



The Mystery of God



The word mystery means “an unspoken secret.” God had an unspoken secret that He kept to Himself for 4,000 years. It was the biggest and best secret of all time, and it’s about you and every other believer in Jesus Christ as Savior and Son of God!

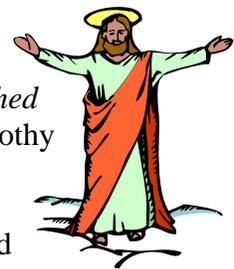
God told the Old Testament prophets that there was a secret about a special grace concerning the sufferings and glory of Jesus, which was something unique, and only for believers in a time to come. But He didn’t tell them when. They searched the Old Testament scriptures to try to find out what the Holy Spirit, who inspired the writers of their holy books, was pointing to, or making plain, when He talked about the sufferings and the glory of the Lord Jesus that was to come. It was revealed to them, in their search, that this mysterious secret concerning Jesus was not for them, but for those who would follow in the next 2,000 years after the birth of Jesus Christ.



Paul speaks of this mystery in these words: *“This mystery was never disclosed to human beings in past generations as it has now been revealed to His holy messengers and prophets by the Holy Spirit. It is this; that the Gentiles (non-Jews) are now fellow-heirs (with the Jews), members of the same body, sharing in the same divine promise in Christ by their acceptance of the Gospel.”* (Ephesians 3:5,6 AMP)

It was no mystery to the Old Testament writers that the Gentiles were to be saved, but they did not know that the wall of separation so rigidly held in their days between Jews and Gentiles was to be broken down and done away with at the Cross of Jesus Christ, and that the two would become one body, that was the mystery!

Paul explained this great revelation another way in a letter he wrote to Timothy, a young pastor who was called to preach the gospel of salvation to the Gentiles: *“Without question or argument we agree to and confess that great is the previously hidden mystery of godliness (which is the gospel scheme): God was made visible in human flesh, justified in the Holy Spirit, seen by Angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and taken up in Glory. (I Timothy 3:16)*



“He (the Lord) was justified in the Spirit. (When the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism by John in the Jordan river, it was the proof of His claim to be the Son of God, the Messiah, the Redeemer of mankind, and the Word of God in living flesh. His miracles that He did, in full agreement with God and the Spirit, further bore witness to His deity. The final truth that He was God manifested in the flesh, was proven by His resurrection from the dead.)

(Cont'd)

“He was seen of angels. (An angel appeared to shepherds and announced the birth of a Savior, Christ the Lord, and a multitude (thousands) of angels appeared praising God. After Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the devil, angels came and ministered unto Him. Being in agony in Gethsemane, praying before His crucifixion, an angel came to Him and strengthened Him. When Mary looked into the tomb where Jesus’ body had been laid, she saw two angels in white, one where His head had been, and one at the feet. After Jesus gathered His disciples together, He told them He was returning to heaven from where He came, and they would receive power to preach the gospel, then He was lifted up, and while they watched, two angels in white appeared to them saying ‘Jesus will return in just the same way you have watched Him go into heaven.’)



“He was preached unto the Gentiles (the non-Jewish nations). (Paul was given power to be the first to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles, and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world had been hid in God. That we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. And, because the Jews rejected God, He took His message of salvation to all people – speaking of the Jews as an olive tree whose roots were still in the ground but the branches were broken off – so He grafted in other branches (other nations) to grow from the same roots – and if the Jews return to Him through Jesus, He will graft them back into their olive tree.)



“He was believed on in the world. (God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among all the people of the world; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, that you heard in the Word of the truth of the gospel, which is come unto you, as it is preached in all the world, and brings forth fruit since the day you heard it, and knew the grace of God in truth. Their sounds go into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.)

“He was taken up in glory. (When Jesus had completed His earthly ministry, He instructed His disciples to carry on the work, and when He had spoken those things, while they stood watching He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. This was no ordinary cloud, this was the Shekinah Glory of God, which always appears with a cloud to cover the glory of God because His glory is so bright man would die in it’s brilliance. This is the glory cloud that overshadowed Mary when the Son of God was created in her womb. This is the cloud of glory that covered the Tabernacle in the wilderness when God took up residence there. This was the Father’s loving response to the prayer Jesus prayed the night before He was to die, when He said, ‘O Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world was.’ (John 17:5) Jesus, being the brightness of God’s glory, and the exact image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high.)

(Cont'd)

According to the Scriptures the final part of God's mystery is that the church, the Body of Christ, would prove to the heavenly beings, that His wisdom is beyond measure. *“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Christ Jesus:*

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers (angels) in heavenly places, might be made known by the church, the marvelous wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord; in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.” Ephesians 3:9-12

Here we have the great truth about the Body of Christ (the true church); it's living Head, the Lord Jesus Himself, it's members (all believers), both Jews and Gentiles becoming one body in Christ. That was the mystery of God!



The Mystery of God

1. What is a mystery?

2. Who was the secret about?

3. What didn't the Old Testament prophets understand?

4. What is godliness?

5. How was God manifested in human form?

6. What was His final justification (proof) in the Spirit?

7. What did Paul use as an example of the Jewish nation?

8. What is the riches of the glory of this mystery?

9. When Jesus completed His earthly ministry, where did He go?

10. What did He do for us there? (Ephesians 1:3)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

The Mystery of God

1. What is a mystery?

An unspoken secret.

2. Who was the secret about?

Everyone who accepts Jesus as Savior.

3. What didn't the Old Testament prophets understand?

That Jews and Gentiles would become one body in Christ.

4. What is godliness?

The gospel scheme.

5. How was God manifested in human form?

In Jesus Christ, His Son.

6. What was His final justification (proof) in the Spirit?

His resurrection from the dead by the Holy Spirit.

7. What did Paul use as an example of the Jewish nation?

An olive tree with broken off branches.

8. What is the riches of the glory of this mystery?

Christ in me, the hope of glory.

9. When Jesus completed His earthly ministry, where did He go?

He ascended back into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

10. What did He do for us there? (Ephesians 1:3)

MEMORY VERSE *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."*