

A PEOPLE OF PROPHECY

Introduction Bible study becomes tremendously exciting when we first learn to find ourselves in the Book!

John the Baptist was able to do this. He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness . . . as said the prophet Esaias" (John 1:23). His heart was fired by an unshakable conviction that God had raised him up in specific fulfillment of His prophetic Word. No wonder John was invincible!

Jesus found Himself in the Bible. Concerning His own Person and mission He said: "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:21); and, "Moses wrote of Me" (John 5:46). This was not arrogance or conceit. It was the expression of a Heaven-born, Bible-based conviction.

In our study of "God's Last Warning Message" (Lesson 29), we learned that Seventh-day Adventists are reinforced by this same conviction. They point to passages like Dan. 8:14; Matt. 24:14; and Rev. 14:6-11 and declare: "We have arisen in response to these prophetic words. Our movement is prophecy come to life before your eyes. This day are these Scriptures fulfilled in your ears!"

In this lesson we will study a further reinforcement of this conviction—Revelation 10. In this chapter the prophetic spotlight rests squarely upon the birth-hour of the Seventh-day Adventist movement.

(See Chart No. 39—The Angel of Revelation 10)

Let us open the Bible and read Rev. 10:1 to 11:1. Our first step towards understanding this chapter will be to find the keys.

Discussion 1.—FINDING THE KEYS OF REVELATION 10

We have already discovered that the keys to many of the riddles of Revelation are found in its twin book—Daniel. These two books are like the two sights on a rifle barrel. Their mysteries are solved when we get the two books in correct alignment. Read Daniel 12 side by side with Revelation 10, and note the striking parallels:

DANIEL 12	REVELATION 10
"The man clothed in linen" (vv 6, 7)	"An angel clothed with the sun" (vv 1, 5)
"Standing upon the waters" (vv 6, 7)	"Standing upon the sea and land" (v 2)
"Lifting his hand and swearing by Him that liveth for ever and ever" (v 7)	"Lifted up his hand and swore by Him that liveth for ever and ever" (vv 5, 6)
"How long shall it be to the end?" (vv 6, 8)	"There shall be time no longer" (v 6)
"All these things shall be finished" (v 7)	"The mystery of God shall be finished" (v 7)
The Book of Daniel "closed up and sealed" (vv 4, 9)	"In his hand a little book—open" (v 2)

From these parallels it is clear that the "open book" of Revelation 10 is nothing other than the Book of Daniel, viewed at the time when it was due to be unsealed.

2.—LOCATING THE TIME OF REVELATION 10

Can we discover when the Book of Daniel was unsealed and understood?

History declares that this occurred in the later years of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th, when a world-wide revival of prophetic study occurred. As a direct result of this study, the conviction gripped the hearts of multitudes of Christians in many Churches—ministers and laymen alike—that the hour had struck for the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecies, and that the Lord's return was at hand!