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# Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 20

## Tribulation 14

### Mysteries in the New Testament and Rapture

There are eleven mysteries mentioned in the New Testament which is very unique. This was revealed to us, the church.

**2 Timothy 2:15**, *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

We have been asked to be diligent in our study of the word of God so that we will be able to divide the truth rightly. When we stand before God we will not be ashamed and will be approved by God.

The mysteries are,

1. **1 Timothy 3:16** – Mystery of Godliness
2. **Colossians 1:26-27** – Mystery of Indwelling

3. **Ephesians 3:1-11** – Mystery of one in Church
4. **1 Corinthians 15:51** – Mystery of Translation
5. **Ephesians 5:22-23** – Mystery of Bride of Christ
6. **2 Thessalonians 2:7** – Mystery of Antichrist
7. **Romans 11:25** – Mystery of Israel
8. **Revelation 1:20** – mystery of 7 Stars & Candles
9. **Revelation 17:5** – Mystery of Babylon
10. **Ephesians 1:9-10** – Mystery of Restoration
11. **Matthew 13** – Mystery of Kingdom

The “mystery” is a declaration of spiritual truth, revealed by God through Divine inspiration.

I have listed them in order of things that will happen. So that we will understand that this is very progressive.

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**, *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*<sup>2</sup> *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*

As in our church we have taught so much about stewardship. In one simple sentence if I may say, that we are not the owner of the gifts what the Lord has entrusted upon us but we are responsible for the good use of them.

Same manner we ought to be responsible to sharing the mysteries of God. We ought to be found faithful to God in doing so.

## 1. Mystery of Godliness

**1 Timothy 3:16**, *<sup>6</sup>And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*

God became flesh and lived among us. Very well explained to us from the Gospel of John 1:1 & 14.

Godliness has been translated as “a proper response to the things of God, which produces obedience and righteous living.”

The heart of Christian faith is godliness. Christianity is not about following set of rules and regulations and actions that must be performed to please God, it's a matter of the heart.

## 2. The Indwelling Spirit

**Colossians 1:26-27**, *the **mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations**, but now has been revealed to His saints.*<sup>27</sup> *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.**

This is one of the greatest mystery and also a great privilege for us, the church age believers, which was never promised or people had access to it in the Old Testament.

The Holy Spirit indwells, lives, in the body of the believer at the moment of salvation through Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20,** <sup>19</sup> *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?* <sup>20</sup> *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

**1 Corinthians 3:16,** *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

In the Old Testament the glory of the Lord was on the temple at Jerusalem but now in this time, church age, Holy Spirit provides the temple for God to dwell in our midst.

The only sacred building was the temple in Jerusalem which belonged to Israel and was destroyed in 70 A.D.

A sanctuary of God today is the human body of the believer.

### 3. Ephesians 3:1-11 – Mystery of one in Church

**Ephesians 3:1-11**, *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already <sup>4</sup> by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), <sup>5</sup> which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: <sup>6</sup> that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, <sup>7</sup> of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. <sup>8</sup> To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ <sup>9</sup> and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; <sup>10</sup> to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and*

*powers in the heavenly places, <sup>11</sup> according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

Gentiles to have an absolute equality with the Jews in the body of Christ as

- “fellow-heirs,”
- “fellow-members,” and
- “fellow-partakers of the promise in Christ through the gospel.”

The Gentiles are to enjoy a status of complete equality with the Jews in the Christian Church. They belong to the same body. This important feature of the Christian Church was the mystery God revealed it through Apostle Paul.

The Gentiles cannot enter the temple of God. They can only come to the outer court. They can never ever enter the presence of God.

The Old Testament very clearly maintains the distinction between Jew and Gentile. It distinguishes both the Jews and Gentiles in,

- their hope,
- their promises and
- God’s dealing with them.

That is the main point of the Old Testament.

The idea that Jews and Gentiles might be united in one body without any distinction whatever, with equal privileges, rights, and fellowship is not in the Old Testament at all.

**Galatians 3:28**, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

#### **4. 1 Corinthians 15:51 – Mystery of Translation**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52**, <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you **a mystery**: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**— <sup>52</sup> in 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 shall be changed**.

Apostle Paul reveals another mystery which is very unique and one of the most important mysteries of all.

When the Lord returns all of us will not die. There will be people who will be alive.

So, when He returns the dead will raise to new bodily resurrection. What about the living?

V50, Paul said that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.

