



*Mysteries
of the
Kingdom
of God*

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Introduction

Wouldn't you like to know the "Mysteries of God?" I sure would. If we could solve some of the mysteries, we might come to know God in a real personal way.

The problem is...they are hidden in plain sight. That's right; God hid them in parables, stories, prophecies, ancient text and alternate realities so he could reveal them in His own time. Even His wisdom was hidden for ages and revealed to only a certain few.

The word "mystery" has a twofold meaning. It means that which is concealed from men until the time for its disclosure and it also means that which in itself, by reason of its own inherent greatness, surpasses human comprehension. Both meanings apply.

Mysteries of the "Kingdom of Heaven"

*"And the disciples came, and said unto him, why speak thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given."*

Matthew 13:10-11

The mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven are the secrets that He has hidden in all the past ages of man's existence but are now, in these last days being revealed. I have listed a few in this eBook but am sure there are more, Search them out for yourself. Seek and you will find.

Jesus was ready to share those mysteries with the generation that saw Him in the flesh but they did not want to know. They had eyes to see and ears to hear but would not. That is why He spoke to them in parables, so they would not see or hear what God had in store for them. Only His disciples were to find out because they wanted to know.

There is a real danger in purposeful neglect or rejection of God's truth. He could decide, like He did back in Biblical days, to leave you out of the loop and not send you the eMail. Then you will be caught unaware when the move of God comes and His judgment falls upon the ungodly.

Mystery Equals Secret

Mystery is another word for Secret. God has many secrets and each one comes with its own wow factor. *Here Are A few To Consider.*

*“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.”*

Paul writes to Timothy telling him the secret of all the ages. The secret is...that God was manifested in the flesh. Think about it...God became man. That means He set aside His deity to be human. That's like saying you or me set aside our humanity to be a bird. Why would we do that? That's the mystery.

The bible sheds some light on the subject. This is what the apostle John wrote; **John 1:1-4, 10-14**

*“In the beginning was the Word, **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

To understand why, we need to go back to the beginning when God made man. **Genesis 1:26**

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

We were made, originally, in the image and likeness of God. But sin entered into the heart of Adam, the 1st man and death because its penalty. That death passed upon all me. God came as man to over through sin and death so we could gain victory over it too. **Romans 5:12**

God is our redeemer. His plan was to live the life we were designed to live and pay the penalty of death that was ours to pay.

The apostle John put it into perspective when he quoted Jesus as recorded in chapter three of his gospel.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16

“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.” Other translations render the phrase as **“the secret power of lawlessness”** (NIV) or **“the mystery of lawlessness”** (ESV and NASB)

The secret related to iniquity or lawlessness is that it exists in all of us. We house the very evil that Jesus died for. It is the beast within us that rises up in a rampage of lawbreaking actions as it rules over our souls.

God didn't allow iniquity to soar through His heaven. He, instead, kept it in the prison of the human soul and there condemned it to death. **Romans 5:12-17**

Death in Adam, Life in the Messiah

¹² *Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death resulted from sin, therefore everyone dies, because everyone has sinned.*

¹³ *Certainly sin was in the world before the Law was given, but no record of sin is kept when there is no Law.* ¹⁴ *Nevertheless, death ruled from the time of Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the same way Adam did when he disobeyed. He is a foreshadowing of the one who would come.*

¹⁵ But God's free gift is not like Adam's offense. For if many people died as the result of one man's offense, how much more have God's grace and the free gift given through the kindness of one man, Jesus the Messiah, been showered on many people!

¹⁶ Nor can the free gift be compared to what came through the man who sinned. For the sentence that followed one man's offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift brought justification, even after many offenses.

¹⁷ For if, through one man, death ruled because of that man's offense, how much more will those who receive such overflowing grace and the gift of righteousness rule in life because of one man, Jesus the Messiah!
(International Standard Version)

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

*“Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”*

Based upon the above scripture, we cannot go to heaven when we die. We are flesh and blood. However, God made a way where there was no way. He sent Jesus to be the way and through Him we can overcome the judgment of death and inherit the kingdom. John 3:16

The secret or mystery is that we will be changed by the power of God. Our mortal bodies will instantly take on immortality, which is the ability to live forever. The sting of death will fade away and we will rejoice in our newly suited heavenly bodies.

The mystery of God is His great love for His children and His divine plan to redeem them, deliver them and present them to His Son as an eternal bride.

