

## SIX REASONS WHY THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS IS GREAT

*1Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

The **first reason** is because God was manifest in flesh. This is astonishing because God did not take on the form of any other creature except ours. “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham” (Hebrews 2:16). This is why humans must behold the God who was manifest in flesh. Shepherds in Bethlehem, wise men from the East, religious scribes, and even an evil King, such as Herod, all had one common interest in the greatest news flash in the history of the world: God was manifest in the flesh. Go and see him! John the Baptist shouted “Behold the Lamb of God!” We must all see him spiritually speaking and acknowledge that he is God manifest in the flesh. Why? Because he came in our form – the Almighty God who fills the universe, whom heaven and earth cannot contain, put on flesh and blood for our sakes.

He conferred this honor upon us, hence we must behold him. In other words, because God was manifest in flesh, everyone who is in the form of flesh, must leave everything – as the shepherds and wise men were commanded – and run to Bethlehem to behold him and give him gifts to thank him and bless him because he came to save us. God was manifested in flesh so we can be lifted up to become royal and like angels. Adamic flesh hindered our walk with God and blocked access to heaven, so God came to earth with a new, heavenly flesh to offer us access to heaven again. How can we ignore him! We have left everything so we can come to this conference in Switzerland to thank and worship Jesus who was manifest in the flesh for us.

*Rom 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*

The **second reason** why the mystery of godliness is great is because God was justified in the Spirit. It is not sufficient that God is manifest in the flesh – he must be justified by the Spirit of God. This is precisely what we see in the life of Jesus. The Holy Spirit descended as a dove upon him at the River Jordan; the Spirit declared with a booming voice, “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17) and the Spirit of God raised this body from the dead. In addition, since the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit rushed to the earth to testify that Jesus is God. The mystery of God

is great because the Holy Spirit justifies and glorifies Jesus Christ. “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me” (John 15:26). The Spirit does miracles in Jesus name – each time the dead are raised, bodies healed and characters changed to become holy, the Spirit is testifying about the godhead and glory of Jesus Christ. When the Apostles were asked in which name they healed the lame man at the Temple, the Spirit in them said, “

*Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*

The **third reason** why the mystery of godliness is great is because Jesus was seen of angels. Because God was manifest in the flesh, good angels will no longer have to fight and suffer at the hands of evil angels – Jesus will cast Satan and his angels into hell. Hallelujah! This is why angels told the shepherds to rush to Bethlehem; this is why they ministered to the Lord in the wilderness during the temptation; this is why they strengthened him at Gethsemane and came to the tomb and talked to the women about his resurrection. It is clear that angels followed the ministry of the Lord Jesus very carefully. Good angels have been fighting evil ones since the fall of Lucifer. They have been mocked, persecuted and even attacked by evil angels, as was the case during the time of Daniel, when the Prince of Persia hindered the angel sent to him (Daniel 10:20). Consider the pain and anguish holy angels experience when they fly over cities given to every wickedness – idolatry, murder etc. Oh, how they rejoiced when God was manifest in the flesh! Angels were not excited when Copernicus and Galileo discovered the earth was round and revolved around the Sun; they knew this from the day God created the universe. The greatest news flash for angels was when God was manifest in the flesh.

Next, **the fourth reason** why the mystery of godliness is great is because Jesus is preached unto the gentiles. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). What a shock this was for the Jews – including Peter! Gentiles are dogs, how can the God of Abraham be preached to them? Gentiles worship idols and are uncircumcised; why will the doctrine of the one true God be preached to them? Hallelujah! Thank God for his mercy! When he was manifest in the flesh, he was not manifest in the flesh for Jewish flesh alone – or European or African or Asian, but for all flesh. God chose the most anti-gentile Jew by the name of Saul of Tarsus and made him the Apostle to the gentiles. What did the most anti-gentile Jew write?

***Eph 2:11** Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

***Eph 2:1** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

***Eph 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

God manifest in the flesh is still being preached unto the gentiles. Finally, **the fifth reason** for the greatness of the mystery of God is because the name of Jesus and his salvation are believed on in the world. Why is this great? Just look around you in the world today! Greed, murder, envy, exploitation and every wickedness seems to have been multiplied a thousand times. And yet, there are people who still hold on to the name of Jesus, like we do in this conference. There are more than 7000 who have not yet bowed the knee to false gods. There is a great darkness, but the light of Jesus is greater! Isn't it interesting that immediately after 1 Timothy 3:16 comes 1 Timothy 4:1? "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils". In other words, the last days which we live in are clearly spiritually dangerous times – however, 1 Timothy 3:16 promises us that the name of Jesus will persevere and be believed on in the world even in these terrible times. Praise Jesus! This is why the mystery of godliness is great – its origin, power and end is forever great.

**The sixth reason** is that Jesus was received up into glory. Jesus was received up into glory with angels at his side on the Mount of Olives. The apostles witnessed his glorious ascension. If the Lord so ascended into glory, surely, he will return in glory. He will return riding on the clouds – only Jehovah rode the clouds in the Old Testament, which proves Jesus is Jehovah and will return in the clouds in glory. Amen!