

The Mystery of the Bible: Ephesians 3:1-10 6-30-12

What is a "Mystery"? It is a word used often in the Bible. The Greek word "Musterion" means "shutting of the mouth as in a sworn secret". It is used many times in the Bible:

....*"To you it has been given to know **the mystery of the kingdom of God...**"* Mark 4:11a

.....*as servants of Christ and stewards of **the mysteries of God.*** 1 Corinthians 4:1b

....*to speak **the mystery of Christ,** for which I am also in chains* Colossians 4:3

*Likewise deacons holding **the mystery of the faith** with a pure conscience.* 1 Timothy 3:8-9

From these passages we might conclude that, generally speaking, the mystery pertains to: the Gospel; Fellowship; the Kingdom; Faith. If we want to dig deeper, we would look to the following:

*...to make all see what is **the fellowship of the mystery,** which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;* Ephesians 3:9

*But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery,** the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,* 1 Corinthians 2:7

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery** kept secret since the world began* Romans 16:25

***The mystery** which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.* Colossians 1:26

From these passages we see the mystery pertains to understanding; it has been hidden from the start; and it has now been revealed. But there is an even clearer statement for us that gives us a specific definition to the Mystery: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Defining the Mystery here means these six things:

1. God was manifested in the flesh
2. Justified in the Spirit
3. Seen by angels
4. Preached among the Gentiles
5. Believed on in the world
6. Received up in glory

God was manifested in the flesh: The prophecies of the messiah gave us many unusually clues to the Savior. Consider Isaiah's prophecy of Christ in Isaiah 9:6; there we are told He would be God in the flesh. This was necessary to be a perfect mediator (Job 9:32-33)

God was Justified in the Spirit: In Matthew 4 we are told that Jesus was led by the Spirit to be tested by Satan. This test was passed by Christ, making Him a perfect intercessor. Justification can mean that someone has been examined, and no fault can be found in them

God was Seen by Angels: When Jesus passed this test, Angels ministered to Him. They did again when He prayed in the Garden. Thus Angels can testify that God was in the flesh, and was justified.

God was Preached Among the Gentiles: Among the prophecies of the messiah is the continual promise that He would bring the Gentiles to Jerusalem (Isaiah 60, 61,66; Zechariah 14:16; Micah 4:1). As Jesus went fourth, He preached to and was preached among the Gentiles (John 4, Acts 8, Acts 10 etc)

God Was Believed on in the World: No longer would it be only the Jew who knew God; Romans 15:9-12 *"and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to*

You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."

God was Received up in Glory: Jesus now stands before God to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25-28). He will come again to take us home with Him (John 14:2, I Corinthians 15:7)

In summary, the Mystery is Christ, and everything He means to us, who have a full mind to know the great riches of God.

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27