I Corinthians 2:7

“But **we speak God's wisdom in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;”

When we speak God’s wisdom, it comes from a life of experience walking with God. He tells us stuff about what to do or not do in situations that we face during day after day. Paul is saying that he is speaking from the secrets of God that were shared with him during his encounter(s) with God.

This is nothing more than Divine revelation. It happens all the time among Christians that seek the Lord, pray, study the scriptures and do His will. You get the mind of Christ when you seek Him and He gives you the answers to your questions and concerns.

II Corinthians 3:18

*“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are **changed into the same image** from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord?”*

The beautiful picture that emerges in the looking glass, as you continually gaze into it is *an ever changing you*. It’s almost like a caterpillar that goes through metamorphism to eventually become a new creature...the butterfly. From glory to glory, slow but steady, as we read and apply God’s Word, we are changed into the very image of Christ.

As a result of beholding God's Glory in the looking glass (The Bible), we are "being transformed" "being changed" The verb is *metamorphoō*, "to change inwardly in fundamental character or condition, be changed, be transformed." It is a compound verb, formed from *meta-*, "exchange, transfer, transmutation" + *morphoō*, "to form, shape." From this we get our English word "metamorphosis.

This is the mystery of the looking glass. People will see you and they will see God's image. They will see His image growing brighter and brighter as you look into the looking glass.

Paul is also using the looking glass to show the transformation from the Law to Grace. It eventually changes, as does its foundation upon which we stand. Our salvation now is in Jesus, not the Law of Moses. He made this clear in **Galatians 3:1-3** when he said...

“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

6. Mystery of the Indwelling Christ

Colossians 1:26-28

*“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory** “*

God has a secret that He wanted His children to know. First, it was that His love is not restricted to just the Jews. The revelation to Paul was that the Gentiles were also included in God's plan of salvation.

Second, the Jew and the Gentile would come together under God's grace to form the essence of God's children and both would be blessed with the indwelling spirit of Christ.

Third, Christ indwelling His children would be the hope of their glory. It would provide a reason to go on in troubled times and a reason to rejoice in good times. It would be the purpose for which they were created.

“That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel. “Ephesians 3:6

7. Mystery of the Seven Stars and Lampstands

Revelation 1:20

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou saw in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou saw are the seven churches.”

In the New Testament, the Greek word for angels (ἄγγελος) is not only used for heavenly angels, but also used for human messengers, such as John the Baptist (Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, Luke 7:27) and God's prophets (**Revelation 22:8-9**)

The seven lamps allude to the branches of human knowledge, represented by the six lamps inclined inwards towards, and symbolically guided by, the light of God represented by the central lamp. The menorah also symbolizes the creation in seven days, with the center light representing the Sabbath.

Isaiah 11:2–3 (NASB). Including the Spirit of the Lord, and the Spirits of wisdom, of understanding, of counsel, of might, of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, here are represented the seven Spirits, which are before the throne of God.

The seven Churches are named for their locations. The Book of Revelation provides descriptions of each Church.

Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7) -- The church known for having labored hard and not fainted, and separating themselves from the wicked; admonished for having forsaken its first love (2:4)

Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11) -- The church admired for its tribulation and poverty; forecast to suffer persecution (2:10)

Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17) -- The church where 'Satan's seat' or 'throne' is; needed to repent of allowing false teachers (2:16)

Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29) -- The church known for its charity, whose "latter works are greater than the former;" held the teachings of a false prophetess (2:20)

Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6) -- The church that has a good name; cautioned to fortify itself and return to God through repentance (3:2-3)

Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13) -- The church steadfast in faith, that had kept God's word and endured patiently (3:10)

Laodicea, near Denizli (see Laodicean Church) (Revelation 3:14-22) -- The church that was lukewarm and insipid (to God) (3:16)

The mystery or secret is the word picture of the church. It provided a snapshot of the 1st century church, the condition of the church as it passed through the ages and the final state of the church at the end of time.

8. Mystery of Israel's Blindness

Romans 11:25

*"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be **ignorant of this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come."*

Dr. H. A. Ironside defines the word *mystery* as follows:

"As used in the New Testament, the mysteries are those truths which in Old Testament days were kept in silence, but which are now the common property of all believers. They are not special truths for a special class, but every Christian is privileged to enter into the knowledge of these mysteries....

They are simple truths of tremendous importance, some of which, at least, have been ignored by the vast majority of theologians ancient and modern." Yet, we read that Paul would not have us to be ignorant concerning these things!