Here God revealed to Paul that those who are alive at the time of our Lord's second coming they will get their bodies transformed within a fraction of second into glorious bodies.

This mystery confirms what the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to His disciples on the upper room on the last supper.

Read John 14:1-3

Also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

This mystery confirms to us that the Rapture is different from Second coming of Jesus Christ.

## **5. Ephesians 5:22-23 – Mystery of Bride of Christ**

The church is the bride of Christ. We are the bride and now waiting for the Bridegroom's return.

**Ephesians 5:15-32**, <sup>31</sup> *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* <sup>32</sup> *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

In the above, we see a relationship between husbands and wives laid out:

- Husband head of wife.
- Christ head of church and savior of the body [The church is called the body of Christ]
  
- ❖ Wives subject to husbands.
- ❖ Church subject to Christ.
  
- Husbands love wives
- Christ loves the church and gave Himself for it.
  
- ❖ Husbands love wives as their own bodies
- ❖ Christ nourishes and cherishes the church

**Mark 2:18-20**,<sup>18</sup> *The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting. Then they came and said to Him, “Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?”*<sup>19</sup> *And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast.*<sup>20</sup> *But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.*

**John 3:28-20,** <sup>28</sup> *You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.'* <sup>29</sup> *He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.* <sup>30</sup> *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

The church is betrothed and promised as the intended bride of her husband, Jesus Christ. The marriage is not consummated.

**2 Corinthians 11:2,** <sup>2</sup> *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

At the end, we see the bride married to Jesus.

**Revelation 19:6-8,** <sup>6</sup> *And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"* <sup>7</sup> *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."* <sup>8</sup> *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

**Ephesians 5:25-32**, <sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,* <sup>26</sup> *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* <sup>27</sup> *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* <sup>28</sup> *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.* <sup>29</sup> *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.* <sup>30</sup> *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.* <sup>31</sup> *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* <sup>32</sup> *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

## **6. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 – Mystery of Antichrist**

**2 Thessalonians 2:7**, *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.*

As we have seen Paul was writing to the church in Thessaloniki about the rumour that the Day of the Lord has already come.

The Christians have been left behind to endure the trouble. Paul mentions about the Rapture.

Paul writes to them about two events that must take place for the Day of the Lord.

- First rebellion needs to take place
- Second revelation of Antichrist.

What is the apostasy?

The Greek word '*apostasia*' in **2 Thessalonians 2:3** means "departure, falling away, defection, revolt."

This end times' apostasy is the mass "falling away" of people from God. It will be unprecedented worldwide persecution against anyone who calls themselves as Christians.

Who is this man of lawlessness?

Its none other than the person who is referred as Antichrist. He will be Satan's henchman and a counterfeit. He will perform miracles, signs, and wonders by the power of Satan and ultimately deceive the world.

John wrote that many antichrists will precede the coming of the ultimate Antichrist (1 John 2:18). Referred as "the beast" in Revelation 13:1–10, "the little horn" in Daniel

7:8, and “the king who does as he pleases” in Daniel 11:36.

The mystery of iniquity is already at work in the world. But they are currently being restrained by the Holy Spirit, who is the Restrainer.

The Thessalonians knew the identity of the Restrainer, so Paul did not elaborate.

This “mystery” in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 concerns the working of lawlessness in the world which will be leading a worldwide rebellion against God. Right now, it is working in secret. The man of sin’s will rise to power and represent a climax of lawlessness, a satanic movement against the administration of God. This secret, behind-the-scenes movement is yet restrained but waiting to be revealed.

## **7. Romans 11:25 – Mystery of Israel**

We have dealt with this mystery as separate lesson as Israel’s past, present and Future.

## 8. Revelation 1:20 – mystery of 7 Stars & Candles

**Revelation 1:20**, "The **mystery of the seven stars** which you saw in My right hand, and the **seven golden lampstands**: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

**Revelation 1:11**, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to **the seven churches** which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Only these seven churches were selected. There were many other churches in Asia minor at that time.

Four applications:

1. Addressed to Local church. This is the message to Thyatira" [Revelation 2:18]. "This is the message of God to Sardis" (Revelation 3:1)
2. This was also for the universal message to all the churches of all the ages. There are messages to every church in every age in these letters to the seven churches of Asia.
3. Personal application is mentioned in this letter. Every message ends with this recurring word: "He

that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit of God says to the churches" [Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22]. So, to each one of us, if we have an ear to hear, we can get a message for us.

