

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Vaught Sermon Notes: A Study of the Book of Revelation

W.O. Vaught Archive

6-28-1981

The Angel Witness and the Two Human Witnesses

W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_revelation



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "The Angel Witness and the Two Human Witnesses" (1981). *Vaught Sermon Notes: A Study of the Book of Revelation*. 19.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_revelation/19

This Sermon Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the W.O. Vaught Archive at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vaught Sermon Notes: A Study of the Book of Revelation by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

THE ANGEL WITNESS AND THE TWO HUMAN WITNESSES

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
NUMBER 16
REVELATION 10:1-11-11:1-14

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr.
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

REVELATION 10:1-11-11:1-14 "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were 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 foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth 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 as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings. And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophesy and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly."

We have now come to a parenthesis between the 6th and 7th trumpets. The sounding of the 7th trumpet will be the Second Advent of Christ and the Millennium. We have the two heralds of the Second Advent--the mighty angel of chapter 10 and the two witnesses--Moses and Elijah. The 7th trumpet is the Second Advent.

Let us look at a dispensational outline of the Book of Revelation.

Chapter 1--The Introduction
 Chapters 2 and 3--The history of the Church Age
 Chapters 4 and 5--The church in heaven
 Chapters 6-19--The Tribulation
 Chapter 20--The Millennial reign of Christ

In chapter 6 we studied the seals, and this was a summary of the Tribulation. In chapter 7 we studied evangelism in the Tribulation. In chapters 8 and 9 the trumpets gave emphasis to the Tribulation. This emphasis in chapters 8 and 9 concerns the Gentiles. In chapters 12-19 the Tribulational emphasis will be upon the Jews.

The Seals--The Tribulation from the standpoint of the Gentiles.

The Vials--The Tribulation from the standpoint of the Jews.

So we have now come to an interlude--to introduce to us the heralds of the Second Advent. A king is always preceded by heralds.

In his First Advent Christ had heralds when he came to Bethlehem. He was preceded in his First Advent by a multitude of angels and one human herald, John the Baptist. In the Second Advent he will have as heralds one angel and two human beings. We will study about this one angel herald in chapter 10 and about the two human heralds in chapter 11, verses 1-14.

Three times in scripture someone is told to eat a book. We read about this first in Jeremiah 15:13-17. Then again we read about eating a book in Ezek. 2:8-10, Ezek. 3. In Rev. 10:9-10 someone else has to eat a book. It simply gives emphasis to the idea of the importance of taking the Word of God into your mind. Eating of the Word of God is a non-meritorious idea.

Let us look at the description of this angel.

REVELATION 10:1 "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire" "I saw another angel" means an angel of the same kind. A mighty angel belonging to the same group of angels as the others. It is an angel from heaven, clothed with a cloud. This angel will announce the Second Coming of Christ. In Psalm 104:3 clouds are called the Lord's chariot. The rainbow reminds us that God keeps his word. God is never unstable under any condition and the rainbow takes us back to Genesis 9:12-17 when God promised never to destroy the world again by water. In the Second Advent God fulfills his four unconditional covenants to Israel. The Coat of Arms of this angel also portrays the First Advent of Christ--"I am the light of the world". The pillar of fire speaks of judgment, the alternative to salvation. So the Coat of Arms has two factors involving the First Advent, the sun and the rainbow. The cloud and the fire refers to the Second Advent.

REVELATION 10:2 "And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth." This little book is a small scroll. This is a title deed to the earth. Because of his work on the cross Christ has purchased the earth. When he returns he will bring along the title deed showing his rightful ownership of the earth. So at the beginning of the Millennium all unbelievers are taken off the earth, and the Millennium begins with believers only. "Open" here is a perfect, passive, participle and means the book is opened and it stays open. Any person can be a part of that eternal kingdom by faith in Christ. A book opened is almost the same thing as a door opened. This angel claims the earth for Christ, with one foot on the sea and one foot on the land. The part of the earth that belongs to Jesus Christ is the mind of every believer. We live in the devil's world now but our minds belong to Christ. The devil is really disturbed when he looks toward the earth.

and sees people with their minds filled with Bible doctrine. The devil appears in heaven before God and accuses us just as he did Job. God turns to the defense attorney who is Jesus Christ and Christ says of his believers, "He is under the blood and you can't take him over. We will handle this as a family matter, with divine discipline".

REVELATION 10:3 "And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices." This is the proclamation of the herald. He claims the earth for the Lord Jesus Christ. It is like a lion roaring. This is an announcement to be heard worldwide. "Seven thunders utter their voices". These are seven angels. In John 12:29 thunder is called the voice of angels. In Psalm 29:3-4 thunder is called the voice of the Son of God.

REVELATION 10:4 "And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not." John was about to write the message revealed by the voices of these seven angels, but God stopped him. So everything that God revealed to John was not written down. God told him to seal them up and write them not. So there are certain divine revelations not in the Canon of Scripture but all we need is written there.

REVELATION 10:5-6 "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:" This is the proclamation of the angelic message. An angel saluted the Lord Jesus Christ. The announcement is of the Second Advent. The one that liveth forever is the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1 John 5:11-12 we read that, "This life is in his Son". This Son created the universe. John 1:3 and Col. 1:16. "That there should be time no longer" refers to the end of the Jewish Age. Revelation 11:15-19 is fulfilled.

REVELATION 10:7 "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." This is the Second Advent. The mystery of God is the end of the Jewish Age. Then this is really the Tribulation, for this is the end of the Jewish Age.

REVELATION 10:8 "And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth." We have now come to the eating of the little book. This is the angelic herald holding the title deed.

REVELATION 10:9 "And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey." He is to take it and eat it up. So John becomes the third one that had received a command to eat a book. It is a picture of persecution and faith. The book will make his belly bitter. It is sweet in the mouth but bitter in the stomach.

Five Points On This Command To Eat

This word "eat" is an aorist, active, imperative.

1. The believer cannot serve the Lord apart from learning Bible doctrine.
We must know if we are to serve.

2. By eating the book John makes the Word a part of his ministry.
3. John takes the book from the angel standing up. If it had been Jesus giving him the book, John would have fallen at his feet.
4. Some interesting things with regard to books.
In Rev. 5 the Lord Jesus takes a sealed book from the hand of the Father--this leads to action. In Revelation 10 John takes the open book from the hand of the angel--and this leads to action.
"Taking the book" always means action.
5. "Eating the book" means learning doctrine.

"Bitter in the stomach"--this bitterness means the Tribulation. "Sweet as honey" refers to the fact that there has never been a catastrophe too great for the grace of God. There is a solution to even the terrible things that occur in the Tribulation. The plan of God is greater than any catastrophe. We can have peace in the midst of trouble. "Sweetness" means that God provides for us in trouble.

REVELATION 10:10 "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 as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter." When John had eaten the book it was at first sweet but it turned into great pain in his stomach.

REVELATION 10:11 "And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." This prophesy is literally for the whole earth. There should be no break in the chapter division so the message flows right on. In chapter 11 we will continue the message of this angel herald and also have the message of the two human heralds.

Here we meet the two witnesses who are not named. The principle of not naming them is this--the important thing is not the man but the message.

How We Can Identify These Two Witnesses

1. Many say it was Enoch. The flood would start when 120 years of Noah's preaching was concluded. Methuselah died and Enoch went up. So people guess it was Enoch and they say Elijah was the other. The problem with Enoch is that he was a Gentile, and Jesus was a Jew and a Jew would have two Jewish heralds. So we can eliminate Enoch.
2. In the Jewish Age the Jews refused to give the gospel. In the Tribulation Jews will refuse to give the gospel.
3. Jesus revealed the names of these two witnesses in Matthew 16:28-17:3. On the Mount of Transfiguration the two heralds are there--Moses and Elijah.
4. The real problem is John the Baptist. In Malachi 4:4-6 we have a prediction of the coming of John the Baptist. John is the herald of the First Advent and Moses and Elijah are the heralds of the Second Advent.
5. If Christ had been accepted in the First Advent there would have been only one herald. But we have two heralds at the Second Coming to give emphasis to the importance of the Second Advent.
6. Therefore, we conclude Moses and Elijah are the two heralds of the Second Advent.
7. Look at the scripture. In Luke 1:16-17 we are told John the Baptist will have the same Spirit as Elijah. In John 1:21 John is not Elijah and he said so. If Jesus had been accepted in his First Advent, Elijah would have been the herald of the First Advent rather than John the Baptist. In Matthew 17:10-13 we have a scripture that tells us John took the place of Elijah in the First Advent.
8. We have a definite identification of the two witnesses.
Acts 3:21-22----Moses
Matthew 17:11---Elijah