Why is Israel an enemy of the Gospel in this age and blinded in unbelief? Paul answers this by stating that Israel had sought after the "**law of righteousness**" but had not attained it "because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law, for they stumbled at that stumbling-stone" which is Christ (**Rom. 9:31-33**).

They could not accept personal righteousness by the Grace of God. After all, they were given the 10 commandments as a life long guide. Moses gave them the Law. Why now should they abandon it for a gift that seemed like another religious scam. They didn't understand and would not listen. Their blindness is self-induced because they would not listen and would not see. Hear what Jesus said...

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matthew 5:17

9. Mystery of Iniquity

2nd Thessalonians 2:7-8

*"For the **mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."*

Paul's intent in this passage is to correct a false teaching that was being propagated, namely, that the Day of the Lord (the end times' judgment) had already come and the Christians of Thessalonica had been left behind to endure it.

Paul wants to set the record straight about Christ's return and our gathering together to Him. Paul states that the two events that go before the Day of the Lord are the apostasy (or "the rebellion") and the revelation of the man of lawlessness (the Antichrist). The "mystery of iniquity" that will one day culminate in the appearance of the Antichrist is already at work in the world, but it is being restrained for now so that the world is not as evil as it could be (but will be, once the Restraint is removed from the world).

We are under God's unmerited favor not His anger or judgment. God is not an "Indian Giver" that gives and then takes back. His gift of Salvation is eternal.

10. Mystery of Restoration

Ephesians 1:9-10

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:"

All things are being restored to their original purpose. Man is being cleansed of sin. There will be a new Heaven and a new earth. Heaven and earth will be united as one kingdom under the control of Jesus, God's anointed one. This fact was hidden from sight for generations.

God was always far away in Heaven and Man was way down here separate and apart. The time is coming that God will not hide Himself away for us but we will know His and He knows us. Total unity of Spirit will usher in a new age, called, "Forever"

11. Mystery of The Gospel

Ephesians 6:19

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known **the mystery of the gospel.**

The 'mystery' is the eternal purpose of God through Jesus Christ. That purpose is to unite all peoples from all nations, not just Israel to form one body of believers in Christ without difference or distinction. Paul taught this 'mystery' in Ephesians and to all the other churches that received his letters.

The "Good News" known as the Gospel message is full of this revelation. It is a revelation of equality and unity of all who believe in Christ, whether Jew or Gentile.

Paul pushed the concept of believer unity and no difference in the sight of God. Here's some of what he said.

1. *'There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.'* **Romans 3:22-24** *"Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded"* **Romans 3:27**
2. *"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* **Galatians 3:26-28**
3. *"Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all"* **Colossians 3:11**

Paul suffered dearly for his preaching of equality among believers. The Jews did not want to accept the Gentiles into their, previously exclusive, club. Nor did they feel comfortable setting aside years of tradition based upon following the law as a measure of righteousness to follow after the grace of God. It would take the emphases off them and their actions and place it on God and His divine plan for the ages.

This message of the Good News of Jesus, the Christ comes with a built-in offence. It is the message of life and acceptance for those who receive it. However, for those who cannot accept this good news it becomes an offence.

12. The Mystery of One Flesh

Ephesians 5:31-32

*"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **This is a great mystery:** but I speak concerning Christ and the church."*

The key to understanding this mystery key found in the last sentence of the above verse..."I speak concerning Christ and the church. We know that Christ is a Greek word meaning, "Anointed" and the work, church, in the same Greek is, "Called Out Ones"

The picture being presented is one of redemption, sacrifice, love and spiritual union. Jesus left His home in Heaven to gather those, “Called Out Ones.” His sacrifice on the cross for their sins sealed their destiny to be betrothed to Him. He returns to His home in Glory to prepare a place for those that were, “Born Again.” He is coming again to collect His beloved for to be joined together as one at the marriage supper of the Lamb. This is what the union of man and woman portrays.

What can we conclude from this scripture and its Spiritual application? I know what I see. Prove me wrong. It clearly says that the Gay movement is not Biblical, unholy, and a direct insult to God’s plan for the church. The 1st chapter of Romans clearly tells us that homosexuals will not enter the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion

When you see the word, “Mystery” in the Bible you should also see, Secret.” We are privileged to live in this generation where God’s secrets are freely revealed to us so we can learn more about His matchless Love and grace. He is really on our side and has a plan that was set in play even before the world was formed.

That plan includes our redemption and well being for all of eternity. We should not neglect so great a salvation for it is the manifest love of God towards us.

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