



## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

*"History's Mystery"*  
10:1-7

There is a "mystery" to solve in chapter ten. In verse seven you read, [Revelation 10:7](#) but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, **the mystery of God** would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Actually it would be more accurate to say that a mystery **is** solved in chapter ten. You see, when the Bible uses the word "mystery" it is speaking of something once concealed that is now being revealed. It is something no one could know unless God told them.

The mystery is said to be [finished... in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel](#). If you look ahead to chapter eleven, verse fifteen, you see the sounding of the seventh angel:

**Revelation 11:15** Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

The Kingdom of God on earth, ruled and reigned over by Jesus Christ, is the once concealed mystery that is being revealed.

Why is it considered a mystery at all? It is considered a mystery because God, though already the sovereign ruler of the universe, has delayed the establishment of His kingdom on the earth for six thousand years - four thousand years counting from Adam to Jesus, and now two thousand years counting from Jesus to the present day.

Remember, though, *that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*<sup>1</sup> The delay that causes scoffers to gloat and saints to grieve is part of God's great plan. It is the mystery revealed to you in this last book of the Bible.

During that delay other "kingdoms" have ruled: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome are prominent in the Bible. You're also told that the kingdoms of the earth are themselves ruled by Satan, who is called by Jesus the "ruler of this world."<sup>2</sup>

God *had declared to His servants the prophets* in the Old Testament that He would rule and reign the kingdom on earth. Yet that kingdom has been delayed while the devil seems to rule kingdom after kingdom of men. That is indeed a mystery! It prompts unbelievers to scoff and say, *Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.*<sup>3</sup>

But as I said, it is now solved. What was concealed is now revealed. It is revealed in the pages of the Revelation of Jesus Christ as you read about exactly how Jesus Christ will return to rule and reign.

Jesus taught you to pray **Thy kingdom come**. Every prayer ought to be prayed in the context of the coming of the King to rule His kingdom

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Peter 3:8

<sup>2</sup> John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11

<sup>3</sup> 2 Peter 3:4

on the earth. Every dream, desire, and decision ought to be subordinated to the coming of the King to rule His kingdom on the earth.

**Revelation 10:1** I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow *was* on his head, his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

Revelation nine left off with the sounding of the sixth of seven trumpets, which usher in the end of all things. Now, instead of the seventh trumpet, we have another interlude until Revelation 11:15.

Remember: The Revelation is chronological if you follow the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls. In-between God gives you important details to fill-in your understanding.

Some commentators believe this great person to be none other than Jesus Himself. It isn't; it is an **angel**. The word **another** which qualifies **angel** means another of the same kind as before. It is **another angel**.

He is described using terms that also describe Jesus - **clothed with a cloud... a rainbow... on his head, his face like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire**. Why is he so much like Jesus in appearance?

Do you remember when Moses came down from meeting with God? **He glowed!** Being in God's presence changed his countenance. This angel had been in the presence of Jesus and he took on some of the characteristics of Jesus.

Guess what? **You take on the characteristics of Jesus, too, if you spend time with Him!**

The **rainbow** might be a natural occurrence since he is **clothed with a cloud**. It also reminds you of God's covenant with mankind. God is keeping His promises.

**Revelation 10:2** He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and *his* left *foot* on the land,

There are different speculations as to just what this [little book](#) is:

- Some say it is another name for the seven-sealed scroll, now fully open.
- Some say it is the account John gives from this point forward.
- Some say it is the formerly sealed portion of the Book of Daniel, now opened.

We just can't say for sure. It's probably not the seven-sealed scroll since an entirely different word is used to describe it.

It might be a document or credentials giving this angel the authority to carry out his mission.

What we can say for sure is that it is the word of God. God's word is what governs the course of human history.

The symbolism of setting his [right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land](#) is that he was claiming the whole earth – land and sea - for the Lord. We don't know what [he cried with a loud voice](#), but it is a message of conquest and certain victory, [as when a lion roars](#). The Lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ, is coming as King to rule His kingdom and none will be able to withstand Him.

[Revelation 10:3](#) and cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

We are fond of reminding you that this book is filled with references from the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the key that unlocks it.

The thunderous voice of God is described in Psalm twenty-nine, seven times repeating the phrase [the voice of the LORD](#). The psalm seems to have been written during a notable thunderstorm. It gives glory to God for His power over all the earth. That power extends beyond the natural wonders to the supernatural workings of God in and through history.

**Revelation 10:4** Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

Even in this book, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, some things remain unknown. There are things which you will never know in this life. While not knowing often seems to confuse or frustrate you, sometimes it's good not knowing!

Not knowing keeps you **humble**. If you think you know everything, and have all of the answers, you have a tendency to get puffed up with pride. Not knowing some things keeps you humble as you must depend upon the Lord each step of the way.

Not knowing keeps you **moving**. God has a plan for you, but the road can take some weird twists and turns. If you knew some of the difficulties you faced you might draw back. Not knowing keeps you trusting God through each one.

There are those who believe that their system of theology answers all questions. Well, sure; as long as you stay within that small-minded system!

Leon Morris: "Let us not proceed as though all has been revealed."

It's better to know Who rather than how or why. You can know the works of God; it's better to know the ways of God.

I love this verses from the Psalms:

**Psalms 103:7** He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

Moses was intimate with God and thus God revealed His ways, His why's. It's always better to be intimate than merely to be instructed.

**Revelation 10:5** The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

**Revelation 10:6** and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,



**Revelation 10:7** but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

There are many mysteries revealed in God's Word:

- The ultimate conversion of the Jews is called a mystery (Romans 11:25).
- God's purpose for the church is called a mystery (Ephesians 3:3-11).
- The bringing in of the fullness of the Gentiles is called a mystery (Romans 11:25).
- The living presence of Jesus in the believer is called the mystery of God (Colossians 1:27-2:3).
- The gospel itself is called the mystery of Christ (Colossians 4:3).

The mystery being revealed here is the kingdom of God on earth. Beginning with Isaiah, all the way through to Malachi, God's prophets give major space to the coming of a literal kingdom of God on earth with Messiah ruling from Jerusalem. Isaiah 9:6-7 is typical:

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Isaiah 9:7** Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

These same prophets often spoke of Messiah coming to suffer:

**Isaiah 53:3** He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

**Isaiah 53:4** Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

That part of the mystery is solved when you understand the two distinct comings of Messiah - of Jesus Christ. He came first to suffer and die. He'll come a second time to rule and reign! The mystery of

the King coming to rule His kingdom on earth is revealed in the Bible generally and in the Revelation of Jesus Christ specifically.

Why the “delay?” There are many reasons, but most notably this one:

[2 Peter 3:9](#) The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

The delay of the second coming of Jesus allowed most of us to become Christians!

There is coming a day very soon when Jesus will [delay no longer](#). Our generation sees the signs more clearly than any previous generation. Everything is in place.

