

## A Dose of Reality: Witnessing with Great Expectations – Revelation 10-11

- What are our expectations for the church's gospel witness?
- Our witness to the gospel is shaped by the gospel message itself

### The church is witness to the bittersweet gospel - Revelation 10:1-11

- We know the gospel is bittersweet - salvation and judgement
- A mighty angel – looks like Jesus – compare Revelation 1

*robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. 10:1*

- Stands upon land and sea – he rules over both
- 7 thunders – there are some things we don't know

*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law Deut.29:29*

- Speaks as the faithful witness to give testimony on oath, v.5

*his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever*

- The mystery of God accomplished without delay?
- Mystery - "something that was formally hidden which has now been revealed."

*In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus - Eph. 3:4-6*

- **Stop the Press** – our gospel witness to salvation offered to all without distinction– sweet
- The bittersweet gospel – Cf. Ezekiel 2:3-3:15, Ezekiel's prophecy of judgement against Israel
- Salvation and judgement throughout the Bible, Noah, Exodus, Cross, AD. 70
- Our witness is shaped by our message so that we are – 2 Cor. 2:15-16

*the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.*

### The church's witness is resurrection shaped – Revelation 11:1-14

- Measuring God's true people for protection (cf. sealing in Rev 7:3)
- The faithful caught up in judgement of the unfaithful – but protected

*will trample on the holy city for 42 months*

*I will appoint my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for **1,260 days**, clothed in sackcloth. They are "the two olive trees" and the two lampstands, and "they stand before the Lord of*

*the earth.” If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.*

## 2 witnesses

- faithful and true witness
- look like Moses and Elijah – law and the prophets
- speak with power and authority

## Time period:

- 42 mths = 1260 ds = 3½ yrs = time + times + ½ time (Dan. 7:25)
- 7 = completeness / wholeness – 7 days, 7 churches, 7-fold Spirit
- 3 ½ = *limited, shortened* period of time
- The church of Jesus to faithfully witness even in shortened, limited times of intense trial
- After witness finished, v.7
  - killed by the Beast– Nero, Pol Pot, Ceausescu, Secularism but *ultimately* Satan
  - after a short, limited time witness *resurrected* to Spirit empowered life
- That’s what happened to Christ – death and resurrection life
- We should expect no different for the faithful witness of his church

*“We are not the lords of history and do not control its outcome, but we have assurance that there is a lord of history’ and he controls its outcome. We need a theological interpretation of disaster, one that recognizes that God acts in such events as captivities, defeats, and crucifixions. The Bible can be interpreted as a string of God’s triumphs disguised as disasters.” - Herbert Schlossberg*

## The church is witness to a new world order – Revelation 11:15-19

*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever, v.15*

- When does the kingdom of this world become Christ’s?  
*All authority in heaven and on earth **has been** given to me. - Matthew 28:18*
- Christ has won the victory on the cross - now installed into office to carry out his manifesto
- Destruction of temple in AD 70
  - merely the end of the beginning – the old world order
  - the *outworking* of Mark 15:38  
*The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*
- Christ’s rule has been let loose amongst the nations - a *new world order*