

KING OF THE JUNGLE

THE REVELATION REALIZATION

REVELATION 8:1-10:11

Let me start this morning with a Top Ten List. Here are the Top Ten ways to recognize that a person is excited about *End Times* Bible prophecy...

- 10) They always ride with the top down on their convertible just in case of the rapture.
- 9) They never buy green bananas.
- 8) They've studied the birthmark on Gorbachev's forehead, trying to detect the mark of the beast. **
- 7) Barcode scanners make them nervous.
- 6) Every time Israel appears in the news they try to figure out how it matches up with *Last Days* prophecy.
- 5) They refuse to cash their income tax refund check because its made out in the amount of \$666.
- 4) They can remember more "*signs of the end times,*" than they can the Ten Commandments.
- 3) They've actually tried various mathematical calculations to determine the identity of the Antichrist.

2) Their favorite book is “*Left Behind.*” And 1) They get goose bumps every time they hear a trumpet blast.

And I’ve got to admit, I’m one of those persons...

When I think that I could be part of the generation that sees Jesus return to Earth, I get extremely excited.

Imagine, the trumpet blows... then in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... we’re transformed... a metamorphosis occurs in the clouds... we peel off these mortal bodies and we model our immortality...

That’s when we open our eyes and see Jesus... He roars like a Lion - we see Him *enthroned* and *in glory*.

Yet He looks like a Lamb. His scars are still visible. We’re instantly reminded of the cost of our forgiveness.

And we’re standing before His throne. An innumerable number of angels surround us. We join the redeemed of all the ages, singing, “*Holy, holy, holy*”

At last, our struggle is over. Tears are wiped away. Sorrow and pain are no more. Crowns are passed out.

The world today is topsy turvy. The good guy gets penalized, while evil person gets away with his crimes.

Cancer, hurricanes, terrorism strike indiscriminately.

But when Jesus returns He'll right all wrongs. Faith will be vindicated. Injustice will be avenged. Finally, Jesus will see to it that faith is rewarded and rebellion gets punished. Jesus will turn the world right-side up.

And our prayers will be answered... Our cries for justice, vindication, righteousness, an end to evil - will all be fulfilled. One day, Jesus will purge God's creation of all traces of sin and return it to a perfect utopia.

We'll live forever in unbroken fellowship with our Savior. *Who can't get excited over those prospects?*

Imagine, a world **where** school teachers make seven figures, and ballplayers play for the love of the game...

A world... **where** greed and pride aren't seen as corporate policy... **where** rogue nations are made to serve the good of all mankind... **where** child molesters are caught before they act... **where** health insurance premiums don't get jacked up every January, since no more sickness means no more health insurance...

Where UN peacekeepers have nothing to do... And **where** neighborhood gangs rumble over which group will man the Salvation Army kettle at Christmas time...

That's the kind of world Jesus will order when He returns to reign on this Earth - *and I for one, can't wait!*

There is one heavenly reward I would think every Christian should be in line to receive. As for eternal rewards it's "*a give me.*" 2 Timothy 4:8 lists "*the crown of righteousness.*" Paul tells us that the Lord Jesus gives this crown "*to all who have loved His appearing.*"

I mean, *who doesn't want Jesus to return? We all should be excited about the appearing of Jesus?*

I have no doubt, the Revelation John saw on the island of Patmos caused him to love the Lord's return.

But in Chapter 10 John has a deeply sobering experience. Afterwards, he's not as flippant about all he's seen... John now realizes *darkness comes before daybreak - winter precedes spring - death occurs before resurrection - a wound has to be purged before it can be healed - every birth requires labor pains...*

And for the world we live in to be made right - wrongs have to be punished, and wrongdoers have to be judged... This is what John sees in chapters 8-9...

John is still eager to hear the trumpet that signals our great escape. I have no doubt, John is *enraptured with the rapture*. But first he hears a different set of trumpets - seven to be exact. *And rather than the coming of Jesus, they signal the coming of judgment.*

John will never forget the joys in Heaven, but he will also witness firsthand the horrors in man's future...

That's where we begin in Revelation 8...

Verse 1, “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”

I've heard the crude suggestion that verse 1 proves there's no females in heaven... *since no woman could ever stay silent for 30 minutes...* Shame on any pastor who would make such a statement! *I would never...*

Actually up until now, heaven has been a very loud and noisy place. Everywhere people are falling down before God's throne. They worship the Lamb. About the time one voice fades out, another praise erupts.

