

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Mystery of God, Pt 1

Revelation 10

Keywords: Revelation, prophecy, End Times, Judgment, Mystery, Fulfillment

PowerPoint Presentation included: None

SermonAudio Blurb: In this interlude John brings us new visions and new hope. We see how the plan of God is rapidly coming to fulness and with it the fruition of all His promises. If we see this rightly we see much to hope for and the reason to be found steadfast. God is faithful.

I. Introduction.

- A. I want to spend the bulk of my time today giving background to what is happening in chapter 10.
 - 1. Read chapter 10.
 - 2. This is another interlude/pause in the flow of the plan of God.
 - a. Just like with the seals of the scroll here we have a pause just before the seventh trumpet sounds.
 - b. In this pause there is much helpful and encouraging information given to us and it allows us to take a breath and reorient ourselves.
 - 3. Key verses are 6-7.
 - a. No more delay.
 - b. Then the mystery of God is about to be finished. This is then stated in 11:14-15.
 - (1) That is what everything in this world, both seen and unseen, is hurtling toward.
 - (2) Notice in 11:16-17 how the angelic beings immediately begin to worship in joy.
- B. The story of ruin and redemption.
 - 1. “In the beginning”
 - 2. “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

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3. “Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden ‘?’”
4. “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened. . .”
5. “. . . He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
6. From this point on we witness the travesty of sin and the spread of humanity in rebellion all the way through Genesis 11.
 - a. Mostly sin and death, yet in it grace and salvation, specifically with Noah and his family.
 - b. In this we have another glimmer of hope.
7. Genesis 12 we are introduced to a man who will be named Abraham and with him a promise is given.
 - a. Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."
 - b. Now that word of hope becomes defined a bit more.
8. Israel becomes the vehicle through which this worldwide blessing will come.
 - a. We see promises and covenants made to this people. They receive God’s blessing and God’s Word. They are given the way of salvation and forgiveness of sin.
 - b. But most importantly they are given the promise that through Israel and the line of David there shall arise one who is the anointed one, the Christ.
 - c. Even in disobedience and rebellion God reiterates that promise and points to a time when sin, Satan and death shall be abolished.

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When the lion will lie down with the lamb. Where righteousness
will reign.

9. At the birth of Jesus, angels proclaim and prophets prophesy that this little child is the long awaited one.
 - a. But instead of coming as one who conquers, He came as a servant.
 - b. Instead of coming as King, He came to die and to rise again.
 10. He then commissions His followers to go out from Jerusalem with the good news that in Jesus, through His death and resurrection, these great enemies are destroyed.
 - a. And this they did and people believed, were baptized, and became followers of Jesus Christ.
 - b. And over the last couple of millennia countless have believed, lived and died.
 - c. Not in futility but in hope.
 - d. It is this hope that is what Revelation 10 is pointing us to.
 - (1) This mystery of God that is about to be finished.
 - (2) This mystery that is working in, through, over, under, and in all things.
- C. Colossians 3 — A Heavenly Mindedness.
1. Read vs 1-11. Point out how it is all eschatological and yet also ethical in the here and now.
 2. Notice in vs 8-11 how Paul gives us **ultimate** reasons for everything he just said. He does it both in a negative reason and a positive one.
 - a. The reason stated negatively, “since you laid aside the old man” (3:9).
 - (1) NASB says “self” and others might say “nature” but the word is “man.”
 - (2) This refers to a “fact of being.” It states the reality of what we all ready have done.
 - (3) To properly understand this position regarding the “old man” and “new man” on an individual level, first requires an

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understanding of it on a corporate level. All of humanity are related to and utterly represented by two men.

- (4) The idea of an “old man” and “new man” is rooted in Romans 5 where we all (in a corporate sense) once in Adam and through salvation we (again in a corporate sense) are in Christ.
 - (a) Ephesians 2:15 says that through Christ both Jew and Gentile are now one new man (the body of Christ).
 - (b) This corporate identity is found throughout Paul’s letters, such as in 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19 where we all are referred to as one temple.
 - (c) Ephesians 2:20-23, “having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” Notice the plural “you” with the singular “holy temple” and “dwelling of God.”
- (5) This passage states that the old man is no longer a part of us.
 - (a) What we do still have is the effects of the old man.
 - (b) “Sin hangover.” The nature is destroyed but the effects linger.
 - (c) We do not have two competing natures within us. It is not us trying to hang on and hope the nature in Christ wins.
 - i) He already has.
 - ii) You are free, forgiven, redeemed, adopted, and loved.

