

A.R.M.

Mystery

Ephesians

Keywords Devotional



Mystery

hidden purposes or counsels of God. The secret things of God, which include those things which are now revealed in the gospel of Christ

Ephesians Ch 1, v 9

having made known to us the MYSTERY of His will,
according to His good pleasure which He purposed in
Himself



God has revealed the mystery of His will in the gospel message of Jesus Christ. It was God's good pleasure and will to reveal this mystery in His Son. Jesus is the full revelation of the mystery of God, which has always been the focus of God's redemptive plan.


Ephesians Ch 3 v 3

how that by revelation He made known to me the MYSTERY
(as I have briefly written already,

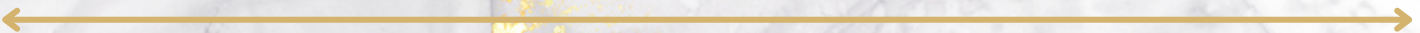


God made known His mystery to His holy Apostles in the form of divine revelation. Jesus is the method by which God reveals His salvation plan, as well His own divine nature.

Connecting the Verses



Part of God's divine purpose was to reveal His Son to twelve Apostles, and through these twelve chosen Apostles, the world would come to know and understand the beautiful mystery of the gospel message. God's plan includes working through a remnant within Israel to reveal His mystery to the rest of humanity. This was God's mysterious plan from the beginning.




Ephesians Ch 3 v 4

by which, when you read, you may understand my
knowledge in the MYSTERY of Christ)



Paul has been given insight into the mystery of the gospel through the knowledge of Christ. God personally invited Paul to come and know the mystery of Christ, because it was God's good pleasure to reveal His mystery to Paul as one of His Apostles.

Connecting the Verses



Paul has come to know the mystery of Christ, not just for his own benefit, but in order to steward that mystery for the benefit of the nations. Paul becomes responsible for how he manages the mystery that he has come to know.

There is accountability that comes with knowing the mystery of God. This is why Paul is sharing this mystery with the world because he desires to be a faithful servant of the gospel.

Ephesians Ch 3 v 6

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



The mystery of God is that anyone can come into fellowship with God as His beloved children. Both Jew and Gentile can become fellow heirs with Christ and children of God through their faith in the Messiah. Part of God's mystery includes the fact that salvation is for everyone who has faith, regardless of race, gender, status, or any other worldly identifier.

Connecting the Verses

Paul has a unique understanding of the gospel message of Christ, especially because his ministry is primarily to the Gentiles. There was a point in human history when no one knew that God intended to bring Jew and Gentile equally into the body of Christ as beloved children of God.

There was always a degree of participation that Gentiles could have in the Israelite nation, but Paul says in another letter, that there is no longer Jew or Gentile. Those racial separations are no longer valid in God's Kingdom. We are all one in Christ, and that's a beautiful mystery.


Ephesians Ch 3 v 9

and 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;

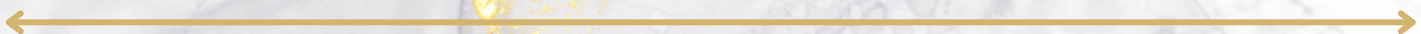


There is a fellowship in the mystery of God, which Paul says, has been hidden in the mind of God from the beginning of the ages. In other words, not only was God's mystery hidden in His divine counsel at one time but the very fellowship of this mystery was also kept secret in the mind of God since the very beginning of time.

Connecting the Verses



This mystery that God has revealed to Paul and the other Apostles was something that was hidden in the mind of God at one time. There was a season of human history where God's mystery was not revealed to humanity. Part of that secret was the actual fellowship of the mystery. Before God revealed the full gospel in His Son, the idea that Jew and Gentile could have fellowship with God as one family, was a secret that was hidden in the mind of God. This concept was a mystery to humanity for so long, but now God has made it known to us in order that we might have fellowship through this knowledge.



Ephesians Ch 5 v 32

This is a great MYSTERY, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.



The concept and institution of marriage is a mystery regarding Christ and His bride. Hidden within the existence of marriage, is an image of Jesus and His spotless bride. And, that beautiful picture of Christ and His bride becomes clearer through a God-honoring marriage. Part of the purpose behind marriage is to reveal the nature of Christ's relationship with His bride.