But now a holy hush falls over the halls of heaven.

For half-an-hour it's so quiet you can hear a pin drop. It seems to me, heaven gasps at what happens next...

Verse 2, “And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Understand, the structure of the judgments John sees in Revelation... **Seven seals** are popped. **Seven trumpets** are blown. **Seven bowls** are poured out...

Seven thunders are mentioned, but not revealed.

Seals break - trumpets blast - bowls pour... Here the seventh seal becomes the seven trumpet judgments.

“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.”

This heavenly angel is acting like a priest. In fact, what John calls an “*angel*” - *which is really just another word for messenger* - could actually be the Lord Jesus.

We know from Hebrews that Jesus is the Great High Priest who serves before God in the heavenly temple.

Here this angel grabs the censer that’s full of your prayers - prayers for truth, and equity, and justice, and righteousness, and fairness - prayers that were launched in response to life’s hardships and heartaches - prayers prayed from your desperation...

Prayers that right now you think went unheeded.

All your prayers - your deepest feelings - now mix with the fire of God’s wrath - and they turn into action.

Like popcorn they start hopping out of the pan. *Thunder claps. Lightning strikes. The earth quakes.*

That's when the violent brew is tossed out onto the Earth. The *censer* is emptied to *censure* the wicked. It's God's answer to our cry for a more righteous world!

Did you hear about Uncle Sid? After returning from the Korean War he was arrested on a burglary charge, and was found guilty. But before the Judge passed sentence, Sid's lawyer tried one more tactic. *He said...*

“Your honor, my client did not break into the house. The living room window was open, so he inserted his right arm, and removed a few items. Now my client's arm is not my client, so I don't think you should punish him for an offense committed by one of his limbs.”

The snooty judge replied, “Well, that's an interesting argument. Tell you what I'll do. I'll follow your logic and sentence the defendant's arm to one year in prison. He can accompany the arm or not. That's up to him.”

That's when a big grin came over Sid's face. He calmly removed his artificial arm, handed it to the dumbfounded judge, and walked out of the courtroom with his lawyer... Two men laughed all the way home.

There're a lot of folks like Sid who've learned how to beat the system. They always seem to avoid judgment.

They sin with impunity. Punishment always gets avoided... *But that'll end when these trumpets blow.*

God will see to it justice is served once and for all!

And in verse 6 the angels warm-up, “So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.” The reeds are put to their lips...

Verse 7, “The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.” Is this an asteroid? Is it a nuclear bomb? *Did Iran make good on its threats?*

Did Al-Queda get its hands on a loose nuke?

Some kind of firestorm is responsible for a third of the Earth’s trees and vegetation burning to a crisp.

It’s estimated the detonation of just 25 thermonuclear warheads could scorch an area the size of mid-America - from the Appalachians to the Rockies.

A nuclear explosion compresses the humidity, shoots it into the upper atmosphere, where it freezes and falls back to Earth as ice. Thus, the “*hail and fire,*” verse 7.

“Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” With each of these trumpets judgment intensifies. These are global events that’ll rock our planet off its foundations - *and they’re prophetic.* God has written them into our future.

Here “a third of the sea” would amount to all the oceans of the world except the Pacific and the Indian.

In verse 8 John sees “a great mountain burning” thrown into the sea. Is this an incoming meteorite?

What NASA calls an **NEO - a near Earth object**?

In June of this year an asteroid the size of an office cubicle sailed past the Earth 23 times closer than the moon... Currently, NASA is tracking as many as 4000 of these projectiles streaking through space... The next near miss of a sizable asteroid is due February, 2013...

Recently, a National Geographic Special referred to these near-Earth asteroids in biblical language. It called them “**mountains tumbling through space.**”

Donald Yeomans, an astronomer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, made this statement, “**Space is filled with objects that threaten Earth... Earth runs its course about the sun in a swarm of asteroids. Sooner or later, our planet will be struck by one of the them.**”

Even now it’s as if God keeps firing warning shots across the bow of our ship to encourage us to repent.

In verse 10 another trumpet blasts, “**Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven...**”

Here again, the Greek word translated “*star*” is “*astera*” or “*asteroid*.” It refers to any heavenly body...

It plummets, “burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood...” which means “*bitterness*.”

“A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.”

Whatever this star is, it has a devastating effect. It contaminates a third of the world’s fresh water supply.

A third of vegetation scorched... A third of the oceans ruined... Now a third of the fresh water contaminated...

“Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.”

Once again, the impact of a giant comet or meteorite could tip the Earth further on its axis – and somehow altering its orbit - reducing our sun exposure by a third.

There’s another way to think of these catastrophe...

At times the Bible uses [the language of observation](#). It describes a phenomena as it appears to the viewer.

Often we speak of *a sunrise* or *a sunset*. The phenomena is actually caused by the Earth's rotation, but it appears to us as if the sun actually rises or sets.

Here it could be that some obstruction - a thick cloud perhaps - blocks out a third of the sky above the Earth.

Verse 13, "And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!" In short, the angel is warning the inhabitants of Earth, "You ain't seen nothing yet!" Three more shrill trumpets remain...

What a contrast, in Heaven the angels sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" - while on Earth they say, "woe, woe, woe."

Chapter 9, "Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth." Now this is a different kind of star. You notice from the next line...

"To him was given the key to the bottomless pit." This "star" is a "him" not an "it." And *from what he holds* and *by what he does*, "he" seems to be another angel.

Notice too, this angel is "a star fallen." We know from Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 that before Satan sinned he was once an angel. Jesus told His disciples in Luke 10, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." We also know that Satan led a third of the angels into rebellion.

This fallen angel was a demon, or perhaps Satan himself, “And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace.

So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.” He lifts the lid on hell and a flume of hot smoke, laced with fiery embers, billow into the air.

Apparently, in Hell there’s no choice. A “*non-smoking section*” doesn’t exist. It’s “*smoking*” for everybody.

And this angel has the key to “*the bottomless pit.*”

This is the place of eternal torment spoken of in Luke 16 when Jesus told the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Lazarus died and was comforted in paradise. The rich man died and went to the place of flame and thirst.

Here the demon unlocks the pit of torment... “*where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.*”

And it’s like opening up a Pandora’s box of evil...

Verse 3, “Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads...” or the 144,000 Jewish witnesses spoken of in Chapter 7.

Notice, these are not your run-of-the-mill locust.

Normal locust eat their veggies. These guys lay off the greens, and feed on men. These are hellish locust.

Verse 5 says of these creatures, “And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.” Many Bible teachers believe these locust were the demons who sinned in Noah’s day. Genesis suggests they polluted the human gene pool by having sex with the daughters of men.

This perversion was so rampant God had to wipe out all of humanity, and start over with the family of Noah.

Jude refers to these demons as “the angels who did not keep their proper domain...” They crossed forbidden boundaries. These were hard-core felons.

And God locked them up in maximum security. 2 Peter 2:4-5 tell us, “God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment...”

Yet here in the 5th trumpet judgment God unleashes these demons for five months - *not to kill, but torment.*

Here are a pack of perverted demons driven by lust.

They’ve been in lock down for 4000 years, while their hatred for mankind has been brewing and seething.

Imagine, releasing every death row inmate in the world - the vilest criminals - men with no conscience and with nothing to lose... They would still look like a pack of Boy Scouts compared to this devilish gang.

This is why it's naive to talk glibly about enduring the Great Tribulation. This will be a horrific time in history.

People will fear going to bed at night.

So what if you go into survivalist mode - you horde food, and stockpile weapons, and install a security system - *how do you protect against demons?*

It reminds me of the guy who jumped into a cab.

After a while he tapped the driver on the shoulder to give him directions. But as soon as he felt the man's hand he lost control - the cabby swerved off the road.

The passenger apologized. The driver later explained, "This is my first day in a cab. For the last 20 years I've worked for a funeral home driving a hearse."

Well, it'll also be a bit unnerving and frightening here, when Hell taps mankind on its collective shoulder.

Verse 6, "In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them." These demons will see to it that life is worse than death. Attempted suicides will sky-rocket.

Folks will want to die, but *death takes a holiday.*

People blow their brains out, yet refuse to drop dead. They'll walk around like Zombies - with self-inflicted wounds. The Zombie Apocalypse will become a reality.

John describes these awful demons in verse 7...

“The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.” The Renaissance concepts of gargoyles and centaurs aren't far off from John's description...

These demons are predators dressed for combat. Their chief purpose is to hurt men for five months.

Hey, let me ask you, have you ever said to another person, “Go to Hell...” or “To Hell with that guy...”

I'll bet after Chapter 9 you might want to take it back.

Hell, and its belching smoke, and its locust torturers are nothing trivial. God's judgment is serious business.

Of course, you might not have been so profane. You may've just prayed, "Lord, give him what he deserves."

