earth; the city and temple of God are defiled and  
trodden down; the False Christ arises and blasphemes,  
works miracles, destroys the saints of God, and prospers.  
How can this be consistent with the character of  
Jehovah? This is the trying question. While mercy  
lasts, the full glory of His perfections cannot be displayed. Hence, just at the very time that patience on  
God’s part is about to be put away, the elements of the  
mystery are at their fullest development.  
  
 8. “And the voice which I heard out of the heaven (I heard)  
again speaking with me, and saying, Go, take the book which  
has been opened, (which is) in the hand of the angel who stands  
on the sea, and on the land. 9. And I went away to the angel,  
and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he saith unto  
me, Take it and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but  
in thy mouth it shall be sweet as honey. 10. And I took the  
little book out of the hand of the angel, and ate it up; and it was  
in my mouth sweet as honey: and when I had eaten it, my belly  
was made bitter.”  
  
 The angel not only accedes to his request, but adds  
the command to eat it. By the eating of the book is  
meant faith’s reception of its contents. Thus in the  
parallel case of Ezekiel’s roll, God says, “Son of man,  
all my words that I shall speak unto thee *receive in  
thine heart*” (iii. 10). Of the New Covenant God says,  
“*I will put my law in their inward parts*, and *write it in  
their hearts*” (Jer. xxxi 33). In the new earth there is  
no book at all as a rule to men. There is no law without.  
It is written within.  
 The opening of the book had been already effected.  
Thus we still advance. At first the book is beheld by  
John, but is sealed up with seven seals, and the angels  
nearest the throne are unable even to behold it. The  
Mystery of God was at its height. The book is opened in  
heaven. Mystery is removed by degrees to those on  
high. But when the book is eaten on earth, The Mystery  
is understood even by God’s earthly servants. But