Connecting the Verses

Laced within many old testament concepts is this idea of mystery. Throughout Scripture, God plants a deeper, symbolic meaning behind certain stories, characters, and biblical concepts which are meant to foreshadow, and reveal Jesus to us. This doesn't mean everything has a deeper metaphorical meaning, but marriage is part of God's hidden mystery. In other words, marriage relates to the mystery of the gospel message, which has now been revealed in Christ.

Marriage between a man and a woman has multiple purposes. One of those hidden purposes of God is to reveal the mystery of the gospel through the marriage covenant between a husband and wife. The covenant and activity of a Godly marriage are designed by God to actually reveal Christ and the gospel. This is a beautiful truth that should be taken seriously.

Ephesians Ch 6, v 19

This is a great MYSTERY, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the MYSTERY of the gospel



Paul prays for boldness to confidently make known the mystery of the gospel. When he shares the gospel, he is revealing a mysterious secret of God, which remains unknown to the human heart without God's revelation. Paul knows that he needs boldness to faithfully reveal this beautiful mystery of the gospel, so he asks the church to pray that God would give him the boldness that is appropriate for the beautiful message Paul has been called to steward.

Connecting the Verses

If God has graciously chosen to reveal His mystery to humanity, then there should be an appropriate way to respond to this beautiful truth. God allows us to know the mystery that was once held back from humanity. God invites us to come and know the message that was once a secret. That is an incredible gift of God.

And, if we're going to steward that message as faithful servants, there should be confidence and boldness that accompanies our preaching. As we reveal the mystery of God to the world, we should continually pray for boldness to faithfully share this beautiful message of salvation.

Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.



Connecting Ephesians 1:3-9

God has made known His mystery to humanity. This mystery is Christ, our only hope and salvation, and this beautiful mystery of Jesus has many dimensions to it. One of the main aspects of this mystery is that both Jew and Gentile can become children of God through faith in Jesus. This mystery wasn't known to humanity in previous ages before Christ came to reveal the mystery of God.

This beautiful mystery of God includes all of these blessings that we have in Christ through faith. We are blessed to the fullest possible degree. We have every spiritual blessing in Christ, which means we lack nothing in Him. We are made holy and blameless in the sight of God. We are adopted by God as His beloved children, who have the right standing of Christ Himself. We have full redemption because our sin debt has been paid in full by Jesus. We are deeply loved by God and forgiven of every sin.

All of these beautiful blessings are part of God's mystery, which wasn't known to humanity for generations. This mystery has been revealed in Christ, and now we have fellowship in this beautiful mystery. Anyone can become a part of God's family through faith in Christ, and enjoy these unspeakable blessings.





Connecting Ephesians 1:3-9 *(Cont.)*

But, God's eternal plan doesn't stop there. Another dimension of His mystery includes what He will do for His children in the future. God intends to unite Heaven and earth in His Son so that there will be a new creation where His children can dwell in His presence forever and ever. We get to be a part of new creation when God creates the new Heaven and the new earth.

But, Heaven and earth being united in Christ is not only a future reality. God's mystery includes uniting heaven and earth in His people now, by filling them with the presence of His Spirit. As human beings, we are made from the dust of the earth. God's Spirit resides in Heaven, so He transcends this physical world. When the Spirit of God (who is of Heaven) fills the believer (who is of the earth), heaven and earth are essentially uniting in the people of God.

This unification of heaven and earth in God's children is part of God's mystery which was hidden from humanity for generations.

Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 1-9

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the MYSTERY was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the MYSTERY of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This MYSTERY is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the MYSTERY hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.



Connecting Ephesians 3:1-9

Paul says that he has been given stewardship by the grace of God. God entrusts a gracious gift to Paul. Not only does God reveal the mystery of the gospel to Paul personally, but God also graces Paul with the calling to be a steward of the gospel as an Apostle. Before the mystery could be faithfully handled, Paul needed to understand the mystery himself.

This is why God reveals Himself to His people first. It's precisely God's gracious revelation of Himself that qualifies anyone to be an ambassador of His kingdom. But, Paul has a unique calling as an Apostle.

God gave Paul an understanding of His mystery through revelation.

Not only is God's message a mystery that He's kept secret for generations, but even God's method of distribution is mysterious. The mystery isn't achieved. We don't educate ourselves about the mystery of God through human efforts and training.