But with each trumpet blast you might want to think again... Even the hardest prosecutors - the tough-on-crime bunch - seldom have the stomach for judgments this stern. *We like to talk about justice*, but when we see what justice looks like for billions of brazen sinners who shake their fist in God's face, we might have pity!

Here, *after reading of mankind's hideous plight* - I for one, am not so quick to rush the world to judgment. If a little mercy now might cause a few folks to avoid God's terrible wrath, then my cries for justice can wait awhile?

Verse 11 takes us back to Hell, "And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon." Both names mean "The Destroyer."

This is how Jesus refers to Satan in John 10:10...

The Lord calls the devil a thief, who seeks "to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..." It's Jesus who comes that we "may have life, and... have it more abundantly."

Verse 12, "One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things. Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

These angels are also demons - chained for this purpose. They're the baddest of the bad, *and angry...*

“So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.” The pale horse of famine in Revelation 6:8 killed a fourth of the Earth's population.

Now a third of what's left are killed by these angels.

God's judgments are thinning out the rebels...

In verse 16 these four angels (*or perhaps demons*) take control of an army. “Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.” 200 million troops is quite an army!

Some folks suggest current parallels - maybe these are the Chinese or some alliance - but I don't think that's the point. It seems to me, *in the midst of all the destruction the whole world will be in the mood to fight.*

“And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.” These horses could be more demons – *or this could be a 1st century author's description of 21st century weapons and war.*

Horses with metallic breastplates - fire flaming from their mouth - could be F16 fighter jets, and Apache helicopters. *Demons in control of a modern-day army.*

Verse 18 gives another death count. “By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed - by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.” When an airplane discharges a chemical or biological weapon it releases the spray from the tail to avoid harming the pilots in the cockpit.

Whatever John sees does harm from both ends.

You’d think by verse 20 the survivors would be on their knees - broken, repentant - pleading with God for mercy - *but that’s not what happens...* “But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.”

This is the trouble with sin. It blinds you to your own stubbornness. The antidote is in front of your face, but you’re too proud to drink. Even after all this judgment haughty men stiffen their neck and resist God’s rule.

Which brings us *breathlessly, mercifully* to Chapter 10... “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. 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, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars.”

Make no mistake about it, this “*mighty angel*” has attributes that can only be applied to our Lord. Jesus has already been identified as the Lion of Judah. He sits on Heaven’s throne. He’s the King of the Jungle!

Who else but Jesus shouts “*as when a lion roars*”?

Verse 3, “When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.” Here’s another set of judgments - seven thunders - but we don’t get to hear the thunder claps...

John tells us, “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.”

And we won’t speculate over what God chose not to reveal. This is why many Christians go sideways - they fail to differentiate between *speculation* and *revelation*.

Verse 5, “The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven...” Now realize the impressive sight we’re seeing...

This “*mighty angel*” has a rainbow for a crown... He wears a cloud for a robe... His face shines like the sun... His feet are like dual exhaust flame throwers...

And He's got an open book in His hand!

This should be familiar. In Revelation 5 the Lion took the deed to the universe. Jesus holds title to God's Creation. Like a lamb He paid for it with His own blood.

Now He's cracked its seals to take possession. The trumpet judgments were the seventh and final seal.

It reminds me of the old man who met the devil. One Sunday, Satan walked right into church... Of course, when he did, everyone started jumping over pews and racing out of the building... *this was the devil himself.*

Everybody but this one old fellow. He stayed seated on the front row... *no panic at all.* Satan shouts, "Why aren't you scared of me... Don't you know who I am?"

The old boy shrugged, "Why would I be scared of the likes of you? I've lived with your sister for fifty years."

Well, this world has been wedded to Satan for a long, long time. He's had the run of the place. Satan has had a free-hand to spread his mischief. His evil is now firmly embedded in the systems of this world.

But all this evil and rebellion is about to come to a close. On the cross Jesus redeemed the universe that was under Satan's sway. Now with the *breaking of the seals* and *blowing of the trumpets* He repos the planet.

Jesus evicts the rebels, and takes possession. And He ends up judging everyone who stands in His way.

This is what we see in verse 5. With one foot on the sea and one foot on the land, Jesus straddles continents. Like a cowboy on the back of a wild horse, He saddles up a bucking planet. He's going to break it.

With one hand He holds His proof of ownership.

