

HWMR: EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (4) (Week 6)

**Christ, the Eternal King, Coming to Possess the Earth and
the Finishing of the Mystery of God**

Scripture Reading: *Rev. 10:1-7; 11:15-18*

- Rev. 10:1 And I saw another strong Angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon His head, and His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire;
- Rev. 10:2 And He had in His hand a little opened scroll. And He placed His right foot on the sea and the left on the land;
- Rev. 10:3 And He cried out with a loud voice just as a lion roars. And when He cried out, the seven thunders uttered their own voices.
- Rev. 10:4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, and I heard a voice out of heaven saying, Seal the things which the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them.
- Rev. 10:5 And the Angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up His right hand to heaven
- Rev. 10:6 And swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there shall be delay no longer,
- Rev. 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.
- Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
- Rev. 11:16 And the twenty-four elders who sit before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God,
- Rev. 11:17 Saying, We thank You, Lord God the Almighty, He who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have reigned.
- Rev. 11:18 And the nations became angry, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give the reward to Your slaves the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Your name, to the small and to the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Day 1

- Rev. 11:15* - ...The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
- Rev. 12:10* - ...Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

I. Revelation 11:15-18 and 12:10 indicate that we may experience and enjoy Christ as the eternal King:

- A. “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and **He will reign forever and ever**”—11:15b:
1. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, not only will the great tribulation end, but also this age will close, the mystery of God will be finished (10:7), and another age, the **age of the kingdom**, the millennium, will begin.
 2. The kingdom of the world becomes the **kingdom of Christ at His coming back** after He executes His judgment upon the nations—Dan. 7:13-14; 2:44-45.
 3. Here the Lord’s reigning forever and ever is the Lord’s reigning **in the millennial kingdom and in the new heaven and new earth for eternity**—Rev. 22:5.

The Bible shows us that the **kingdom of Christ is eternal**. But some will enter it only in eternity future, whereas others will enter it during the millennium. The ruling of Christ begins with the millennial kingdom. Therefore, Revelation 11:15 says, “*And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.*” This verse shows us that the **kingdom of Christ is linked to eternity future; it lasts forever and ever**. However, it begins at the trumpeting of the seventh angel, that is, at the beginning of the tribulation. When Christ begins His reign, **some will enter the kingdom**. They will not only enter in, but will be richly and bountifully supplied an entrance. Therefore, to make our calling and selection firm is to be richly and bountifully supplied with an entrance into this eternal kingdom.

One can see that salvation has been settled, but that the entrance into the kingdom has not yet been settled. Once a Christian believes in the Lord Jesus, he can immediately praise the Lord because he knows that the question of eternal life or death is settled. However, after one believes, there are experiences ahead of him; he still has the kingdom before him and a future glory waiting for him. Some will obtain these things: the kingdom, the crown, the glory, and the reward; whereas others will not obtain them. Some will enter into the kingdom of Christ; others will not be able to enter in. Some will not only enter in, but will be richly and bountifully supplied an entrance into the kingdom of Christ. This does not mean that those who cannot enter the kingdom of Christ are not saved. But it does mean that their reward and glory are taken away. Hence, **we need to run and strive**. Our being able to reign with Jesus the Nazarene in the future depends on how we strive today. (*Gospel of God, The (2 volume set), Chapter 21*)

Day 2

Lam. 3:22-23 - *It is Jehovah’s lovingkindness that we are not consumed, for His compassions do not fail; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*

Lam. 5:19 - *You, O Jehovah, abide forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.*

- B. “You, O Jehovah, **abide forever**; / Your throne is from generation to generation”—Lam. 5:19:
1. **God’s eternal being and His throne** are higher than His lovingkindness, compassions, and faithfulness—3:22-23.
 2. God’s lovingkindness and compassions can fluctuate, but **God’s person and His government remain unchanging forever**.

3. In the New Jerusalem, God will be fully unveiled in His person as the eternal King and in His government as His **eternal, unshakable kingdom** (Heb. 12:28; Rev. 22:3), both of which are the unshakable foundation of His dealing with His people.

