

The Seven Thunders

The book of Revelation is full of symbolism, mystery, and things that are rather odd. Its most mysterious secret is probably the riddle of the Seven Thunders:

Revelation 10:1: “And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, **seven thunders uttered their voices.**

4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, **Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.”**

As soon as the passage tells us that the seven “thunders” said something, it then states that John wasn’t allowed to tell us what they said! All we are permitted to know is that they did, in fact, say *something* – but their words are a complete mystery.

I have done some research on this passage, and as far as I can tell no one has any idea what they said. There is a lot of speculation, but there are no answers. Since the seven thunders are not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible, there is no way we can find out what they had to say. This is one of those things that God has hidden from us.

Some people think that when we get to Heaven we will know everything there is to know – that as soon as we set foot in Paradise we will be zapped with the full knowledge of God. However, that is not the case. Only God has all knowledge; it is one of the things that make Him who He is. We will never share the full knowledge of God. However, a day will come when we will know more than we know now:

Ephesians 4:11: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 **Till we all come in the unity of the faith,** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”

During this part of history God has appointed some as pastors and some as teachers so that we might learn and become one in the faith. One day, however, that task will be accomplished. At that point the roles of evangelist and pastor and teacher will be done away with. They won't be needed anymore because we will *all* be mature in the faith. We will not know everything that God knows, but we will have achieved perfection. (It is possible to be perfect without knowing everything. For example, in order to obey God perfectly we need knowledge of His commands, not knowledge of quantum physics. It is possible to obey God without having a complete understanding of how subatomic particles behave.)

There are some things that God has chosen not to tell us. The mystery of the Seven Thunders is not the only example of this. On one occasion Paul was given a vision of Heaven that God did not allow him to discuss:

2 Corinthians 12:1: "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) **such an one caught up to the third heaven.**

3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, **which it is not lawful for a man to utter."**

One aspect of God that we tend to overlook is that sometimes God deliberately keeps things hidden. The book of Proverbs talks about this:

Proverbs 25:2: "**It is the glory of God to conceal a thing:** but the honour of kings is to search out a matter."

Sometimes God keeps things hidden for thousands of years. Adam and Eve knew that a Savior would come, but the full details were not revealed until the days of the prophets. There are some things that God has chosen to reveal to us, and there are other things that God has kept secret. That is simply God's prerogative. As the Bible says:

Deuteronomy 29:29: "**The secret things belong unto the Lord** our God: but **those things which are revealed belong unto us** and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

It is entirely possible that God will keep some things a

secret for all of eternity. There are other things, though, that God has revealed to us – and He has revealed those things *so that we might serve Him*.

The Seven Thunders is one of the great mysteries of Revelation, but it will not be a mystery forever. The day will come when it will finally be time for the Thunders to speak, and when that happens we will be in Heaven to hear it. We will then know exactly what John was not permitted to reveal.