Connecting Ephesians 3:1-9 *(Cont.)*

The mystery of God is revealed spiritually to our hearts. That method of revelation is itself a mystery.

Paul says that this mystery was kept back from humanity for generations until it was the right time for God to reveal it to the world in His Son. But, Jesus didn't start with the entire world. First, He revealed Himself and His mystery to the remnant of Israel; His chosen Apostles. Then, the Apostles are called to distribute that mystery to the rest of the world. God chooses a remnant to bless the world with the mystery of Christ. That delivery method was also a mystery at one point in human history.

Mystery shrouds the beautiful plan of God to redeem humanity through His Son. For so long, God's Son was hidden. His plan of salvation was hidden. His method of revelation was hidden. His method of delivery was hidden. But, now all these things have become clear to us through Christ.



Connecting Ephesians 3:1-9 *(Cont.)*

The mystery of God includes the truth that Jew and Gentile have equal access to the family of God as beloved children. This wasn't made known to humanity until Jesus revealed this to His Apostles, and eventually the entire world. There was always a degree of participation that a Gentile could have in the Jewish nation, but what we have in Christ is fundamentally different. We have equal access to the Kingdom of God as fellow citizens and beloved children of God. And, this is regardless of ethnicity.

The last aspect of God's mystery is that His church reveals His hidden wisdom to all spiritual beings, especially those rebellious spiritual rulers that are against God. God makes His children the revelation of His hidden wisdom to the spiritual realm. God always intended to display His secret wisdom through His people. His wisdom which was once hidden is now revealed in how He treats us, what He's done for us, and what He accomplishes through our lives.

Ephesians Chapter 5, v. 31-33

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This MYSTERY is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Connecting Ephesians 5:31-33

Marriage in itself is designed by God to be somewhat of a mystery.

The concept of marriage, while easy to understand, has some deeper meaning behind it. One of those deeper meanings is that marriage itself reveals the gospel message. The union between man and woman in the sight of God, ultimately reveals the relationship between Jesus and His bride.

The marriage covenant in action, also reveals the nature of Jesus' relationship with His bride. The way the husband lays down His life for His bride, and the way the bride submits to her husband, the way the church submits to Christ. The love between a husband and wife is designed to give the world a picture of Christ's love for His people.

In other words, God has designed marriage with the mysterious purpose of demonstrating the gospel to the world.

This mystery of marriage comes to life when Christ lays down His life for His people. God has kept this secret wisdom hidden from generations past until it was time to reveal that hidden dimension of marriage through His Son. Now, we see marriage as relating to Christ and His message of salvation.

Ephesians Chapter 6, v. 16-20

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the MYSTERY of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.



Connecting Ephesians 6:16-20

Spiritual warfare doesn't just involve armor and weapons, but strategy and purpose. God has not just equipped us with the complete spiritual armor that we need to effectively engage in spiritual warfare, but He has given us His battle commands. And, one of those commands is to pray at all times in the Spirit. This ability to pray to God in the name of Jesus is part of God's mystery.

Now we know that we're to approach God through the name of His Son, but there was a point in human history where the full revelation of this idea wasn't made known to humanity. Part of God's beautiful mystery is that we can boldly access His throne through the work of Jesus. Our faith in Jesus gives us the ability to boldly approach the presence of God.



Connecting Ephesians 6:16-20 (Cont.)

Part of this beautiful gift includes being able to approach our Heavenly Father on behalf of others. And, Paul asks the church to pray that God would help him to boldly preach the mystery of the gospel. In light of this beautiful mystery, there should be a certain kind of response. Someone who has come to know the very secrets of God should respond to this grace of God with thankfulness and love.

When we come to know this mystery and obtain a fellowship in this mystery through faith, we are held accountable for what we do with this wisdom and understanding. There are expectations God has for us. There is an appropriate way to handle this beautiful mystery. And, this seems to include boldness, confidence, and faithfulness.



Connecting Ephesians 6:16-20 (*Cont.*)

As children of God, who are part of God's mysterious plan, we should be excited and willing to steward this gospel message for the benefit of the world. This is why Paul prays for boldness because he knows that this priceless mystery demands a faithful response of bold declaration.

Let us boldly declare these mysteries of God as we interact with a world that doesn't yet know these hidden secrets of God. What an honor to be able to share the mystery of God's Son with the world. This is what brings salvation.