

Revelation 10 Part 4

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we continue our look at the book of Revelation, this is part twenty-four, and we stay for another session or two on chapter ten verse seven. It's obviously a key verse, especially for today.

'But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.'

So, in the last couple of sessions, we've looked at who and what this seventh angel is. Remember an angel is a messenger, maybe a person or a being sent by God with wings, but it can also be you or I or anyone carrying the gospel message, or bringing something that is special. It is simply a message carrier.

However, this verse is linked with a prophet, and we looked and we found that Jesus had promised us Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. The day of the Lord is, of course, the thousand year reign of Christ. It's great for us, it's dreadful for the people of the world who have rejected the Christian message.

The key thing here that we're going to look at is the prophet and the prophet Elijah. Jesus promised that Elijah would come and restore all things. We know John the Baptist was there but he didn't restore anything so this is a different Elijah. And we've had two thousand years of Christian church, and we've moved considerably away from some of the original teachings as in the book of Acts. But we'll go into that right now.

We expect a prophet in our time. He will be like Elijah. You know that he was a wilderness man, he stood alone, he went against the theological thoughts of the day, because, of course, in those days it was Jezebel, a woman who was controlling the churches and it was Baal worship. And the people were confused which to do.

Now, Elijah had a great showdown to sort out, so that the people could decide. It's in One Kings chapter eighteen verses eighteen to forty. And basically, if you recall the story, Elijah challenged four hundred prophets of Baal, he was on his own. They each built an altar, each were to build an altar, each was to put a sacrifice on the altar, and each was to call down fire from heaven. And the one who called down fire from heaven and proved that he was right was the one to follow, the god to follow. The Baal people did their best. They built a great big altar. They put the sacrifice there. They called down fire from heaven and nothing happened. Nothing happened at all. They continued throughout the day. They cut themselves, self-adulation if you like, they wanted to punish themselves, to make themselves pure enough to have God listen to them. But nothing happened. And then in the evening time, and note it is the evening time, it's the end of the day, we think, we believe we're in the last days so it's got to be evening time, Elijah then had the people pour water etcetera over the sacrifice and fire came down from heaven and consumed it all.

Now, fire, of course, is termed up many times in the bible as a representation of God. The Pillar of Fire for the people in the wilderness. There was the Pillar of Fire in a bush that Moses saw. And that same light, that same Pillar of Fire, was what Paul/Saul saw on the road to Damascus. That's why he recognised it as God and that's why he said 'Who art Thou, LORD?'

Jesus Himself claimed to be the Light of the world. He is the Pillar of Fire in human form. And He went about getting rid of demons, healing the sick and so on. He was bringing light back into bodies

and into people. I've got to be careful here, because a lot of people concentrate only on the miracles. The key things about Jesus was that He taught. He gave us the words of God. He is the Word of God. On the other hand, of course, there's some people who concentrate entirely on the Word, and they have nothing to do with anything spiritual, there's no spiritual gifts. So, we've got to get a balance between those two.

William Branham was the mouthpiece of God for this age, we believe. He's rather like a microphone. A microphone that I'm speaking into right now cannot of its own accord make words and record them. It is only an instrument that will accept the words I speak and put them onto the computer and put them onto sound waves so that they can be broadcast later. The microphone itself does nothing. A true prophet of God does not add his own words or his own concepts. He waits on God to bring God's Word to us.

In the verse seven that we've just read it says, '*when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished*.' When he begins to sound. One of the things about Bro. Branham's ministry is that from 1946AD many, but not all, many of his sermons were recorded. He began to sound then. All those recordings have been, or as many as we can find, put onto tape and onto disc and into MP3 format and so on, so that people can still listen to them.

That voice is still standing, but when he began to sound the mystery of God was finished. He came with an understanding of the Godhead that the church no longer had. Most churches have a Trinitarian concept of God being in three persons. Now, I quite understand that many people believe that God is One and this three person thing is just an illustration. But it goes a little bit deeper than that.

God is One. In the sense that He is All in All. Let's go back before the creation of the world to before Genesis chapter one when there was only eternity and there was only God, and we can't even call Him God because there was no one or nothing to worship Him. And God is an object of worship. Originally there was only Elohim, the I Am.

He had in Himself the ability to be a Saviour, to be a healer, to be a helper, to be a million and one different things that we know Christ is. And yet He couldn't express those things because He was in eternity on His own. To save anyone there had to be someone lost. To heal anyone there had to be someone sick. To express His love for people they had to be lost and He had to be able to find them again and bring them back to Himself. Hence there is this concept of God having all these attributes but not being able to express them in eternity. So He had to project something out of Himself that would make those other things, the people, that would allow those attributes to become a reality.

The thoughts were in Him, just as your thoughts remain in you until you express them, so it is with God. Because, of course, we're made in the image of God. So when my thoughts are expressed I speak them. I could act them, I could draw them, I could do that, but speaking is the medium that God chose. So God spoke 'Let there be —' And when God speaks the words come out of Him into another dimension other than Himself. They are His thoughts. They are the same as His thoughts. They are His thoughts expressed. And that is Jesus Christ. The thoughts of God expressed. They are no different than God. They are Him in a different form. And the life that is in God that also is an expression of God. So there isn't three different people, three different individuals that are God. It is one God expressing Himself as a Father, as a Son, as the Holy Ghost.

So the Trinitarian concept of three different gods is really, or three different people I should say, because a person is an individual, that's the whole point of being a person, is an individual, thought, concept, being, and so on, it's confusing to say the least.

So one of the things that he brought back was this Godhead concept of God being One. Not that it's new, it's all the way through the bible. We can go back to Isaiah chapter forty-three verse ten where it says, *'Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.*

I, even I, am the LORD; and beside Me there is no saviour.'

God is the Saviour. It's the same One as created everything, Who is everything, Who is LORD of all.

Now, several ministers wanted to have a discussion, a showdown with Bro. Branham over the Godhead. They were concerned. So they decided to arrange a meeting and Bro. Tommy Hicks, if people happen to remember him, famous evangelist and healer, helped to arrange that meeting. He went to Bro. Branham and he said 'Look, we're going to have a meeting here, and etcetera, etcetera, etcetera,' and the Holy Ghost warned Bro. Branham that this was going to be a decisive meeting. But Bro. Branham told Tommy Hicks 'Look, the room you've hired you're not going to get, it's going to be a different room. And incidentally there's going to be such-and-such a person there and they're going to sit in such-and-such an order and -' He told them basically who was going to be there and who would be sitting where and so on. Bro. Tommy Hicks was 'Oh, okay, thank you, Bro. Branham' and off he went. He didn't believe the concept that the hall or the room that he had booked would not be available, but, sure enough, the people who owned it contacted him and apologised and said 'Look, we've double-booked, you'll have to get another room'. So he got another room and they all met and Bro. Branham who normally avoids any conflict went along. And when they all got into the room and all sat down Bro. Branham said 'Look, you told me that we would meet at so-and-so, I told you it would be in a room' and he described the room, and he said 'Look, you're all sitting in the order I said you would be sitting. Now, have you got a question about the Godhead? If you have, come and stand on my right side with your bible and show me.' There was silence. No one did anything. The showdown happened again. This was the spirit of Elijah.

May God bless you.