

A graphic featuring a large, gnarled tree trunk in the center, with two glowing circular openings. The word "GENESIS" is written in small, gold letters above the tree, and "REVELATION" is written in small, gold letters below it. The word "BOOKENDS" is written in large, white, serif letters across the middle of the tree trunk.

GENESIS BOOKENDS REVELATION

THE BIG ANGEL AND THE LITTLE SCROLL

REVELATION 10

SYNOPSIS

This sermon on Revelation 10 presents a mighty angel as a vivid reminder of God's sovereign control over history and the certainty of His purposes. Though much remains hidden, believers are called to trust God's plan and submit to His wisdom. John's command to eat the scroll illustrates that true faith is not merely intellectual but experiential, internalizing God's Word so it transforms life. The sweetness and bitterness of the scroll reflect both the joy of God's truth and the pain of conviction and a broken world. Ultimately, Christians must actively "feast" on Scripture, allowing it to shape their hearts, lives, and obedience.

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: *Be warned. Judgment for all sin is coming. Flee to Christ while there is still time.*

1. **The Big Angel (Revelation 10:1-7):** John sees a mighty angel radiating Christlike glory, standing over land and sea with a scroll of God's decree. Thunder speaks but is sealed. The angel promises no delay: God's plan will soon be fulfilled. Believers trust His rule, even amid mystery.
2. **The little Scroll (Revelation 10:8-11):** John eats the scroll, symbolizing internalizing God's Word. It is sweet in receiving, yet bitter in its demands, conviction, and vision of a fallen world. True faith moves beyond knowledge to transformation, calling believers to live, proclaim, and deeply experience God's truth.
 - a. Taking the Scroll
 - b. Sweet in the Mouth
 - c. Bitter in the Stomach

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Special Leader's Note: *Please remember that we are getting into heavily debated passages of scripture. Some will likely disagree with Pastor Raef's choice of interpretation on various symbols in this and coming chapters. That is okay! But be careful to not let the group discussion become a debate on symbol interpretation. Get to the practical heart level discussions around the principles of the text.*

GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. **Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.
2. **The Big Angel:** The big idea from the scene with the Big Angel (verses 1-7) was that in the midst of all the heartache and tribulation of chapters 8 and 9, God is utterly in control. Where do you struggle to remember that God is in control?
3. **Reading the Word:** We believe that it is of vital importance that every Christian develop a daily habit of reading and learning from God's Word.
 - a. Describe your current status of daily reading in God's Word.
 - b. For those that have a solid rhythm of prioritizing reading God's Word, what is your pattern?
 - c. For those in the group that might not have a solid rhythm, share as a group resources or ideas to get them going.
4. **Hearing the Word Preached:** Hearing the Word of God preached is also of vital importance to a Christian's health.
 - a. What are the best ways to prepare your heart and mind to receive as much as you can out of a Sunday's sermon?
 - b. How would you respond to somebody that says "I don't need the preaching of God's Word because I can just read my Bible on my own."
5. **Thinking of Our Church:** We live in a day where where we are confronted by countless false ideas and ideologies every day. We must be a people that know God's truth and love God's truth in order to not fall prey to these false ideas.
 - a. What are ways our Church can collectively increase our hunger for God's Word to shape our lives and our minds?
6. **Experiential vs. Intellectual:** Where in your life is your faith mostly intellectual (you know the truth) rather than experiential (you live into the fullness of truth)? What would it actually look like for you to "eat the scroll" in that area?