

97-08

Grappling with Mysteries

A Lesson for the Students of Revelation

(A Parenthesis Between Trumpet Blast 6 & 7 — part 1)

10:1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. 2 He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. 4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."

5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. 6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! 7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." 10 I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. 11 Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings." (NIV)

1. Why Some Things Seem So Mysterious (vv.1-4)

A. Answers Are Found Where _____

B. God Isn't _____

2. The Ultimate Resolution of the Biggest Mystery (vv.5-7)

A. The _____

B. Hindsight May not be 20/20 but _____

3. What To Do With Revealed Mysteries (vv.8-11)

A. _____ Them

B. _____ Them

C. _____ Them

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message and to prepare you for participation in one of our small group studies. If you need more information about when and where CARE groups are meeting this week see the display in the lobby

1. There are plenty of mysteries when it comes to understanding God. Often it is difficult to understand why God would do the things that he does. What are some of the mysteries of God that have bothered you?

What impact do these mysteries have on you? How do they affect your walk with Christ?

2. Have the questions about the difficult things of God ever led you into temptation? Compare your experience with Psalm 73. Can you identify with Aspah's struggles?

3. What is your response to the statements found in Isaiah 55:8-9?

Though God is generous in giving wisdom to those who ask, why do you think God has reserved so much information for himself (cf. Deut.29:29).

4. How is our continuing study in the book of Revelation helping you to make better sense of the "big mystery" of Revelation 10 (ie. the delay of God's rule over all things — cp. to Rev.11:15, 17-18)?
5. What are some of the "mysteries" of God's word (maybe from the book of Revelation) that make much more sense to you now than they did a year ago?

From a human perspective, what things have helped you to better understand these things?

6. Would you say that you "devour" God's word? Have there been times in your Christian life when Bible study felt that way to you? What is that like?
7. Describe your experience with "meditating" on Scripture to "digest" it. What is that like?
8. What are some forums or opportunities where you can communicate the word of God that you have been "devouring" and "digesting"?