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REVELATION

“Ex-” means to take out of, while “eis-” means “into.” So quite simply, exegesis means digging into the text to pull out the meaning, while its opposite, eisegesis, reads meaning into a text that isn’t there. Students of the Bible must perform solid exegesis, not eisegesis, because, as Peter J. Leithart says, “We don’t want to twist Scripture into saying something that it doesn’t actually say.”

2. The Literal Principle. We assume that each word in a passage has a normal, literal meaning, unless there is good reason to view it as a figure of speech. The exegete does not go out of his way to spiritualize or allegorize. Words mean what words mean.

So, if the Bible mentions a “horse,” it means “a horse.” When the Bible speaks of the Promised Land, it means a literal land given to Israel and should not be interpreted as a reference to heaven.

Chapter 10

THE INTERLUDE - PART 1

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The sixth trumpet judgment has just passed and approximately **2 1/2 billion** people have died on the earth as a result of these - fire, smoke, and sulfur breathing - demons (talked about last week)!
 - 1. **John 1:29 (NKJV) 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**
 - a) That's what the Lord is in the process of doing.
 - (1) Those already in heaven with Him are seen as "sinless" because of the cross.
 - (2) Those left on the earth have increased their occultic practices and demonic worship!
 - (3) They have become even more hardened against the Lord, and more set for destruction!
 - (a) Therefore, they must be judged for their sins!
 - 2. This morning we take a look at an "interlude" or (parenthesis) if you will!
 - a) If you remember, there was such a "parenthesis" between the 6th and 7th seals.
 - (1) The Lord felt it necessary to describe His mercy even in the midst of judgment.
 - b) Here, between the 6th and 7th trumpet judgments we see yet another "interlude".
 - (1) And I believe, once again, it speaks of the Lord's mercy even though, as a righteous God, He must wipe out the earth and start over!
 - (2) It is that "interlude" that we study this morning!

- II. **REVELATION 10:1 (NKJV) 1 I SAW STILL ANOTHER MIGHTY ANGEL COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN, CLOTHED WITH A CLOUD. AND A RAINBOW WAS ON HIS HEAD, HIS FACE WAS LIKE THE SUN, AND HIS FEET LIKE PILLARS OF FIRE.**

- A. Scripture doesn't say who this mighty angel is. But some scholars believe this is Jesus.
1. The Lord made Himself visible many times in the past in what we call "theophanies".
 2. As we look at the description of this angel it is easy to come to the same conclusion: that this may be the Lord Himself!!
 - a) **First**, He is coming down from heaven.
 - (1) **John 6:38 (NKJV) 38** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
 - (2) **Acts 1:10-11 (NKJV) 10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **11** who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
 - b) **Second**, He is clothed with a cloud.
 - (1) The Lord directed Israel in a cloud by day **Ex. 13:21**
 - (2) At Sinai He descended in a thick cloud **Ex. 19:9,16**
 - (3) In **Ex 40:34** a cloud covered the tent as the Lord filled the tabernacle.
 - (4) **Luke 21:27 (NKJV) 27** "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
 - c) **Third**, there is a rainbow on His head.
 - (1) In chapter 4 the rainbow was "round about the throne"
 - (2) The rainbow is a symbol of God's covenant with Noah regarding the earth!
 - (3) Ezekiel saw this same rainbow in a vision of the throne of God.
 - (a) **Ezekiel 1:28 (NKJV) 28** Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.
 - (b) Just as the cloud is symbolic of the coming "storm" of God's judgment:
 - (c) So, the rainbow is symbolic of hope and promise, and God's mercy even in the midst of a wicked and perverse people!
 - (i) Remember, God has protected His own!
 - d) **Fourth**, His face is like the sun.
 - (1) **Revelation 1:16 (NKJV) 16** He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.
 - (2) **Matthew 17:2 (NKJV) 2** and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
 - (3) **Malachi 4:2 (NKJV) 2** But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.
 - e) And **fifth**, His feet were like pillars of fire.
 - (1) **Revelation 1:15 (NKJV) 15** His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

- (2) **Revelation 2:18 (NKJV) 18** "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ' These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:
- (a) Brass, and the furnace also scripturally represent judgment.
 - (b) Thus, from the description alone, we clearly get the picture that the Lord is returning as he went, (in a cloud), to judge the earth and reclaim what is His, all the while keeping safe, those that are His under His wing of protection!
 - (i) Very, very cool indeed!

III. REVELATION 10:-2-3 (NKJV) 2 HE HAD A LITTLE BOOK OPEN IN HIS HAND. AND HE SET HIS RIGHT FOOT ON THE SEA AND HIS LEFT FOOT ON THE LAND, 3 AND CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, AS WHEN A LION ROARS. WHEN HE CRIED OUT, SEVEN THUNDERS UTTERED THEIR VOICES.