4. The mystery: "the mystery of the seven stars which thou saw . . . and the seven golden candlesticks" [Revelation 1:20]. The mystery is that these seven churches were selected and they are typology for the years to come.

We found that from chapter 4 the church isn't there. This is the mystery of the seven stars and the seven candlesticks.

The word "church" is never used again, not in the Revelation, until everything is fulfilled at the end. Until the nineteenth chapter of the book we see the church at the wedding supper as the Bride of Christ. [Revelation 19:6-10].

The structure of the letter written to the churches.

1. Name
2. Title Christ chosen to address
3. Commendation
4. Concern
5. Exhortation
6. Promise to the overcomer

7. He that has the ear let him hear

### **Seven Churches and the Church Age**

1. Ephesus – Apostolic Church
2. Smyrna – Persecuted Church
3. Pergamos – Married Church
4. Thyatira – Medieval Church
5. Sardis – Denominational Church
6. Philadelphia – Missionary church
7. Laodicea – Apostate Church

### **9. Revelation 17:5 – Mystery of Babylon**

**Revelation 17:3-5**, *So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.* <sup>4</sup>*The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.* <sup>5</sup>*And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

The whore of Babylon is closely affiliated with the end-times Antichrist.

The whore of Babylon is referred to as a mystery because we cannot be completely certain as to her identity. The passage does give us some clues.

**Revelation 17:9**, “Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.”

Many commentators link this passage with the Roman Catholic Church because in ancient times, the city of Rome was known as “the city on seven hills”. Because there are seven prominent hills that surround the city.

Whereas, verse 10 explains that the seven hills represent 7 kings or kingdoms, five of which have fallen, one that is and one that is to come. Therefore, the "whore of Babylon" cannot refer exclusively to Rome.

**Revelation 17:15**, “Then the angel said to me, ‘The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.’”

The whore of Babylon will have great worldwide influence over people and nations.

Verses 10-14 describe a series of eight and then ten kings who affiliate with the beast. The whore of Babylon will at one time have control over these kings (Revelation 17:18), but at some point, the kings will turn on her and destroy her (Revelation 17:16).

The whore of Babylon is an evil world system, controlled by the Antichrist, during the last days before Jesus' return. The whore of Babylon also has religious connotations spiritual adultery with the beast being the focus of an ungodly, end-times religious system.

## **10. Ephesians 1:9-10 – Mystery of Restoration**

There will be time when the fullness comes all things heaven in and earth will be summed up to Jesus Christ.

God will gather together all in Christ, that is the doctrine of unification.

**Ephesians 1:9-10**, <sup>9</sup> *having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,* <sup>10</sup> *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

Here Apostle Paul looks ahead by the revelation of Jesus Christ. That is when the salvation plan completes the restoration of all universal things that will fulfill the redemptive plan of God.

As we know all the plans and purposes of God are going to be fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

One day we will all be gathered in Christ. We all will be gathered to glory. We all will be the consummated bride of Jesus Christ. Everything in heaven and everything on earth that would-be believers in glory.

When time has been fulfilled, when all the purposes of time has come to an end and time is fulfilled as to His purpose and we leave time behind and we go to eternity. The gathering of everyone into one great bride that is one great glorious assembly of eternal saints.

### **11. Matthew 13 – Mystery of Kingdom**

Jesus came and proclaims as the King of the Jews but they rejected the King. The kingdom in its full fulfillment had to be postponed. And it had to be postponed to a future time. Until the second coming of Christ.

## **1. The parable of the Sower, and the four soils Matthew 13:3-23.**

This Parable shows what are the great hindrances of people hearing and coming into the Kingdom by the word of the Gospel.

The seed is the word of God, here called the word of the kingdom. The sower that scatters the seed is our Lord Jesus Christ, either by himself, or by his ministers.

The ground in which this seed is sown is the hearts of men and women, which are differently qualified.

Gospel's reception influences the result:

- The Seed along the Path: Some will not even listen.
- On Rocky Ground: Some will accept it, but soon fall away... They have no root in themselves, when times of trial come, they are gone.
- The Thorny Ground: Some will hold on longer, but gradually lose interest when trials and troubles comes.
- On Good Soil: Producing a good crop, in varying degrees.

