

Life with the End in Sight

A Series in Revelation



3. Nothing changes God's faithfulness (Rev 8–11)

Introduction

These chapters of Revelation depict the 7 Trumpets, which are a picture of God's judgment. They show the extent and nature of the judgment God can and will bring to the earth. They make sobering reading, and are not comfortable to spend time with.

In the midst of these images, there is a call to John to engage with God's revelation to Him, and that is where we are focusing our study.

Read Revelation 10:1-11

The scroll John is given to 'eat' is – in this chapter – about a particular revelation God is giving about judgment. But this image of eating God's word is a useful picture to help us think about our engagement with Scripture as a whole. There are two reactions – bitter and sweet – but before thinking about those...

Q. What does the image of 'eating' God's word evoke for you? And how similar is it to the way we engage with the Bible ourselves?



Part 1, Sweet to the lips

One response John has to God's revelation is tasting it as sweet. This resonates with various of the Psalms:

Psalm 1:1-2

Psalm 19:7-10

Psalm 119:103

Q. What is it that makes God's word to us 'sweet' and pleasant?



Q. What does it say about God that His word can be so sweet to us?



Take some time to think back and call to mind times when the Bible has had that effect of sweetness for you. Write them down, maybe specific passages or times in your life. Thank God for them. If you're in a group, share them to encourage others.



Part 2, Bitter to the stomach

The other aspect of John's reaction to God's word in Revelation 10 is to find it 'bitter' in the stomach. Once it has settled within us, it can cause discomfort and difficulty.

Q. What might be the causes of this 'bitterness' coming from a desire to commit to God's word?



Q. What does it say about God, about humanity and about the Bible that this 'bitterness' is part of the reaction? (You might find it useful to reflect on *Isaiah 55:8-9; Matthew 10:32-39; Hebrews 4:12-13*)

...about God?

...about humanity?

...about the Bible?

Q. Are there particular parts of Scripture that cause this bitterness for you? (Try to focus on parts that you understand but wrestle with)

Q. What can we do to hold onto God's revelation even when it's hard?