

# Revelation 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

## Analysis

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**And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,...** This verse from Revelation's vision of angel with little book - mystery of god completed, prophetic commission renewed employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

## Historical Context

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John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 10:2 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?

2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?
3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ εἶχεν ἐν τῇ χειρὶ αὐτοῦ βιβλαρίδιον ἀνεωγμένον·  
**And he had in** <sup>G3588</sup> **hand** <sup>G846</sup> **a little book** <sup>G974</sup> **open** <sup>G455</sup>  
G2532 G2192 G1722 G5495

καὶ ἔθηκεν τὸν πόδα αὐτοῦ τὸν δεξιὸν ἐπὶ τὴν  
**And he set** <sup>G3588</sup> **foot** <sup>G846</sup> <sup>G3588</sup> **right** <sup>G1188</sup> **foot on** <sup>G3588</sup>  
G2532 G5087 G4228 G1909

θάλασσαν, τὸν δὲ εὐώνυμον ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν,  
**the sea** <sup>G3588</sup> **and** <sup>G1161</sup> **his left** <sup>G2176</sup> **foot on** <sup>G3588</sup> **the earth** <sup>G1093</sup>  
G2281 G1909

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 10:5** (Parallel theme): And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,