**2. The parable of the Weeds, the Tares: Matthew 13:24-30** (expounded in 36-43)

Intended to show that there would be a mixture of good and bad in the Kingdom on earth. True and false prophets which would continue till the great separation between them in the judgment day.

The Weeds, the character hypocrites, and all profane and wicked people. The enemy that sowed the tares is the devil.

**3. The Fishing Net into the See: Matthew 13:47-50:**

Same intentions as the parable of the Weeds.

Every Christian must be an evangelist, an apostle, a fisher of men, employed in casting and drawing his net. This net should gather of every kind, as large dragnets do.

When the net is full and drawn to the shore, there shall be a separation between the good and bad. Hypocrites and true Christians shall then be parted.

The good shall be gathered into vessels, as valuable, and therefore to be carefully kept.

The bad shall be cast away, as vile and unprofitable and miserable.

#### **4. The Mustard Seed: Matthew 13:31-32**

The small beginning of Christ's Kingdom and how this will grow to be everlasting one. It may start small but it should grow up to fill our entire life, on earth and in eternity.

#### **5. The Yeast, the Leaven: Matthew 13:33**

The leaven hid in the dough, works there, it ferments. The word of God is quick and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). The leaven works speedily, so does the word, and yet gradually and strongly.

It does its work without noise so is the way of the Spirit of God. But it doesn't fail.

Hide the leaven in the dough, and all the world cannot hinder it from communicating its taste and relishing it, and yet none sees how it is done.

#### **6. The Treasure Hidden in the Field: Matthew 13:44**

The Kingdom is so great and wonderful that we must be willing to give up all, and quit all, and we will be big winners!

Jesus Christ is the true Treasure; in Him there is an abundance of all that which is rich and useful and glorious.

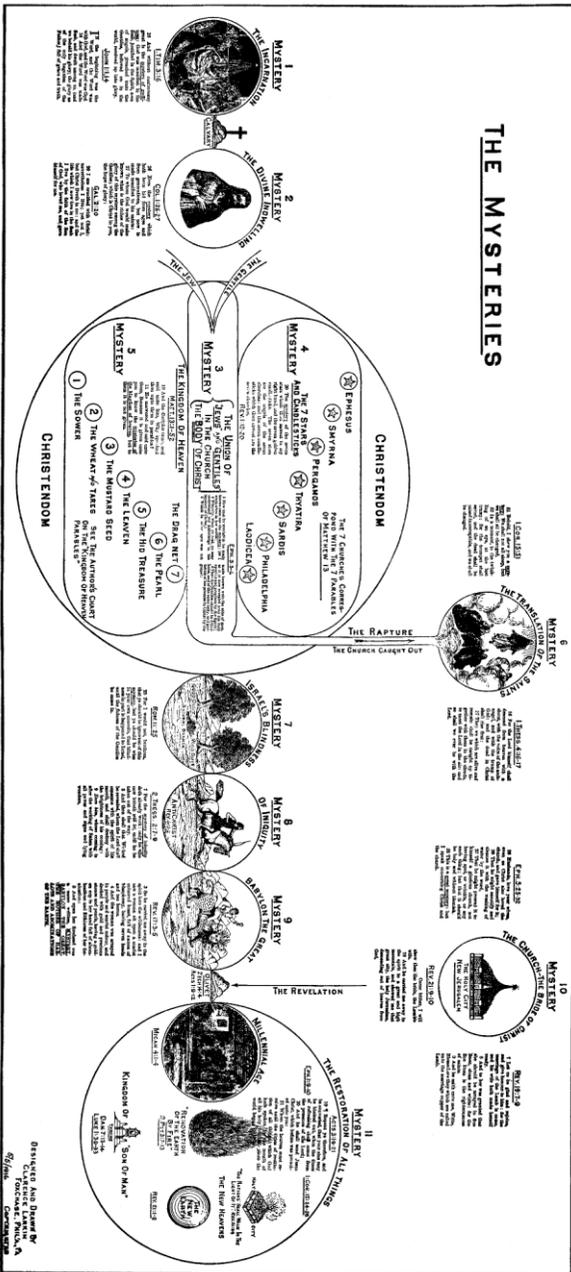
### **7. The Pearl of Great Price: Matthew 13:45-46**

One of the Treasure we must sell everything to get it! it's most important and valuable.

What Christ offers is worth giving up everything, even life itself, to obtain it.

Jesus Christ is the Pearl of great price, a Jewel of inestimable value to make us happy here and forever.

# THE MYSTERIES



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