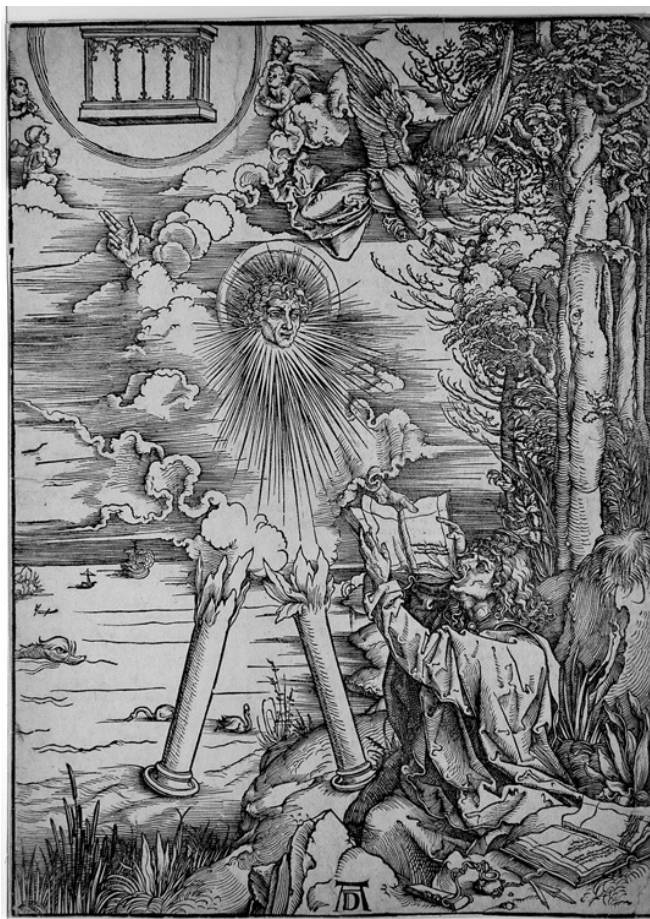


THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Interlude: John's Commission to Prophetic Preaching (10.1-11)



Review From Last Week (Revelation 8.13-9.21)

1. Gospel Context
 - a. Luke 13.1-9: warnings and calls to repentance; the patient Gardener
 - b. Luke 10.1-21: the mission of the 72 (spiritual conflict and authority)
2. The Cry of the Eagle (8.13): sign of judgment (Deut 28.49-50; Hos 8.1-4) and salvation (Ex 19.4-6; Deut 32.1-12; Rev 12.13-17)
3. The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets (9.1-19; cf. Gen 19; Ex 10; Joel 2; Jer 8): God's sovereign use of demonic forces for implementing his justice, in response to the prayers of the saints
4. Response to God's Judgments (9.20-21): God's Law, idolatry, and impenitence (cf. Ex 10.16-20)

a. The demonic deception of idolatry

Deuteronomy 32.15-18: “But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.¹⁶ They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger.¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.¹⁸ You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.

Jeremiah 7.5-11: “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another,⁶ if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm,⁷ then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.⁸ “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail.⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known,¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’ – only to go on doing all these abominations?¹¹ Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.”

Psalms 115.1-8: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!² Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?”³ Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.⁵ They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.⁶ They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.⁷ They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.⁸ Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.⁹ O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

John 8.31, 43-47: So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ...⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot [bear] to hear my word.⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” (cf. those who bear the seal of God vs. those who bear the seal of the beast)

b. God’s Judgment on Idolatry

Romans 1.18-32: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools,²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God,

insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (cf. 1 Cor 10.1-22)

Revelation 10.1-11

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire.² He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land,³ and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.⁴ And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

⁵ And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven⁶ and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay,⁷ but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."⁹ So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."¹⁰ And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.¹¹ And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

