



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Mysteries of Lawlessness and of the Rapture	SPEAKER	SP Daniel Foo
THEME	Mysteries Revealed to the Apostle Paul and the Church	DATE	17 & 18 July 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This sermon (part 3) covers the last two of the seven mysteries that were revealed to Apostle Paul and the Church.

They are the:

Mystery of Lawlessness (also known as the mystery of iniquity)

Mystery of the Rapture

All Christians must be aware of these mysteries. We have been warned of the following realities we will face where lawlessness will increase; lies and deception in particular. We are to guard our belief system against the knowledge of the world. We should expect to be hated by the world. Despite this, we do not lose heart and are to instead encourage each other to stay rooted in the Word. We connect to the Holy Spirit daily.

7 MYSTERIES

1. **Mystery of Lawlessness and Iniquity**

2 Thessalonians 2:7 tells us that the power of lawlessness/iniquity is already at work. We should be aware the evil one that works among believers to cast doubt in God, distorts the truth of the Bible, and distracts us from the simplicity which is in Christ Jesus. It works to divide His people and, ultimately, causes death. The evil one cannot harm us physically because we are protected, so he attacks the Church using lies and deception.

We, the Church, are restraining the world by convicting the world of sin, wrongdoing, of righteousness and judgment. We are the salt in the world, used to slow down the decay of this world. We, the church, are the light. We shine God's truth into the darkness. The darkness flees when light shines. As long as the Church is around, we are restraining lawlessness/iniquity, for example, through prayer. Once we are taken away in the Rapture, lawlessness and iniquity will come to their fullness.

This mystery of lawlessness and iniquity has been at work since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sinful men suppressed the truth so God gave them up to a debased mind. They indulged in all kinds of evil and worshipped created things instead of the Creator. Once the Church is removed from the scene, the Anti-Christ will appear. He will release all kind of lawlessness and iniquity on the earth.

2. Mystery of Rapture

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 talks about the mystery of the Rapture. This is revealed to the Church and is no longer a mystery, but our blessed hope (Titus 2:13,12).

Two important principles:

- The Righteous are always delivered from the wrath of God. We are righteous because of the blood of Christ (1 Thess 1:10). This wrath of God is not the same as the trouble of the world, which is due to the fallenness of man.
- We will have new, raptured, immortal, incorruptible and glorified bodies. There will be no more aches, illness, sickness, sadness and death in this body. Instead, we will receive a body more perfect and glorious than the bodies we have now.

Romans 11:25 shows us blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in (into the Church). Until the last Gentile is born again, then Israel's spiritual eyes will open to the truth of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. At that point, the Church will be raptured.

The Rapture is where born-again Christians are caught up in the air to meet Jesus Christ. The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. This is also the moment The Holy Spirit will leave with the Church.

CONCLUSION

The rapture can happen anytime now – 5, 10, 15 or 20 years from today. What should we do?

Paul mentions three things very clearly in Titus 2:12, 13:

1. We need to live soberly because we are in the present age of lawlessness. Be clear minded (sober) when we pray. 1 Peter 4:7, 5:8, 2 Peter 3:18
2. We need to live righteously. Matthew 6:33, Romans 1:17, James 5:16
3. We need to live in a godly manner, which means God is always a factor in our lives, always under consideration. 1 Timothy 6:6, 1 Timothy 3:5

Are you rapture ready?

QUESTIONS

1. Lawlessness/Iniquity began when Man rebelled against God in Genesis, and will continue to increase in the last days. Lies and deception will impact believers (1 Tim 4:1-2). Discuss social norms that are subtly unbiblical which might be found in the areas of entertainment, social media, cultural practices etc.

2. Believers are called to be salt and light on this earth to restrain evil, wickedness, unrighteousness, and wrongdoing (1 Thess 2:7). Discuss how believers can endeavour to be ambassadors of God in the community. How can we be sensitive to the needs of the community and model a life of holiness?

3. Are you rapture-ready? If you were to stand before God today, how will you give an account of your life lived so far? Have you lived a sober, righteous, and godly life in the present age of lawlessness? To what extent have you made God the deciding factor in all areas of your life (decisions, career, relationships, assets)?