Now with the other hand He takes an oath, as in a courtroom. Verse 5, He **“raised up his hand to heaven 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, 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.”**

Only Jesus can promise to finish all the promises.

And here the Lord pledges to solve the mystery of the ages... **“that there should be delay no longer...”**

Isn't this the great mystery that perplexes us today... *Why does God wait to establish His kingdom?*

Why has He tolerated evil for so long? Why does He listen to the continual lies? Why does sin go unpunished? Why is Satan allowed such a long leash?

Why does God wait to set the Earth in order?

Well, by this point in the drama the issue is a mute point. The delay is done. The judgment has begun...

But what about for John? After this vision, he'll go back from the future to the isle of Patmos. 2000 years of inequity and injustice will await him and the Church.

The Lord Jesus does reveal to John the mystery of His delay, but He does so in a most unusual way...

You'd think Jesus would sit down with John and provide him a reasonable argument - instead He communicates *viscerally* not *rationally*. He hits John in the gut with the truth. He plucks John's heart-strings.

You've heard it said, "The way to a man's heart is through His stomach." Well that's the strategy the Lord Jesus uses on John (*and us*) at the end of Chapter 10.

Verse 8, "Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me (to John) 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." Here's **The Revelation Realization**.

John's experience at the end of Chapter 10 is the whole point of the book. If you take *The Revelation* as nothing but a futuristic prophecy you've missed the point. It's far more! *It's motivation for our lives today!*

It's more than charts and timelines - it's a lifestyle!

As a kid growing up my favorite candy was Zotz.

Zotz have a sour, fizzle-ly center, encased in a sweet outer shell. You start out sucking on sweetness.

Then after 90 seconds or so, a sour explosion shocks your tastebuds. Zotz is the ultimate *sweet and sour experience*; until you read the book of Revelation.

At first when John eats this book it produces a sweet taste in his mouth - but as he digested its implications, and tries to stomach what it all means - the initial sweetness gets replaced with a bitter bite. What tasted like honey goes on to cause a bad case of heartburn.

Of course, nowhere does the FDA suggest we add ink and paper to our daily diet. John's experience was a metaphor. We too, need to *eat up...* ["The Revelation."](#)

We need to read and grasp its full implications!

We should dwell on Jesus - not just as He once was, but as He now is and will be. We need to celebrate His role as King of the Jungle. He'll tame the rebellion, and evict the usurper, and right all wrongs...

And initially this produces a sweet taste!

Imagine, when Jesus kisses away my pain - and my fears finally end in His loving embrace - and the burdens I've carried roll away for the last time - and He welcomes this weary traveler home... *Who among us isn't excited about the second coming of Jesus Christ?*

But when you mull over what this means for humanity as a whole - and members of your family in particular - and friends and acquaintances and co-workers... *It's hard to stomach!* It creates a *heartburn*.

We're quick to condemn to Hell the nameless driver that cuts us off in traffic, but one day Hell will be unleashed on people we know and love... *yet people who refuse to yield their lives to the authority of Jesus.*

If you read Revelation - then lay your Bible down and resume your normal activities - go back to the TV, or the video game, or Pinterest... *then you didn't get it!*

You understand Revelation when it hits you in the gut, and you realize what's at stake for you and others.

John records his reaction to his sweet and sour experience in verse 11, "And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings." John needs to keep preaching the Gospel.

When **the Revelation realization** hits you, you'll know it... **you'll** worship and praise the Lamb who is worthy... **you'll** serve to win crowns you can lay at Jesus' feet... **you'll** demonstrate God's grace to a lost neighbor... **you'll** sense an urgency to share with him the Gospel..

You'll meet a need or heal a hurt in Jesus' name... **you'll** pray for a world barreling toward judgment... **you'll** even be patient with the folks who mistreat you...

Their judgment will come. It's mercy they need now!

The Revelation realization will keep us pressing on, and meeting together, and encouraging one another.

It's been said, "**Without tears the Revelation was not written, neither can it without tears be understood.**"

God is wanting John to feel what He feels. he takes no personal pleasure in judgment. His thoughts are also sweet and sour. He loves us, but He hates sin.

I hope we get it! Ironically, the book with the bizarre and gnarly content is the most practical in all the Bible.

No matter how you interpret the locust, and burning mountain, *the point is this...* Jesus wins in the end! He crushes His enemies, and eliminates the opposition.

Satan is on the outs. Jesus is taking over! This means join **Team Jesus** while you can... And if there's anyone else you want to bring along... *then go get'em!*