1. The Interlude of Revelation 10-11 provides a new perspective on the judgments in the six trumpets (Rev 8-9)
 - a. it reveals the location and mission of the church in the midst of these judgments
 - b. it reveals the reason for the judgments (besides God's response to the cry of the saints): the nations are judged for rejecting the preaching of the Gospel and the persecution of those who preach it
2. **Another Mighty Angel:** Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs [lit. "feet"] like pillars of fire.² He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land,³ and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. (10.1-3a)
 - a. The mighty angel is described in ways only God is described in Scripture (cloud, rainbow, sun, pillars of fire, etc.); this is an angelic manifestation of the glory of the LORD – most likely the Angel of the LORD

Exodus 3.2-6: And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (cf. Gen 16.10; 22.11-18; 31.11-13; Ex 14.19; Judges 2.1; 6.22; 13.20-22)

Exodus 13.20-21: And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Exodus 14.19-31: Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians." ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Exodus 24.15-18: Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. (cf. Ex 40.34-37; 1 Kings 8.10-11; Ps 18.11-12; Matt 17.5; Mark 9.7; Luke 9.34-35)

Ezekiel 1.26-28: And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. ²⁷ And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. ²⁸ Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Revelation 1.12-16: Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Revelation 4.3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

b. "a little scroll open in his hand"

Revelation 5.1-2: Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

Daniel 12.4-9: But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream.⁶ And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?”⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?”⁹ He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

Ezekiel 2.9-10: And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.¹⁰ And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

- *The scroll in Revelation 5 contains the account of how God’s name is hallowed, how his kingdom comes, and how his will is done on earth as it is heaven. It contains God’s judicial and redemptive plan for history, especially in the last days, which have been inaugurated by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- *The scroll in Revelation 10 reveals the location and mission of God’s people in the God’s sovereign plan for history (see below).*

- c. “And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land” – God’s sovereignty and the universal scope of the little scroll’s message (cf. Is 42.10)
- d. “loud voice, like a lion roaring” – divine announcement (cf. Amos 3.8; Hos 11.10)

3. **The Seven Thunders:** When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.⁴ And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.” (10.3b-4)

Psalms 29:1 *A Psalm of David.* Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Deuteronomy 29.29: “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

1 Tim 1.3b-5: remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

2 Timothy 2.22-26: So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

4. **No More Delay ... the Mystery of God Would Be Fulfilled:** And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven ⁶ and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, ⁷ but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets. (10.5-7)

a. Geographical references emphasize God's total sovereignty

b. "no more delay ... in the days of the seventh trumpet"

Revelation 6.9-11: When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Daniel 12.4-9: But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." ⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. ⁶ And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" ⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. ⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?" ⁹ He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

c. "the mystery of God" – the final realization of the kingdom of God, which has been inaugurated in these last days and for which the martyrs wait (cf. Dan 2, 7, 12 and Rev 6.9-11)

Romans 16.25-26: Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen

5. **Take and Eat:** Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." ⁹ So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." ¹⁰ And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. ¹¹ And I was

told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.” (10.8-11)

a. Prophetic Ministry: Bitter-Sweet

Jeremiah 15.16-17: Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation.

Ezekiel 2.1-3.15: And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” ² And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ⁵ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶ And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. ⁷ And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house. ⁸ “But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” ⁹ And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰ And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

3.1 And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. ⁴ And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵ For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel – ⁶ not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷ But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸ Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹ Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” ¹⁰ Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹ And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.” ¹² Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake: “Blessed be the glory of the LORD from its place!” ¹³ It was the sound of the wings of the living creatures as they touched one another, and the sound of the wheels beside them, and the sound of a great earthquake. ¹⁴ The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the LORD being strong upon me.

b. “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings” – the church’s prophetic mission to preach God’s Word to the nations

Matthew 28.18-20: And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

John 16.7-13: Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all

the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

John 20.21-23 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” (cf. Luke 10.1-21)

Romans 16.25-26: Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith –²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen