

(continued summary notes on chapters 10-11)

3. The "mystery of God" . The text is full of ideas!...when the seventh angel is "about to sound" the mystery of God is "completed". The particular verb tense is hard to render in this place (I think) and indicates something which has been acted on with certain results following or something which will be acted on as the climax of a train of events. The mystery is generally identified as one of three things:
  - the completion of the church
  - the problem of how Satan has ruled so to speak
  - the manner and affairs of the judgment of God.
4. The Little book sequence will remind the Bible student of Ezekiel 3. It is sweet to the taste bitter to the stomach...many scholars think this indicates it is hard on the understanding but pleasant to the general idea...like many prophecies of judgment or condemnation. Verse 11 is a reminder to John that while he is seeing the end of things...his own work is not over. It is a powerful reminder to us that while we may love the prophetic ideas very much, we still have a task to perform and we dare not allow our delight in the future to obscure the duty of today.
5. The measuring of the temple (11:1-2) and the time sequence is another of those specific times in Revelation. Here is the first mention of a period of 3½ years...a time when the witnesses give their witness in the face of trial but are immune. As olive trees (speech figure) they minister grace while as candlestands they show light. They are hated and their eventual death is a cause for rejoicing. Another 3½ year period shows up in Revelation 12 and these are combined with the 70th week of Daniel for the concept of a 7-year tribulation period on the earth. During this first period, the temple and the worshippers are secure (11:1-2) while the Gentiles control most other things. The situation changes radically in chapter 12.
6. The two witnesses themselves are variously identified as Moses and Elijah, Elijah and Enoch, etc. But no such identification is needed either for their ministry or their reception. It such should prove to be correct...is not...
7. The sounding of the seventh angel (11:15) announces that the entire work of God is complete. Some scholars think that revelation 12:1 immediately follows 11:14 in time and the seventh trumpet is blown in connexion with Revelation 19. Others think the announcement of verse 18 carries us to the end of the age and chapter 12 brings us back. Some think the fulfillment is predictive and certain so spoken of as being complete. At any rate it is noteworthy as to what God will do when He acts at this time....noteworthy and somewhat reassuring that neither the records nor the people have been "lost."

#### NOTES ON IMAGERY, SPEECH FIGURES, SYMBOLS, ETC. IN REVELATION 10-11

10:1. the description of the angel: the cloud marks the heavenly character, the rainbow continues the picture of the God who does not forget His promises, the picture of face and feet show the mercies and judgment of God at the same time.