersweet message; See Ezekiel 2:8-3:11. As we get closed to the end, men's hearts will grow colder and colder, harder and harder. But God continues to speak, and during this time he raises up two special witnesses to share the bittersweet truth of God's Word. We will see these witnesses in the next chapter of our study. But before we do, we have to take a moment and consider the first two verses of chapter eleven.

Revelation 11

v.1 The measuring of the temple and the altar is suggestive of ownership. What's one of the first things you do when you purchase a piece of property? You get a survey to find out *exactly* where your boundaries are.

The last temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70, and has never been rebuilt. But in the days of the fulfillment of these prophecies, there will be a temple once again in Jerusalem. Matthew 24, II Thess.2, Daniel 9, and here in our text, all refer to this temple. This future temple could be built during the first three and a half years of The Tribulation. It seems that this is even probable in light of Daniel 9:27. The covenant that the Antichrist makes and breaks tells us that He has "power" and "control" governmentally. He could actually be the one who helps to finance this new temple, just as Herod did the last temple that was destroyed.

The present challenge of building a new temple is that it would have to be built on the same site as the former temple.

Pic on screen of Dome of the Rock

Around 600 A.D. a man named Omar built a mosk (The Mosk of Omar/Dome of the Rock) on the site where the last temple stood. In this mosk is a rock that is believed to be a rock that sat in the holy of holies

in the Jewish temple. Mohammed supposedly launched off to heaven from this site on his woman faced wonder horse.

Jewish radicals have in the past attempted to blow up the Dome of the Rock. If they were ever successful, it would be catastrophic! One billion Muslims would descend upon Jerusalem with "holy" retribution. It would be a bloodbath!!!

March/April 1983 edition of Biblical Archeological Review - Dr. Asher Koffman (brilliant physicist and archeologist), wrote that it is assumed that the Moske of Omar (Dome of the Rock) is sitting on the site of the ancient holy of holies. But Koffman says it is really 100 meters north. In that location is a little gazebo kind of structure. The Muslims named it the dome of the spirit and/or the dome of the tablets. Underneath it is original bedrock from the temple (one of only two places original bedrock has been discovered, the other being inside the dome of the rock). The rock 100 meters north has never been chiseled, and is flat. The rock in the dome is big and craggy. The ark had to sit on flat rock, not craggy rock.

According to the Mishnah (Jewish oral tradition), the priest could look through the opening at the temple and see the eastern gate. You cannot line it up from the Dome of the Rock.

If there were some compromise worked out between the Muslims and the Jews, and the Jews were allowed to build their temple on the site of the dome of the spirits/tablets, then the "outer court" would remain in control of the Muslims! This is fascinating in light of the next verse in Rev. 11. Read verse 2.

Daniel 9:27 Forty-two months is three and a half years (middle of the seven).

Luke 21:24...Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Ezekiel 42: 20 So he measured the area on all four sides. It had a wall around it, five hundred cubits long and five hundred cubits wide, to separate the holy from the common.

KJV 20 He measured it by the four sides: it had a wall round about, five hundred reeds long, and five hundred broad, to make a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place.

vv.3-6 Verse four is a reference to Zechariah chapter four, where a prophesy about these two witnesses is given. They are referred to as olive trees because the power of the Holy Spirit rests upon them (olive oil); Lampstands because they shine the light of truth in the midst of darkness; They are clothed in sackcloth because they minister in times of mourning, grief, & crisis.

The power God grants them is like the combined ministries of Moses and Elijah.

Mal. 4: 5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

See II Kings 1:9-14

Luke 9: 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Jude 1: 9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

The plagues through Moses (Nile to blood, frogs, gnats from dust/8:19 this is the finger of God, flies, livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, firstborn; even after the last one, Pharaoh again hardened his heart!)

v.7 See Rev.17:8; This is antichrist empowered by Satan ruling over the world at this time.

v.8 This is Jerusalem

v.9 The deaths of these two witnesses is world news! CNN, NBC, ABC, BBC, etc.

v.10 This is the first Anti-Christmas!

Note: They only tormented those who tried to harm them (11:5)

vv.11-12 How cool!

v.14-19 The ark represents the presence and power of God on behalf of His redeemed people.

What a contrast in scenes. The world has been pummeled with one judgment after another, and all the while the way of salvation has been proclaimed. Truth has been as evident as ever before, but for the most part the world continues to reject the truth, and even become more and more angry against the truth. The first Anti-Christmas sees the world rejoicing over God's slain servants, but their rejoicing is short lived. Just three and a half days into their merriment, further judgment strikes. It is the fourth quarter, and the 2:00 warning has sounded. The game is almost over, and in end, heaven wins!

See Psalm 2:1-12

CONCLUSION

* The world does not love our Lord, and as we move closer to the end of this present age, men's hatred toward God will intensify. While God wants all men to be saved, He will never force anyone to repent and submit their lives to Him. He leaves that up to each one of us. Thank God that I finally made that decision! Now I have the tremendous assurance in this life that, come "hell or high water," through dark days when I do not have all the answers that I would like, whether God grants me power to defeat the enemy here and now, or whether, by His divine wisdom and plan, He allows the enemy to buffet my body, or even take my earthly life, ultimate victory is mine. I am on the winning team. Praise the Lord!

* Romans 8:35-39