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- (d) All that you experience now in the way of sin is the fact you dwell in two different realms. We have one, new nature but we live in two realms.
 - i) The reality of the new man is still being realized.
 - ii) This is the process of sanctification.
 - iii) This is why Paul calls us to focus on Christ and heaven, for that is where the consummation of our new birth will be found.
 - iv) We are called to strip away the garments of the old man, who was killed.
- b. The reason stated positively, “have put on the new” (3:10-11).
 - (1) This is just like the prior statement, it is a fact of being, it is who we are.
 - (2) The idea of “new” is a common biblical concept.
 - (a) It is uniquely eschatological, meaning that it looks to the end, the culmination of God’s plan.
 - (b) At the coming of Christ, God’s ultimate plan was initiated.
 - (c) In the Old Testament the prophets looked forward to the day when God would do a new thing (Is. 43:19). God will make a new covenant with his people (Jer. 31:31). God will implant a new heart and a new spirit within them (Ezek. 11:19). God will call them by a new name (Is. 62:2). He will give them a new song (Ps. 96:1), and will create a new heavens and a new earth (Is. 65:17).
 - (d) In the New Testament this concept is continued. God will create new heavens and a new earth (Rev. 21:1). The new Jerusalem will come down out of heaven (Rev. 21:2). Jesus spoke of a new wine in the kingdom of God (Mark 14:25). God will give

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His people a new name (Rev. 2:17) and a new song (Rev. 5:9). In fact He will make all things new (Rev. 21:5).

- (e) We live within that time period. When Christ died and rose again He ushered in the “new.”
 - (f) Now, as 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
- (3) The “new” explained (3:10b).
- (a) The quality of this new man is that he is being perpetually renewed by God.
 - i) Do not lose heart.
 - ii) It will persevere.
 - (b) The process of renewal is “according to the image of the one who created him.”
 - (c) The result of this renewal is a growing level of knowledge, the ability to perceive God and His ways and guidance.
- (4) The “new” corporately (3:11).
- (a) NASB is incorrect when it adds the words “a renewal” here for the focus is upon the new man not the renewal.
 - (b) Better understood as “the new” in which there is no Make that change in your margins if you wish.
 - (c) These couplets describe all of the classic barriers that divide us.
 - i) Racial.
 - ii) Religious.
 - iii) Cultural.
 - iv) Social.

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- (d) They have been abolished.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”
 - ii) Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
- (e) As Christians we must learn to stop seeing ourselves and others in light of this world and its perspective.
- (f) There is only Christ!
 - i) Christ is all, everything with each believer.
 - a) We died with Him.
 - b) We were buried with Him.
 - c) We were raised with Him.
 - d) We are glorified with Him.
 - ii) Christ permeates all believers.
- D. This is the vision that is unfolding before us in this little chapter.

II. Chapter 10—The Little Book and God’s Mystery.

- A. The angel (1).
- B. The book (2).
- C. The revelation that is forbidden (3-4).
- D. The revelation that is given (5-6).
- E. The book that is eaten (7-10).
- F. The commission (11)

III. Conclusion.

- A. Beloved, we must keep this heavenly vision in our hearts and minds.

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1. We must go to work each day with it in mind.
 2. We must buy and save with it.
 3. We must parent with it.
 4. We must live in this world with it.
- B. This age is one marked by sin and death. It lies and lulls the whole of unredeemed humanity into anything but Jesus Christ.
1. We see expression of it in power and rebellion.
 2. We see it is riches and pleasure.
 3. The message is simple for it is like the one given by Satan to Jesus, "All these things I will give you if you fall down and worship me." And they run and grab and hope in what is not his to give.
- C. "One single soul saved shall outlive and outweigh all the kingdoms of the world."
- J. C. Ryle
- D. Final Song.

IV. **Benediction/Doxology.**

Small Group Questions

- **Summer Break**