Introduction: Sin causes pain and suffering for all humanity. Often, we ask why would God allow this? Why does God allow His children to suffer? The answer is lengthy when we begin to discuss it. For tonight’s message let me give you two words; mercy and glory. Gods mercy to those who do not know Him for repentance and regeneration. Then there is Gods glory as His will is played out upon this planet. With all of that said we must realize there is a coming when He will break His silence, a day when all he purposes of God concerning men and the world will be consummated. At that time, the Lord Jesus Christ will return and establish His earthly kingdom. The sounding of the seventh trumpet will herald the imminent return and reign of Christ and His millennium reign.

Before this takes place, we find within Gods word an interlude which is described in 10:1-11:14. This pause gives John and his readers the occasion to assimilate the startling truth that have just been revealed. It also serves to encourage Gods people during the fury and horror of diving judgment, reminding them God remains sovereign. During this interlude, God comforts His people with the assurance that He has not forgotten them and that they will ultimately be victorious. When the seventh trumpet sounds, the interlude will end and Seven rapid fire catastrophic bowl judgments will begin as described in chapters 15-16. For tonight let’s begin looking at the interlude as we several unusual figures and events unfold before our very eyes. Notice with me.

# An unusual angel V.v.1-2a

Comes from another heavenly messenger

Bringing a verification of continued judgment

Yet the judgment comes tempered with mercy for Gods people

Proclaiming Gods glory and sovereignty

Without tolerance or compromise

# An unusual act V.v.2b-3

Reveals the scope of Gods judgment moving forward (land and sea, worldwide)

Reveals the power, majesty and authority God will display through fear and terror

# An unusual answer V.4

Whether the voice was that of the Father, Jesus Christ, or an angel is not revealed. The command, however, clearly originated with God–the very One who had commanded John to write (cf. 22:10). The reason John was forbidden to record the message of the seven peals of thunder is not revealed. It may be that the judgment they uttered is simply too terrifying to be revealed. Any speculation as to the specific content of their message is pointless; had God wanted it to be known, He would not have forbidden John to write it.

# An unusual announcement V.v.5-7

Is testimony made by making a vow to God that His direction will be followed.

Is a testimony of Gods sovereignty in eternity and creation.

Is a testimony that His will be fulfilled through judgment, renovation, destruction, and recreation.

Is a testimony the seventh trumpet will sound, the seven bowls judgments will pour and it will commence in an unbroken chain according to His will. Gods patience has ended with this vile, vulgar and vicious sin hardened world.

Close as led.