

**‘The Mystery of Babylon’
(Revelation 17:3- 6)**

Intro: This mystery is a _____ for a number of reasons.

1. God has not revealed _____ there is to know about Him.
2. He _____ revealed everything that He sees as being sufficient for the time being.
3. Consider somethings about God, if you could ask Him now, what would you ask?

Perhaps a key insight may be found in verse 7, “should be finished” is the idea that something is _____ to a close, or coming to an end. And a reminder of the meaning of the word “mystery” being - a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding.

Somethings God has been very straight-forward about and there are no _____ - _____ questions while there are somethings and some processes that at this time are simply _____ and perhaps in eternity God will make them known. However, one of the most important aspects of the Christian life is that of _____! Whether Adam and Eve understood this aspect of their relationship with God in the Garden of Eden or not, we can learn something very important from that record.

1. God gave them a very clear _____ about eating of the “fruit of the tree of knowledge and evil. **Genesis 2:16 & 17.**
2. God is not under any _____ to fully explain Himself!
3. God meant for Adam and Eve to have an unwavering _____ and trust in Him through obedience.
4. Once Satan had _____ God, Adam could not say, “well, I didn’t fully understand the implications, I couldn’t see how my disobedience would play out!”

God manifested His _____ to them by giving them a very wide latitude – **Genesis 2:16.** Folks, the goodness of God should be more than _____ for us to have sufficient faith in Him and walk in obedience.

God, because He is infinitely wise and infinitely knowledgeable has out of these truths withheld things from various generations which to them were mysteries and later revealed to future generations. And there are some mysteries yet to be revealed soon, either here or in heaven. And we need to be very cautious about trying to _____ doors open before God desires.

I. There is the mystery of God – Revelation 10:5 – 7.

- A. In my search among commentators I trust, I couldn't find anyone who wanted to _____ this "Mystery of God" mentioned by the Apostle John.
- B. It isn't that others haven't tried and perhaps the reason being that they are convinced they have all the answers.
- C. So, what do we know?
1. This is a tribulation passage, so most likely the mystery is only _____ to this time in the Tribulation.
 - a. Perhaps it is about time that runs from "In the beginning" to **Rev. 10:6 & 7.**
 - b. Again it's significance may well be the final trumpet & its judgments.
 2. This takes place during the blowing of the seventh trumpet which signals the coming to an _____ of time – Revelation 10:6.
 3. This would indicate that right up to this point, time as one would know it, is going to _____ as the Great Tribulation is going to become an all war against Satan, sin & God.
- D. What stands as a "Mystery of God" during the Tribulation is why the suffering that will exist in the world, past, present and future.
1. God always has a _____ reason, a _____ answer & a _____ purpose.
 2. The battle as it has always existed from the fall of Satan to the final battle after the Millennium is righteousness verses unrighteousness and holiness versing godlessness.
- E. The questions are asked over and over again by those who do not know God and refuse to take the time to get know Him is, "If God know how things would play out from Lucifer's fall and man's fall, and the end of times, why did He create either?"
- F. Part of the answer is that God wanted a people who would love Him, walk with Him and fellowship with Him in righteousness. **Malachi 2:14 & 15.**
- G. If this is the process, then it is the right process whether we fully understand it or not. This is where faith comes in! Often times the means God chooses or the methods He choose may seem mysterious to us now, but in time we'll understand it all.