

## THE LORD'S WORKERS

**PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.**

### INTRODUCTION:

In chapters 10-11 the Lord has some faithful workers that serve Him: a mighty angel, the apostle John and two men that witness for Him during the last half of the Tribulation. It is required of us to be faithful in our work for Him (1 Cor 4:2). Let the faithful servants in this lesson be an example in our service for God.

### AIM OF THE LESSON:

**Teach the students to be faithful workers for God.**

**OUTLINE OF THE LESSON** (use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you):

#### I. The Mighty Angel (10:1-7)

##### A. His Appearance (10:1-2)

God sent a mighty angel to John as a representative of Christ. He had a little book in his hand for John to "eat." We will learn what that means later. The description of this angel and his actions are similar to that of Jesus Christ. He is clothed with a cloud like Christ will have when He judges the earth (1:7; 14:14-16; Mt 24:30). He looks like Christ and acts like Christ and some think that he is Christ, but he cannot be Christ. He is "another" angel; he is "the same kind" as the other angels. He comes before the judgments are finished, but Christ comes after the judgments are finished. It is best to consider him as a good representative of Christ. His stand on the sea and earth represented Christ as the King and owner of the earth. His fiery legs and feet showed the judgment of Christ before He takes His inheritance.

**APPLICATION:** Do you want to look and act like Jesus Christ? That should be the goal of every true Christian (Rom 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Jn 3:2).

##### B. His Voice (10:3-4)

His voice was like that of a lion, which signifies great authority. He will be able to carry out His mission for Christ with awesome authority and cause great respect for Him.

**APPLICATION:** Be bold as a lion when you represent Christ in this sinful world (Prov 28:1b).

##### C. His Oath (10:5-7)

10:5-6 – The mighty angel stood on the sea and on the land and lifted his hand to Heaven according to Old Testament symbolism to guarantee that God's final program of judgment will shortly come to pass. He was taking a solemn oath before the Creator of the universe to witness his statement that there would no longer be a delay in God's final judgments of the earth. Time has run out for the rebellion of man. The prayers of the martyrs were about to be fully answered (cf 6:10-11).

10:7 –When the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, the mystery of God as revealed to the prophets will be finished. A mystery in the Bible is a truth hidden from men by God until He reveals it. Here the mystery of God refers to the destruction of Satan's kingdom and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth through Christ. More details of this mystery will be revealed when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet (11:15-19; 16:1-21). When the wrath of God is finished, the earth will be cleansed of sin; then Christ can establish His Kingdom on earth. When Satan's kingdom is removed from the earth, Christ will rule all nations for a thousand years.

**APPLICATION:** Will you be faithful in telling God's message, whether He brings it pass right away or much later? Can He count on you to do His work no matter what happens to you?

#### II. The Message to John (10:8-11)

A voice from heaven (Christ's) charges John to take the little book from the mighty angel. When he does, the angel tells him to take it and eat it. To eat the book was a figure of speech for meditating on it (cf Jer 15:16). It was not enough for John to observe the Tribulation through visions. He had to "eat" the

message in the book, digest it and let it fully impact his life in order to be a good prophet. The angel tells him that it would make his stomach bitter, but it would be sweet as honey in his mouth. It happened to John as the angel said. John experiences the immediate sweetness as God executes His judgment on rebellious sinners. But when the reality of this judgment on sinners is fully grasped, he suffers great bitterness in his spirit. Although the exact content of the message in this little scroll is not revealed, the sweetness must refer to Christ's victory over Antichrist to establish His Kingdom, while the bitterness may refer to the severity of the judgments when the blood runs as high as the horse's bridle for 200 miles. The battle of Armageddon will cause the loss of much life.

**APPLICATION:** You must never speak about the judgments of God against sinners without feeling grief over their judgment. God wants you to be broken-hearted over the judgments that sinners will suffer, because He is brokenhearted over them.

### **III. The Two Witnesses (11:1-14)**

#### **A. Blight of the City (11:1-2)**

The Lord will claim the temple and the altar for Himself by having it measured and cordoned off, but the court and the whole city of Jerusalem would be given over to the unbelieving Gentiles for the last 42 months of the Tribulation.

#### **B. Blood in the City (11:3-12)**

The Lord will give authority to two men to be His witnesses during the 42-month rule of Antichrist (the beast). They will be given miraculous powers to protect the Temple of God, to witness for God and to protect themselves from Antichrist, even as Elijah was protected from Ahab and Moses was protected from Pharaoh. When their ministry is completed, Antichrist will be able to overcome them and kill them in Jerusalem. Their bodies will be left in the street of Jerusalem for 3½ days while their enemies rejoice and send presents to one another. Then these two witnesses shall be raised from the dead in the sight of their enemies, which will cause them great fear. Finally, the two witnesses shall ascend to heaven in the sight of their enemies. These men were faithful to the Lord and witnessed for Him in the face of danger and death and the Lord was faithful to them and took care of them during their ministry and after their death.

**APPLICATION:** You can count on God being faithful to take care of you in life and in death.

#### **C. Blame on the City (11:13-14)**

When the two witnesses are killed in Jerusalem by Antichrist, and when they are dishonored in the city by his followers, the city is held responsible. A great earthquake strikes the city so that a tenth of it falls and 7,000 men are killed. The Lord will judge those who hurt and dishonor His Faithful workers.

**APPLICATION:** God will avenge your sufferings for His name, but it may come after you die.

### **IV. The Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)**

#### **A. Delight of the Trumpet (11:15-18)**

This trumpet announces the time when the kingdom of this world becomes the Kingdom of Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever. This will cause the 24 elders (representatives of church-saints in heaven) to worship and thank the Lord for His victory. It will be a time of delight for the believers, but it will be a time of disaster for the unbelievers.

**APPLICATION:** Will this day be a blessed day for you when Christ becomes the King of the world?

#### **B. Destruction of Antichrist (11:19)**

When this trumpet sounds, the temple of God will be opened in heaven and the ark of His covenant will be seen. God will remember His covenant with Israel and He will destroy Antichrist and his armies that are poised to destroy Jerusalem. God has not forgotten His people; He will save Jerusalem.

**APPLICATION:** You must love Israel, because God loves Israel. He will keep His covenant with Israel.

### **BE A FAITHFUL WORKER FOR THE LORD; HE WILL BE A FAITHFUL WARRIOR FOR YOU**