

## **PART TWO**

### **THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH**

*“To the angel of the church of ... write ...”*

## **Chapter 4**

### **You Must Prophecy Again**

*“You must prophecy again about many peoples, nations, tongues  
and kings ...”  
(Revelation 10:11)*

Chapter 10 of Revelation provides the basis for my teaching about the book being divided into two prophecies. Actually we have three instances of the prophecy of Revelation: (1) found in the seven seals, (2) in these first few chapters of the Book and (3) in the next few chapters after chapter 10. Each looks at the prophecy in different detail.

There is a teaching in the scripture of two or three witnesses is taught in several places in the Bible. We first see it in Deuteronomy 17:6 and again in Deuteronomy 19:15. Both verses are recorded in reference to judgment and state that the judgment is not to be made unless it can be established by two or three witnesses. When at least two could agree to all the facts it was considered to be an honest judgment.

In the New Testament we have three instances of the two or three witnesses. Speaking of church administration again “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established...” (Matthew 18:16, and again “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established...” (2 Corinthians 13:1). And speaking of the Old Testament Law Hebrews 10:28 states “Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

I believe that this is the reason John is told in Chapter 10 of Revelation that he must prophesy again. Revelation 10:8-11 states *“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.’ 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.’ 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. And he said to me, ‘You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.’”*

These different witnesses in the prophecy of the Book of Revelation serve to prove the infallibility of the writing. John was told that the little book (or scroll) would be sweet as honey in his mouth but would make his stomach bitter (or in other words would give him a belly ache). That is exactly what happened.

This will be discussed again but the little scroll that is now open is the one spoken of in chapter five which had the seven seals on it. The scroll is now open and the contract contained it is has been executed – the redemption of heaven and earth from the curse placed upon it in Genesis chapter three.

So to complete the picture, we see that John is given the scroll of redemption to eat. The coming fulfillment of redemption is so glorious that it is sweet as honey. But what takes place in order for it to happen is enough to make one sick to his stomach.

The next few chapters of the book describe the rule of the Anti-Christ in more detail and is another reason to make one sick to his stomach.

We have discussed this chapter here to establish the multiple prophesy of Revelation. What follows is the description of the seven churches but first we will consider the concise history of the Jews and birth of Christ.

Chapter 12:1-17 gives the account of the history of the beginning of the church. The woman could be no other than the nation of Israel. Her description leaves no doubt. The garland of twelve stars is obviously the twelve tribes of Israel.

She gives birth to the Christ Child who is to pay the price to earn Him the right to remove the seals on the scroll. He is none other than the Lamb who was slain. He is identified as a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. This is descriptive of the roll of Christ during the thousand year reign.

Next we see the red dragon. Again his description is that of the devil who led the rebellion in Heaven and was successful in deceiving a third of the angels (a third of the stars). He stood before the woman trying to devour the Child as soon as He was born. As seen in the Gospels Satan tried his best to defeat Christ and to stop Him from paying the penalty for sin. We see that when Herod (Matthew 2:16-18) attempted to kill the child when the Wise Men did not return to him with the news of where the young child was. As a result the king had every male child in Bethlehem from two years and under killed in attempt to rid himself of this baby king. But God had angels reveal it in advance to Joseph who by God's instruction fled before into Egypt.

The cross was another attempt. It backfired because the cross became the way the Son of God paid for the penalty of sin for all in the world who would turn to Him.

Next we see war breaking out in the heavens between Michael, the leading archangel and the dragon. At the conclusion of this war the dragon and his followers were cast from heaven down to earth.

The woman fleeing to the wilderness where she will be protected in a special place prepared by God. There she will be cared for and fed for three and one half years during the first part of the tribulation. However the dragon goes on to make war with her offspring for the testimony of Jesus Christ. Those offspring are those from every nation on earth who have come to Jesus Christ in repentance. He will concentrate on the Christians in this world. Next we will look at the history of the Church before these things take place.