

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 43

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD STUDY GUIDE

Revelation 10:5-7

In our last lesson, we discovered the longest time prophecy in the Bible. It is the 2,300 prophetic *day-for-a-literal-year* prophecy found in Daniel 8:14. It reaches down to A.D.1844, where we find the solemn declaration that there should be “time no longer.” According to this declaration, there are no more prophetic time prophecies after 1844. The “time of the end” began in 1798, and the final judgment of all human beings began in 1844, as Jesus moved into His final work of mediation for the world (1 John 2:1, 2).

The 2,300-day prophecy is not only the longest time prophecy, but all the smaller time prophecies fit into it. The 70-week time prophecy, the 1,260-, 1,290-, and 1,335-day time prophecies, and the 391-year, and 15-day time prophecy, are all part of the greater 2,300-day prophecy. And since they are subsets of the larger prophecy, they, too, are *day-for-a-year* prophecies.

God has given us enough time prophecies with accurate fulfillments to establish the truth of 1844 and focus our attention there. Now we are not looking for another time prophecy, rather all of them direct us to 1844

and the time of the end for one specific reason: from that time on that “the mystery of God should be finished.” What is the mystery of God?

The Mystery of God

The Bible says: “the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them 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. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Colossians 1:26-28).

The mystery of God is “Christ in us” so that everyone may be presented “perfect in Christ Jesus.” It is the gospel gift of salvation by grace through faith in the perfect life and penalty-satisfying, substitutionary death of Jesus. This gift, when received, produces fruit in the life of every believer (Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:6). We live a sanctified life for God because we have been justified, sanctified, and will

soon be glorified by His life and death for us (Romans 5:6-10; Ephesians 2:8-10). We are not saved by the fruit, rather the fruit testifies that we have been saved by the perfect life and death of Jesus for our sins (Romans 3:19-24).

The Temple of God

We are to be the temple of God, but what does that mean? Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). The Bible also says: “Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?” (Psalm 77:13). By understanding God’s plan of salvation in the sanctuary, we see the “way” and

get a true picture of the depth of His love for us. He invites us into His dwelling place that we might gain a true picture of His character of love. “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8). A more literal translation reads, “dwell in them.” Jesus wants to have such a relationship with us that He can work out the revelation of Himself through us.

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye



“The mystery of God is ‘Christ in us’ so that everyone may be presented ‘perfect in Christ Jesus.’”

KEY SCRIPTURES

Colossians 1:28 PERFECT IN CHRIST JESUS

Exodus 25:8 I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM

1 Corinthians 6:20 WE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE

Revelation 10:11 THOU MUST PROPHECY AGAIN

are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). Our bodies are the temple of God; and God wants to dwell in our temple and reveal His character to the world through us.

Mystery of Iniquity

In contrast to the mystery of God, the Bible warns us about the mystery of iniquity:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-7).

The mystery of iniquity is Satan taking his place in our temple, the temple of God. The mystery of God is allowing God to take His place in our temple and let it be the temple of God. The church of the dark ages let Satan take his seat in the temple by misrepresenting God (Revelation 2:13). Their doctrines presented a God who burns babies in hell forever. A God who requires us to make payments and good works for sin. A God who said, "If you don't believe the way I do things, I'll kill you." As a result, humans have lived out this false mystery in the way they treat other humans. The mystery of iniquity has taken the place of the mystery of God in the human temple. Revelation 10 says that the mystery of God is to be recovered; the mystery of God is to be restored. The false picture of who God is will

be replaced by the true picture of God. That is why Revelation 10:11 tells us: "Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

The truth about God needs to get out there: how God saves, how God feels about every human being on planet earth. How God longs for none to be lost, but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Revelation pictures a final conflict between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the counterfeit godhead, the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet (Revelation 16:13-16). This final conflict is between the mystery of God and the mystery of iniquity. The mystery of iniquity is so close a counterfeit that, if possible, the very elect could be deceived (Matthew 24:24). The counterfeit looks like God sitting in the temple of God showing that he is God. The Bible warns us that Satan will work through a counterfeit gospel, a counterfeit spirit, and a counterfeit Jesus, preaching through ministers of righteousness and coming as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:2-4, 13-15).

Measure the Temple of God

In these last days, born-again Christians will be a living temple filled by the Spirit of God, revealing the truth about God by words and actions. Through them, the world will have the opportunity to measure the true God, His temple, and His altar. Today, the world is drowning in polluted waters filled with falsehoods about who God is and how He relates to human beings—such ideas that came from the dark ages, having no real foundation in the Bible. In our next study, in order to really understand God's character, we are directed by a heavenly being to measure the temple and the altar. God bless and keep you until then. ★