A. Psalm 29:3–11 (NKJV) — **3** The voice of the LORD *is* over the waters¹; The God of glory thunders; **4** The voice of the LORD *is* powerful²;The voice of the LORD *is* full of majesty³.**5** The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars⁴,**7** The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire⁵.**8** The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness⁶; **9** The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare⁷;

1. When the angel speaks, the seven thunders sound. They are most likely a reference to the seven voices of God in **Psalm 29**¹ (William Barclay)

B. He had a 'little' book open in His hand.

1. In English we would translate this Greek word "booklet", a smaller version of a book!
2. Little information is given about the booklet other than its effect upon John of being "bitter - sweet"
3. What we do know is that it is divine revelation.
 - a) Meaning that is, something that up to this point - has not been revealed.
 - b) Perhaps it is what is revealed to us in **Revelation Chapter 11** verses **1-14** regarding the two witnesses!
 - c) Perhaps it is what is uttered by the "seven thunders" of which the angel told John not to reveal yet!
 - (1) The truth is, we will not know for sure until we are in heaven!

C. This mighty angel...set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.

1. We shouldn't make the mistake of thinking that He is standing at the beach with His feet 12 inches apart!
 - a) This is representative of claiming the earth and the seas and the fullness thereof.
 - b) Which **1 Cor. 10:26** tells us they are His in the first place!

¹ Barclay, W. (2004) [*Revelation of John*](#). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press (The New Daily Study Bible), p. 62.

D. He cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars.

1. **Rev. 1:10** describes His voice as "**the sound of many waters.**"
 - a) It would be like standing next to Niagara falls only many times more thunderous!
 - b) Remember, **1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NKJV)** tell us that . . .**the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**
 - (1) So, His thunderous voice is not something new.

E. When He cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

1. **His right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land**
2. The "right" position such as the "right hand of God" usually symbolizes completion and authority!
3. But this angel's authority covers the earth and the sea.
 - a) This represent the Lord's judgment of everything!

IV. **REVELATION 10:4 (NKJV) 4 NOW WHEN THE SEVEN THUNDERS UTTERED THEIR VOICES, I WAS ABOUT TO WRITE; BUT I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAYING TO ME, "SEAL UP THE THINGS WHICH THE SEVEN THUNDERS UTTERED, AND DO NOT WRITE THEM."**

A. This is a good place to question whether this angel is indeed Jesus.

1. If this mighty angel with one foot on land and another in the sea is Jesus, who is this **voice from heaven** that is commanding John to never reveal what he heard the seven thunders say?
2. Jon Courson: "*Many good Bible teachers believe this angel is Jesus Himself because the angel's description is very similar to the description of Jesus in **chapter 1**. In addition, "angel," or *aggelos* in Greek, means "messenger"—a term that could theoretically apply to Jesus. But I have a problem with this view because the appearance of Jesus on the earth at this time would interrupt the flow of the book. I suggest this is an angel of importance who, like Moses in **Exodus 34**, takes on characteristics of the Lord because he is in the presence of the Lord. This encourages me because the same thing is true for us. If we spend time with the Lord, we begin to sound like Him, look like Him, and act like Him a little more each day.*"²

B. Back to the seven thunders - they are not only participants in the judgment of the earth through water, but as each one commences, he makes some kind of announcement!

1. Maybe it is **to** those who dwell on the earth as they (the thunders) proclaim God's righteousness and the reasons for His judgment in this way!
2. Whatever they say, John is not allowed to write them down! He is told to "seal them up", indicating that he is not even to mention the comments that they said!

² Courson, J. (2003) [Jon Courson's Application Commentary](#). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, p. 1720.

- a) So, there is yet another mystery to be revealed in heaven!

V. REVELATION 10:5-7 (NKJV) 5 THE ANGEL WHOM I SAW STANDING ON THE SEA AND ON THE LAND RAISED UP HIS HAND TO HEAVEN 6 AND SWORE BY HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT, THE EARTH AND THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT, THAT THERE SHOULD BE DELAY NO LONGER, 7 BUT IN THE DAYS OF THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVENTH ANGEL, WHEN HE IS ABOUT TO SOUND, THE MYSTERY OF GOD WOULD BE FINISHED, AS HE DECLARED TO HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS.

- A. Just before the seventh angel (or 7th trumpet of judgment) is to sound, there will be things revealed about the Lord, His plan, and His kingdom, that has never before been fully understood **though spoken of** through the prophets!

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. **Revelation 10:8-11 (NKJV) 8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." 9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." 10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."**

1. John is instructed to take the "booklet" from the angel and eat it!
2. He did so and it was sweet as honey in his mouth, but it made him sick!
3. Maybe the last verse in **chapter 10** gives us a clue as to why!
 - a) John was given the joy and the task of writing the book of Revelation!
 - b) Can you imagine being light years ahead of all mankind?
 - c) Having the responsibility of proclaiming the doom of millions of people, as well as the hope of all of God's children?
 - d) John immediately became the "pastor of the world"!
 - (1) We know from history that his life was never the same.
 - (2) He could never stop telling everyone he saw about what was coming!
 - (a) Yet, most wouldn't listen!
 - (3) He could never stop praying for the world to be saved!
 - (a) Knowing that billions would perish!
 - (4) The burden and the privilege he was given was indeed "bittersweet"!
4. Can you imagine what it was like for John for the rest of his life – knowing all this?
5. It also makes me ask myself – if I still carry John's burden for the lost since I too know what is coming.