

Message Six

**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. 10:1-7—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; ²And He had in His hand a little opened scroll. And He placed His right foot on the sea and the left on the land; ³And He cried out with a loud voice just as a lion roars. And when He cried out, the seven thunders uttered their own voices. ⁴And 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. ⁵And the Angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up His right hand to heaven ⁶And 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, ⁷But 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. 11:15-18—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. ¹⁶And the twenty-four elders who sit before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God, ¹⁷Saying, We thank You, Lord God the Almighty, He who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have reigned. ¹⁸And 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.

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

Rev. 11:15-18—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. ¹⁶And the twenty-four elders who sit before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God, ¹⁷Saying, We thank You, Lord God the Almighty, He who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have reigned. ¹⁸And 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.

Rev. 12:10—And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 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.

- 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.

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.

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.

Dan. 7:13-14—I watched in the night visions, And there with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming; And He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Dan. 2:44-45—And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever. ⁴⁵Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

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.

Rev. 22:5—And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

- 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.

Lam. 3:22-23—*It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, For His compassions do not fail; ²³They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

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.

Heb. 12:28—Therefore receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly with piety and fear;

Rev. 22:3—And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;

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

Rev. 10:1-7—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; ²And He had in His hand a little opened scroll. And He placed His right foot on the sea and the left on the land; ³And He cried out with a loud voice just as a lion roars. And when He cried out, the seven thunders uttered their own voices. ⁴And 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. ⁵And the Angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up His right hand to heaven ⁶And 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, ⁷But 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.

A. In this chapter Christ is “another strong Angel” (v. 1), like the One in 7:2; 8:3; and 18:1.

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. 7:2—And I saw another Angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom *authority* was given to harm the earth and the sea,

Rev. 8:3—And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev. 18:1—After these things I saw another Angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was illumined with His glory.

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.

Rev. 14:14—And I saw, and behold, there was a white cloud, and on the cloud One like the Son of Man sitting, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

Matt. 24:30—And at that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matt. 26:64—Jesus said to him, You have said *rightly*. Nevertheless I say to you, From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

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.

Rev. 1:7—Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the land will mourn over Him. Yes, amen.

Matt. 24:30—And at that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

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.

Gen. 9:8-17—Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹And I Myself now establish My covenant with you and with your seed after you ¹⁰And with every living animal that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every animal of the earth with you, of all that came out of the ark, every animal of the earth. ¹¹And I establish My covenant with you, that never again will all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹²And God said, This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living animal that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I set My bow in the clouds, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴And when I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living animal of all flesh, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶And the bow will be in the clouds, and I will look upon it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living animal of all flesh that is upon the earth. ¹⁷And God said to Noah, This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

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.

Rev. 4:2-3—Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne *there was* One sitting; ³And 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.

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.

Rev. 21:24—And the nations will walk by its light; and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it.

Rev. 21:26—And they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

- 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.
Exo. 19:18—Now the whole of Mount Sinai smoked because Jehovah descended upon it in fire, and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace; and the whole mountain shook greatly.

Heb. 12:29—For our God is also a consuming fire.

- 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.
Deut. 11:24—Every place on which the sole of your foot treads will be yours; from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even to the farthest sea will be your territory.

Josh. 1:3—Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, as I promised Moses.

Psa. 8:6-8—For You have caused Him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under His feet: ⁷All sheep and oxen, As well as the beasts of the field, ⁸The birds of heaven and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

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.
Prov. 19:12—The king’s wrath is like the roaring of a lion, But his favor is like dew upon the grass.

Prov. 20:2—The terror of a king is like the roaring of a lion; He who provokes him to anger sins *against* his own life.

2. This indicates that Christ, as the King of the earth, is provoked to wrath.

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:

1 Tim. 3:16—And confessedly, 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.

- 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.
2. Christ is the mystery of God—Col. 2:2:

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,

- 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.

Col. 2:9—For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

3. The church is the mystery of Christ—Eph. 3:4-6:

Eph. 3:4-6—By which, in reading *it*, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, ⁵Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit, ⁶That in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel,

- 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.

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

4. The kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 13:11), the gospel (Eph. 6:19), the indwelling 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.

Matt. 13:11—And He answered and said to them, Because to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens, but to them it has not been given.

Eph. 6:19—And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Col. 1:27—To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

1 Cor. 15:51-52—Behold, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

5. At the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet, all these mysteries will be completed; therefore, the mystery of God will be finished.