

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2023-24
Session #9: The First Vision: Revelation of the Small Scroll
(Rev 10)

CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
 CCSS = Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures
 BSP04 = 2004-05 BSP notes SN = Special notes
 NAB = New American Bible
 CSSN = Catholic Scripture Study notes
 LS = Dr. Hahn's Lamb's Supper

A	<p><u>Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just as an interlude of two visions followed the opening of the sixth seal – the sealing of the 144,000 and the white-robed multitude in heaven – so here, an interlude of two visions follows the sixth trumpet, preceding the climactic seventh trumpet. The two visions are: a small open scroll, and the Temple and the two witnesses. 	CCSS 179	
B	<p><u>A Mighty Angel and a Small Open Scroll</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John saw “another mighty angel”. This angel radiates a light that resembles the glory of the Holy Trinity: like God who has a “halo” or “rainbow”; like the Son who is “wrapped in a cloud”, “ his face is like the sun”; like the Holy Spirit whose ‘feet are like pillars of fire”. “In his hand he held a small scroll that had been opened. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land”. This expresses the authority of what he is about to say and how his message will affect the whole earth. He is possibly the angel sent to John by Jesus at the beginning and at the end of this book to reveal “what must happen soon”. Upon the breaking of the seventh seal, the scroll in the angel’s hand is “opened”. This “scroll” is the same one that appears in 5:1 – only the Lamb is allowed to unveil God’s salvific plan. The angel “cried out in a loud voice as a lion roars, ... seven thunders” = a sign of God’s presence. John is instructed not to write what “the seven thunders have spoken”. This signifies that the truth is “not to be told” and “no mortal is permitted to repeat”. The ultimate promise: “ There shall be no more delay. At the time when you hear the seventh angel blow his trumpet, the mysterious plan of God shall be fulfilled”; this mystery is “as he promised to his servants the 	<p>10:1-7</p> <p>CSB</p> <p>4:3</p> <p>1:7, 16</p> <p>CCSS, CSB</p> <p>CCSS 10:2b</p> <p>1:1, 22:6</p> <p>CCSS, 5:5</p> <p>10:3-4</p> <p>2Cor 12:4</p> <p>10:5-7, CCSS</p>	<p>Ezk 1:26-28</p> <p>Ex 13:21</p> <p>Amos 3:8</p> <p>Ex 19:16</p> <p>Daniel 12:4</p> <p>Daniel 12:1, 7</p>

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	<p>prophets". In other words, God's promise through the prophets (including John) to humanity in the OT/NT will be fulfilled after the seventh trumpet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When will Jesus return? Several texts in the NT suggest that many in the early Church expect Christ's return in glory to happen in their lifetime. Therefore, it is necessary for Paul to dispute this misinterpretation. Jesus has already explained no one knows the day or the hour except the Father. "Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know". They must pay attention and lead "lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God". 	<p>CCSS 182; Jn 1:22, Mk 13; 2Thess 2:1-2; Mt 24:36, Mk 13:35; 2Thess 2:3, Rev 13:1-8, Mt 24:10-11; 2 Pet 3:11-12</p>	
<p>C</p>	<p><u>The Vision of the Small Scroll</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OT background of the vision. • Like Ezekiel, John "swallows" God's word, then, he is sent to "prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings". This demonstrates how the Holy Spirit inspires the authors of scripture to record God's words and bring them to the world. • "In my mouth it was like sweet honey" – the joy of receiving and proclaiming God's words. If he refuses to proclaim, "woe betide me". • "But when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour" – John also receives a word of judgment and that he anticipates the hardships that await God's people in what lies ahead. 	<p>10:8-11</p> <p>CCSS, 2Cor 2:13</p> <p>SN1</p> <p>1010 CCSS SN2 1Cor 9:16</p> <p>CCSS, CSB</p>	<p>Ezk 2:9 – 3:3</p> <p>Jer 15:16; 20:9</p>

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Special Notes:

1. In composing the sacred books, God chose men and while employed by Him they made use of their powers and abilities, so that with Him acting in them and through them, they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things which He wanted. Therefore, since everything asserted by the inspired authors or sacred writers must be held to be asserted by the Holy Spirit, it follows that the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into sacred writings for the sake of salvation. Therefore "all Scripture is divinely inspired and has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, for reformation of manners and discipline in right living, so that the man who belongs to God may be efficient and equipped for good work of every kind" (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
(*Dei Verbum*, Divine Revelation, n.11)
2. In their own way, all these instances of joy flow from the infinite love of God, who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, n.7.)