Day 3

- Rev. 10:1* - And I saw another strong Angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon His head, and His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire;
- Rev. 4:3* - And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

II. In Revelation 10:1-7 we have a clear vision of **Christ coming to take possession of the earth:**

- A. In this chapter Christ is “**another strong Angel**” (v. 1), like the One in 7:2; 8:3; and 18:1.
- B. John saw another Angel “**coming down out of heaven**”—10:1a:
1. Christ is now coming down out of heaven.
 2. This vision is a hint that **Christ is still on His way to the earth.**
- C. Christ is “**clothed with a cloud**”—v. 1b:
1. He is not yet “on the cloud,” as in 14:14 and Matthew 24:30; 26:64.
 2. To be “on the cloud” is to **come openly**, whereas to be “clothed with a cloud” is to **come secretly**.
 3. **Christ will be coming secretly**, not openly, until He is seen by all the tribes of the earth, as mentioned in Revelation 1:7 and in Matthew 24:30.
 4. Even at the time of **Revelation 10**, Christ’s coming is **still secret**.
 5. He will be wrapped in the cloud until **chapter 14**, when He will sit on the cloud and His coming will be public.
 6. By this we can see that the general teaching that Christ will come before the great tribulation is inaccurate.
- D. “The **rainbow** was upon His head”—10:1c:
1. Here the **rainbow** indicates that Christ in His judgment upon the earth and in His coming to take possession of it **will keep the covenant that God made with Noah** concerning the earth—Gen. 9:8-17.
 2. It indicates also that **Christ is the One who will execute judgment** according to the God who sits on the throne with the rainbow around it—Rev. 4:2-3.
 3. The book of Revelation reveals that **God will judge the earth and all the inhabitants**.
 4. The rainbow around His throne signifies that God is the covenanting God, the **faithful God**, who will keep His covenant while executing His judgment upon the earth.
 5. He will not judge mankind again with a flood nor destroy all mankind, but will keep a part of mankind to be the nations of the new earth for His glory—21:24, 26.

Day 4

Rev. 10:2-3 - And He had in His hand a little opened scroll. And He placed His right foot on the sea and the left on the land; and He cried out with a loud voice just as a lion roars. And when He cried out, the seven thunders uttered their own voices.

- E. “His face was like the **sun**, and His feet like pillars of **fire**”—10:1d:
 - 1. Near the time of His coming to the people on the earth openly, Christ will be like the **sun**, not like the morning star, which appears before the darkest time, prior to dawn, to **those who love Him and wait for Him**.
 - 2. **Fire** in verse 1 signifies the **holiness of God** (Exo. 19:18; Heb. 12:29), according to which Christ will execute His judgment upon the earth.
- F. “He placed His right foot **on the sea** and the left **on the land**”—Rev. 10:2b:
 - 1. Christ’s placing His feet on the sea and on the land is His treading on them, and to tread on them is to **take possession of them**—Deut. 11:24; Josh. 1:3; Psa. 8:6-8.
 - 2. This indicates that Christ is coming down to take possession of the earth.
 - 3. Only He is worthy to open the scroll of God’s economy, and **only He is qualified to possess the earth**.
- G. “He cried out with a loud voice just as a **lion roars**”—Rev. 10:3a:
 - 1. A lion’s roaring is likened to a **king’s wrath**—Prov. 19:12; 20:2.
 - 2. This indicates that Christ, as the King of the earth, is **provoked to wrath**.

John saw another Angel “coming down out of heaven” (10:1a). The Angel, who is the eternal King, comes down out of heaven. He comes not in one step but in several steps. His coming out of heaven involves a process. The word coming in Greek is parousia, which means “**presence**.” While many Christians talk only about His physical coming, there is an invisible, **secret side to His coming, His parousia, His presence, which begins much earlier than His physical appearing**.