REVELATION 11:1 "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein." Here we have the setting for the two witnesses. A reed, like a rod. This is a surveyor's instrument shaped like a rod. He is told to rise up and measure the Tribulational temple. It is the one built by unbelievers in the Tribulation. It was built by the false prophet. It is in this temple that we are to have the abomination of desolation. This dictator called the false prophet, who is a Jew, and the dictator of the revived Roman Empire will sponsor this worship in this rebuilt temple. It is in the temple where, in the middle of the Tribulation, a golden statue of this dictator will be placed. This is the Abomination of Desolation. (Matthew 24:15, Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11:31, Daniel 12:11)

There are two dictators in the Tribulation who are involved in this worship. One is a Gentile dictator and the other is a Jewish dictator. He has two hats: he is the head of the ecumenical religious movement and he is the ruler of the revived Roman Empire. The second dictator is a Jew. In Revelation 11:1-14 we have the two witnesses of Christ, and in Revelation 13 we will study the two witnesses of the devil. God has two witnesses and the devil has two witnesses. The altar speaks of the death of Christ on the cross and this is meaningless to these two evil dictators. They will ignore Christ completely and they both are on negative signals. "Them that worship" refers to the Jews, unbelieving Jews, who constantly worship the false dictator during the Tribulation. They are the apostate Jews. The believing Jews fled to the mountains. The believing Jews during the last half of the Tribulation are told to stand their ground and fight. Matthew 24 gives exact instructions for these Jews during this Tribulation period. During the first half of the Tribulation they are to run to the mountains, but during the last half they are told to stand and fight. These are the converts of Moses and Elijah.

REVELATION 11:2 "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months." They were not to measure the Gentile court. They will run Jerusalem for 42 months. Moses and Elijah will preach for 3½ years minus two weeks and during that time they will be killed and will be resurrected.

REVELATION 11:3 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." Their preaching will last 3½ years. 1260 days minus two weeks. They will preach every day. They will wear sackcloth--the badge of a prophet. We are dealing with the Jews here but millions of Gentiles will be saved. The battle is between religion and the truth of Christianity.

REVELATION 11:4 "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth." Now we have an analogy and it is taken from the book of Zechariah, Chapter 4. They are encouraged to rebuild their temple. Zerubbabel is the political leader and Joshua, the high priest, is the spiritual leader. The oil from the olive tree represents the Holy Spirit. This burning wick represents the testimony of Israel. Moses and Elijah are the olive tree testimony and it is an analogy with that which we find in Zechariah 4. In this analogy we have the importance of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was using Moses and Elijah. In their early life they had been great and the thing that made them great was the power of the Holy Spirit. Here they are not depending on their past greatness. The lesson is this--don't ever live in the past. Moses and Elijah has a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit for this great task. They didn't rely on the burning bush or the experience of going up in the chariot of fire. God used Moses and Elijah for two reasons. Moses was the most humble man that ever lived and Elijah had learned the power of the Holy Spirit.

Moses and Elijah understood the power of the working of the Holy Spirit better than any two men that ever lived in the whole Jewish Age and that is why they are brought back here to do this work.

REVELATION 11:5 "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed." Here we have their protection and provision. This is a first class condition and means many will try to hurt them. Many so-called religious people will try to kill Moses and Elijah. The word for "will" here is "Thelo" and means the will that comes from the emotions. In their emotions they want to kill Moses and Elijah. Remember, it was religion that killed Jesus Christ. But God is going to keep these men alive until their work is finished.

(Just a note here concerning capital punishment. When you have people who want to kill, God's answer is to kill them first.)

In the first phrase of this verse the "if" is a first class condition and means it is a fact, a true situation. In the "if" in the last phrase of this verse it is a third class condition and it means maybe it will happen and maybe it won't.

REVELATION 11:6 "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will." Moses and Elijah are men of great power. In the days of their flesh it was Elijah to whom God gave the power to shut up heaven so that it didn't rain. It was Moses to whom God gave the power to bring the ten plagues upon Egypt.

So we see Moses and Elijah operating as the two witnesses.