

Revealing Revelation



BY

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One of the great mysteries of the Bible is that most people are “mystified” by it! God has said everything necessary to remove doubts, fears, suspicions, and speculations about its true meaning. In the New Testament, He has given the answer to the “mystery” it contained:

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 but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith-- to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.
(Romans 16:25-27)

1. THERE **WAS** A “MYSTERY KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN.”

- **Moses** wrote God’s promise of a “seed” of woman whom God knew, but Moses did not know that it would be Jesus Christ (**Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:18-21**);
- **Isaiah** wrote of a “virgin” who would “bear a Son” but did not know that it would be Mary (**Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-25**);

- **Micah** mentioned unlikely Bethlehem as the birthplace of The Ruler of Israel, but never knew when it occurred (**Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:4-6**).

The “mystery” was written by men who knew not to whom it referred; it was followed by men who knew not where it led; and desired by those who knew not when it would end. This pattern is recognized from Abel through Abraham with the following statement:

These all died in faith not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
(**Hebrews 11:13-16**)

No one knew, until the coming of Jesus Christ on earth, which manifested it all. Of this Peter wrote:

Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls. Of this

salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into. Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children. (1 Peter 1:8-14)

Peter plainly taught that:

- The prophets spoke of “the grace that would come to you;” that was not “revealed” to them, “but to us” who follow Jesus Christ;
- “The Holy Spirit sent from heaven” preached the facts about Jesus Christ “which now have been reported to you; and
- As a result, a Christian should “gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

God's grace has been fully expressed through "the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow." What was unknown except by prophetic hints, facts, and subtleties, have been completely pulled together and understood by those who know that which the New Testament teaches.

2. THAT "NOW" HAS BEEN "MADE MANIFEST."

The "now" refers to the 1st century in which Paul wrote the Books of Romans and Ephesians. To Ephesus, Paul wrote:

How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. (**Ephesians 3:3-7**)

The “mystery... which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men,” “has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets;” was God’s plan to save both Jews and Gentiles “through the gospel;” and has been substantiated by the miraculous “effective working of His power,” a written record of which is in the New Testament.

3. THAT, “BY PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO ALL NATIONS.”

God has distanced Himself from all pretenders to be “gods” by speaking prophetically and fulfilling all He promised. God challenged all “gods” when He said:

‘Present your case,’ says the LORD. ‘Bring forth your strong reasons,’ says the King of Jacob. ‘Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they were, That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together. Indeed you are nothing, And your work is nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination’(Isaiah 41:21-24).

No other so-called “god” can give verbal proof that he/ she is above time and events like Jehovah God. Hence, they are all “nothing” and their works “nothing.” Sadly, the Psalmist was true who said: “Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.” (Psalms 115:8) Empty/ vain, indeed, are the minds and lives of those who serve all “gods” (e.g. mythology, sexual gratification, fables, Brahma, Shiva, Ganesh, Allah, inflation, government, power, riches, fame, ad nauseum) except Jehovah. In Ghana, West Africa, the ancient “Gye Nyame” symbol represents the phrase, “All things perish, except God.” Truly all the world has had opportunity to be impressed with,

The “God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did” (Romans 4:17).

4. THAT FULFILLS “THE COMMANDMENT OF THE EVERLASTING GOD, FOR OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH.”

God has always been “a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6), and the Gospel Age is no exception. Since the cross of Jesus Christ, no one has received salvation from God by “faith only” without works of any kind! Paul began and ended the Roman letter by emphasizing the “faith” and “obedience” required by the Gospel of Christ:

Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name.”
(Romans 1:5)

But now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith” (Romans 16:26)

- The resurrected Lord and Christ required faith and baptism in response to the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16);
- Following/ obeying His commands and baptism because of His authority for them (Matthew 28:18-20); and
- “That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations” which the Apostles began to do and they placed baptism before the remission of sins, as Jesus commanded (Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38).

The blind have led the blind by interpreting the Bible as though prophecies have not been fulfilled. Such is an exercise of unbelief, since “faith comes hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

If “God said it” to tell us it would happen, and then “God says it” again when the prophetic statement is fulfilled, and then the whole matter is completely recorded in our written Word of God, “O man, who are you to reply against God?” (**Romans 9:20**)

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All Scriptures and comments, unless otherwise noted, are based on the New King James Version.

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