

The Mystery

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"Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the Revelation of The Mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25).

Paul's gospel was firmly centered in the "preaching" [i.e., proclaiming] of Jesus Christ. Yet Paul did not merely proclaim Jesus Christ based on His earthly ministry as recorded in the four "Gospels" of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Instead he proclaimed Jesus Christ based upon and advancement in truth from God; and progression known as "the Revelation of The Mystery."

Why Is It Called *THE MYSTERY*?

Because it was Kept Secret.

*"... The Revelation of The Mystery, which was **kept secret since the world began**" (Romans 16:25).*

Because it was Hid in God.

*"... The fellowship of The Mystery, **which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God ...**" (Ephesians 3:9).*

Because it was Hid from Ages and from Generations.

*"Even The Mystery which **hath been hid from ages and from generations ...**" (Colossians 1:26).*

*"**Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men ...**" (Ephesians 3:5).*

Because it was Unsearchable.

*"... That I should preach among the Gentiles the **unsearchable riches of Christ**" (Ephesians 3:8).*

Paul's message was "unsearchable," i.e., it was untraceable – unlocatable – in the rest of Scripture. (For a further look at *THE MYSTERY* study the following references: Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-4; 6:19; Colossians 4:3; I Timothy 3:9.)

Where Did *THE MYSTERY* Originate?

It Came as a Direct, Divine Revelation.

"I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**" (Galatians 1:11-12).

"... **By revelation He made known unto me The Mystery** ..." (Ephesians 3:3).

"... I will come to **visions and revelations of the Lord ... the abundance of the revelations** ..." (II Corinthians 12:1, 7).

The last words of the Lord Jesus Christ are not recorded in the book of Acts (chapter one).

To Whom Was *THE MYSTERY* Revealed?

Paul was the Recipient of THE MYSTERY.

"... The gospel of the uncircumcision **was committed unto me** ..." (Galatians 2:7).

"... The dispensation of the grace of God **which is given me** ..." (Ephesians 3:2).

"... The dispensation of God **which is given to me** ..." (Colossians 1:25).

"... The gospel which was preached of me **is not after man** ..." (Galatians 1:11).

Paul wrote down the words concerning our Lord Jesus Christ (I Timothy 6:3) for the Body of Christ in this dispensation of Grace (Ephesians 3:2).

Paul was an apostle of the Lord (Galatians 1:15, 16; 2:8; Acts 9:15; I Timothy 2:7; II Timothy 1:11; Acts 26:16-17; Romans 11:13; 15:16).

What Does *THE MYSTERY* Contain?

The Formation of the Body of Christ.

No other Bible author speaks of the Body of Christ.

Until Paul's reception of the revelation of *THE MYSTERY*, Israel had been the instrument of God. Now a new group of individuals, called out from among the nations, are being formed as the instrument of God (I Corinthians 10:17; 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4, 12; Romans 12:5;

Colossians 1:18; 3:15). This body of individuals is made up of Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14-18; 3:6) and begins with Paul (I Timothy 1:13-16). The body of Christ is God's *ecclesia* ("the church" – Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 24). The body of Christ is a totally new creation (Ephesians 2:15; Galatians 6:15; II Corinthians 5:17).

The Present Dispensation

(i.e., Administration) of Grace.

No other Bible author speaks of this dispensation.

This dispensation begins with Paul (Ephesians 3:2; Colossians 1:25). Grace has such control in this dispensation it is said to "reign" (Romans 5:21).

The Gospel of the Grace of God.

No other Bible author speaks of this gospel.

This wonderful gospel emphasizes and magnifies God's grace. Paul uses the word "grace" over 100 times in his epistles (more than any other Bible author.) This gospel was provided for by the finished redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it was not revealed until Paul (I Timothy 2:5-7; II Timothy 1:9-11).

The Temporary Setting Aside of Israel.

The revelation of THE MYSTERY gives the only scriptural answer to why God is not now dealing with the nation of Israel (Romans 11:11-15, 25). In the program of the "kingdom of heaven" the Gentiles were to be blessed by Israel's rise (Isaiah 11:1, 10). Yet, according to THE MYSTERY, the Gentiles are blessed through the fall of Israel.

The One Baptism.

There were "divers" (many) baptisms under God's program for Israel (Hebrews 6:2; 9:10). By contrast, the revelation of THE MYSTERY has only ONE baptism, which is spiritual (Ephesians 4:4; I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 1:17).

The Heavenly Position of the Body of Christ.

Whereas Israel's hope was an earthly one, THE MYSTERY reveals a heavenly hope for the believers in this age (Ephesians 1:3; 2:6; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1-3).

The Complete, Absolute and Total Forgiveness of Sins.

THE MYSTERY reveals that all sins have been forgiven entirely, thoroughly, perfectly, and finally (Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 1:7; Acts 13:38-39; Titus 2:14).

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