His secret coming, the **beginning of His parousia**, is for the rapture of the mature ones to the heavens to be with Him. However, He will continue coming in a secret way. **During the great tribulation** He will come down to the air but be **clothed with a cloud**. During the great tribulation He will rapture the majority of the believers to the air, both the dead ones and the living ones. And then **toward the end of the great tribulation**, He will **physically appear**. At that point He will no longer be **in** the cloud; He will be **on** the cloud, and He will put His feet down on the Mount of Olives. Hence, “every eye will see Him” (Rev. 1:7). Thus, there are at least three stages to His coming. Which part of His coming do we want to participate in? We do not want to have to wait until His physical appearing, because that will be too late. If we participate in that stage of His coming, then we will have to pass through the three and a half years of the great tribulation, a period of such suffering that has never been seen in human history. Instead, **we want to be those who grow and mature in this age so that, by His mercy and grace, we can be raptured to the throne in the heavens**. This is our desire. (*The Ministry of the Word*, vol. 30, No. 2, chapter 42)

Day 5

Rev. 10:7 - But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.

1 Tim. 3:16 - ...Great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

III. “The mystery of God is **finished**”—Rev. 10:7b:

- A. In the dispensations from **Adam to Moses and from Moses to Christ**, everything was **unveiled, manifested, and there was no mystery**.
- B. In the dispensation of the **millennial kingdom and in the new heaven and new earth**, everything will be **unveiled**, and there will be **no more mystery**.
- C. In the dispensation from **Christ to the millennial kingdom**—the **church age**, the age of grace—**everything is a mystery**:
 - 1. The incarnation of Christ, as the beginning of the dispensation of mystery, is a mystery—1 Tim. 3:16:
 - a. Through the incarnation of Christ, the infinite God was brought into a finite man.
 - b. The entire God, not God the Son only, was incarnated; hence, Christ in incarnation is the entire God manifested in the flesh.

Day 6

Col. 2:2 - That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ.

Eph. 3:4 - By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ.

Eph. 5:32 - This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

- 2. **Christ is the mystery of God**—Col. 2:2:
 - a. God is a mystery, and Christ, as the embodiment of God to express Him, is the mystery of God.
 - b. As the mystery of God, **Christ is the embodiment, definition, and explanation** of God; all that God intends to do is related to Christ.
 - c. In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; that is, the **fullness of the Triune God dwells in Christ** in a bodily form—v. 9.
- 3. The **church** is the **mystery of Christ**—Eph. 3:4-6:
 - a. Christ is a mystery, and the **church**, as the Body of Christ **to express Him**, is the mystery of Christ.
 - b. This mystery is God’s economy, which is to **dispense Christ, as the embodiment of God, into God’s chosen people in order to produce a Body to be the increase of God’s embodiment in Christ, that God may have a corporate expression**.
 - c. **Christ and the church as one spirit** are the great mystery—5:32.

4. The kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 13:11), the gospel (Eph. 6:19), the indwelling of Christ (Col. 1:27), and the coming resurrection and transfiguration of the saints as the end of the dispensation of mystery (1 Cor. 15:51-52) **are all mysteries.**
5. At the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet, all these mysteries will be completed; therefore, the **mystery of God will be finished.**

Christ Himself, the church, the kingdom of the heavens, the gospel, the indwelling of Christ, and the coming resurrection and transfiguration of the saints as the ending of this dispensation of mystery are all mysteries which were hidden in times of the ages. **All these mysteries will be over, completed, and finished at the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet.** At the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet, not only God's judgment of wrath upon the earth, but also "the mystery of God also is finished."

Today, the indwelling **Christ and the church are a mystery.** The outsiders cannot understand us because **we are mysterious to them.** When we say, "Praise the Lord! We have Christ in us," people may say, "Show us." To this, we can only reply, "I cannot show you, but I know that Christ is in me." Christ's dwelling in us is a mystery. When non-Christians receive too much money in change from a cashier in a restaurant, they are pleased and consider it a bargain. But when we receive extra change, we return it. This is mysterious to the cashier. The unbelievers cannot understand what kind of people we are. Do not try to check me out, for I am a man of mystery. Although today is a time of mystery, when the seventh trumpet is sounded, the mystery will be over. **At the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet, Christ will be manifested and the whole earth will recognize Him.** Then the cashiers will know why we, the mysterious ones, returned the extra change. Perhaps they will say, "We thought they were foolish, but now we understand." Although they cannot understand this mystery today, one day they will understand it. (*Life-Study of Revelation, chapter 26*)