

A Study of the Book of Revelation

Source Material: *Come, Lord Jesus* by Mark Braatan

Week 8: November 8, 2009

Read Revelation 10:1-11

The seven thunders sound and say something, perhaps offering judgement like the seals and the trumpets, but John is instructed not to record what the thunders say. “Whatever the thunders said, they serve to remind us that we do not have total access to the ways of heaven or to the mind of God. Our understanding is limited, and God does not reveal everything to us.”(Braaten, pg. 78).

The angel points out in verse 7, that the mystery of God will be revealed soon. *Based on what we know about Revelation, what mystery do you think is about to be revealed?*

“John is instructed to take the scroll from the angel and eat it. This draws on imagery from Ezekiel 3:1-2, where the prophet Ezekiel is instructed to eat a scroll. What a great image this is for internalizing this Word of God! We don’t just study the Word at a distance. We are to internalize the Word and make it part of our very being!” (pg. 79) *How do we go about internalizing God’s Word and making it a part of who we are?*

Read Revelation 11:1-6

John is instructed to measure the temple, but which temple is being measured? As best we can tell, at the time that John was writing, the actual temple has been destroyed. “A better interpretation, more consistent with Revelation’s style,” Braaten writes “is to read temple symbolically and see it as the people of God or the Christian community. . . . Measuring the temple refers to the preservation of the Christian community, and particularly the preservation of true service to God within the community. The measuring is God’s promise of care for his people, even in the face of trials and persecutions to come.”(pg. 80) *How would you measure the faithfulness of a community of God’s people?*

John is referencing specific time frames in this passage, but Braaten proposes that the reference to 42 months or 1260 days is primarily a reference to a time of persecution in the book of Daniel, not an exact time period. “In the Old Testament book of Daniel, the Jewish people faced a 42-month struggle with a ruler named Antiochus Epiphanies. The struggle included the desecration of the temple in Jerusalem, much persecution, and was a horribly difficult time for the Jews. The memory of this struggle was well burned into the Jewish mind of John’s time. A reference to 42 months(or its equivalent) would be quickly understood as a reference to a period of persecution.” (pg. 80-81) *How do you think most Christians today would handle persecution? What would we need from God to make it through?*

Note: “The two witnesses are the church, which is called to bear witness to Jesus. The 42 months or 1260 days is a reminder that the church is called to bear faithful witness even in a period of persecution and tribulation. The message which the witnesses/church share is one of repentance. . . . The church is to live in a posture of repentance and call the world to repentance.” (Pg. 82)

Read Revelation 11:7-13

Note: “For now, we need to note that the beast is a reference to the Roman Empire” (pg. 82)

Braaten makes the following observation, “As the inhabitants of the earth see the Christians’ faithful witness, the inhabitants will come to God.

Not all, of course. But nine-tenths will. What is God’s plan to redeem the world? As the inhabitants of the world see the faithful witness of Christians, even unto death, they will repent. Judgment has not brought repentance, but this will! God will use the self-sacrifice of Christians to lead the world back to faith. . . .

We as modern Christians do well to think through what this means for our life of faith. We are called to give of ourselves for the sake of the world. In our giving and sacrifice, the world sees the truth of Jesus. This is the way of the cross and the way of salvation.” (Pg. 83-84)

We talk about being doing God’s work using our hearts and hands and voices. What does it mean to you to make a sacrifice for God? Do you feel that a sacrificial witness is something that leads people to repent and follow Jesus?

Read Revelation 11:14-19

How does the blowing of the seventh trumpet and what follows compare to the first six trumpets?

