

**10** Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. <sup>2</sup> He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, <sup>3</sup> and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. <sup>4</sup> And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.” <sup>5</sup> Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. <sup>6</sup> And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay!” <sup>7</sup> But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets. <sup>8</sup> Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” <sup>9</sup> So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” <sup>10</sup> I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. <sup>11</sup> Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

**11** I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. <sup>2</sup> But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. <sup>3</sup> And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” <sup>4</sup> They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. <sup>8</sup> Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. <sup>10</sup> The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. <sup>11</sup> But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. <sup>13</sup> At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. <sup>14</sup> The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. <sup>15</sup> The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. <sup>18</sup> The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” <sup>19</sup> Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

**General Question Bank**

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)  
**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)  
**Together** (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

**Discussion/Topic Starter** (Ice Breaker)

- Do you ever wish the Lord would hurry up and fulfill His promises to bring justice to the earth? Do you ever pray, ‘Come, Lord Jesus’ with a sense of urgency or impatience? Or, are you content to have things go on as they are? What leads you to respond the way you do?

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

*\*\*\*Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

- O: Context: Revelation 10-11:14 is an important interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets. The first six trumpets (8:6-9:21) have heavy correlation with the plagues of Exodus and are a loud call to attention and repentance, and the seventh trumpet (11:15-19) indicates the glory of the LORD and the final judgment. As you discuss the role of the prophet and witnesses in chapters 10 and 11, keep this context in mind.
- O: In his sermon, Keith mentioned that the invitation to take and eat the little scroll (10:8-11) is the first time John is invited to participate in the action of Revelation. Is there significance to this timing?
- I: Speaking of John's action, how might digesting and proclaiming the Word of God be both sweet and sour for a prophet?
- I: In Revelation 11:1-6, John is asked to measure "the temple of God and the altar," which could mean 1) the earthly Jerusalem temple, 2) the heavenly temple of Revelation 4-5, or 3) Christ's church, who has taken on the identity of "temple of God." Whichever interpretation you choose, what are the tasks of the two witnesses, and how does it relate to the measuring of the temple of God?
- I: Speaking of the two witnesses, whether they are two literal people, stand-ins for Moses and Elijah figures to come, or broader representatives of the faithful church, what authority do these witnesses carry and what is their fate?
- I: Read Revelation 11:15-19. What happens when the seventh angel blows his trumpet? How will the kingdom of God look different than the kingdom of this world as we now know it?
- A: Revelation 11 ends with a promise that God will put all things right. This is our great hope. How does this encourage you as you consider the specific people and situations for which you're currently praying about and trusting God?
- A: What encouragement for Christians even now does the story of the two witnesses offer?
- A: Have you seen victory through suffering in your own experience? In what ways are you dying to self to bring life to others?

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

### Recommended Follow-up:

- Pray: Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent (so we can listen, aka, "*Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*") Then pray in response to the content from this letter in Revelation as well as to what the H.S. reveals to us.
- Respond: Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's devotional guide.
- Read: Next week's sermon (2/21/2021) will focus on Revelation 12. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through it, and meditate on it.

## An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides\*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

**Know** – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

**Be** – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

**Do** – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

### [Colossians 1:9-10, NIV](#)

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ...*

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\* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study*, Zondervan, along with the following group studies on Revelation: Wright (978-0830821990), MacArthur (978-0718035198), Navigators (978-0891092735), Lucado (978-0310086666), Witmer (978-1433543203), Stott (978-0830821792), Wiersbe (978-1434702319), Hathcoat (978-1511401296), Smith (978-1645070726), Hewitt (978-1501855443), Stevens (978-0830830213), Arthur (978-0736908061).