

The Mystery of God's Will

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Mystery (*en mustēriō*): “a fact or truth that man is unable to discover by himself; a fact or truth that has to be revealed to man. It is a fact or truth that has been hidden and kept secret by God until it was time for it to be revealed.” ([1 Corinthians 2:7](#))

It does not mean something hard to understand or something strange and mysterious as a magical trick. It does not mean that there is something mysterious about God.

It means some fact or truth.....

- that is known only by God.
- that God reveals to man because He loves man and man desperately needs to know the truth.

There are several important mysteries **revealed** in the Bible.

1. The mystery of the gospel, that is, God's wisdom which is *Christ crucified*.

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" ([1 Cor. 1:23-24](#)).

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory" ([1 Cor. 2:7](#)).

"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" ([Ephes. 6:19](#)).

2. The mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven. (See below [Matthew 13:10-11](#))

([Matthew 13:10-11](#)) Parables: Why did Jesus speak in parables? **Note five points.**

a. Note the words, "**Why speakest thou unto them in parables?"** The disciples knew the people did not understand, and Jesus was not explaining the parables to them. The disciples were concerned lest the people miss the lessons.

Thought 1. We should always be concerned over the way the Word is preached and taught and how people are receiving the Word. Are they listening and growing or are they disinterested and stymied?

Thought 2. Note: the same preaching turned some off (the unbelieving crowds) and stirred some to seek more (the believing disciples). There is encouragement here for the preacher and teacher and warning to the unbeliever.

b. Jesus made a very general statement. God gives believers the understanding of spiritual things, the mysteries of the Kingdom, but the mysteries of the kingdom are not given to unbelievers.

Common sense tells us that God will reveal things to a person who really believes in Him and draws near Him—things that He cannot reveal to a person who ignores, neglects, and could care less about God. Therefore, Christ puts it very simply: **"It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them [unbelievers] it is not given."** God does not reward unbelief; He rewards belief and trust (**cp. [Matthew 13:35](#)**).

c. There are "**mysteries**" in the kingdom of heaven: the incarnation and virgin birth of Christ.

- 1) the ideal and perfect righteousness of Christ secured by His living a sinless life while on earth ([Matthew 5:17-18](#))
- 2) the death of Christ on the cross for man ([Matthew 27:26-56](#))
- 3) the intercessory work of Christ going on right now ([Hebrews 3:1](#))
- 4) the Holy Spirit and His presence in the believer ([John 14:16-21](#))
- 5) the material world and the spiritual world, or the physical and spiritual dimension of being ([Matthew 6:9](#))
- 6) man's sinfulness and his dead spirit due to sin ([Romans 3:9-19](#); [Ephes. 2:1-3](#))
- 7) the church, both local and universal, and the mixture of both good and evil in it ([Matthew 13:1-52](#))
- 8) the future resurrection ([1 Cor. 15:51](#))
- 9) the destruction and remaking of the heavens and earth into a perfect universe ([2 Peter 3:10-13](#))

d. The mysteries of heaven have to be revealed by God. Man cannot know them by human reason; they have to be **given**, that is, revealed.

e. The mysteries of heaven are given, revealed to believers only. This is logical, exactly what would be expected, as is mentioned above. The reasons given by Christ explain even more why believers alone see and understand what God reveals ([Matthew 13:12-15](#)).

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" ([John 14:26](#)).

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but

which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" ([1 Cor. 2:12-13](#)).

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" ([1 John 2:27](#)).

3. The mystery of Israel's blindness and restoration.

"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 fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" ([Romans 11:25-27](#)).

4. The mystery of the believers' resurrection, which will enable them to live an incorruptible life with God.

"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" ([1 Cor. 15:51-52](#)).

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" ([1 Thes. 4:13-18](#)).

5. The mystery of God's will: that He is to gather together and unify all things in Christ—unify them in a spirit of peace and harmony—all things, both visible and invisible.

"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 fulness 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" ([Ephes. 1:9-10](#)).

6. The mystery of the church and of God's universal love: that both Jew and Gentile are included in the church.

"(Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" ([Ephes. 3:4-6](#); cp. [1 Cor. 2:7-12](#)).

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" ([Romans 16:25](#)).

7. The mystery of the church: that the church is the bride and body of Christ.

"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 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" ([Ephes. 5:30-32](#); cp. [Ephes. 5:22-33](#)).

8. The mystery of the indwelling Christ, of "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

"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" ([Col. 1:26-27](#)).

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" ([Galatians 2:20](#)).

9. The mystery of godliness or of Christ; of God coming to earth in human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.

"The acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and [even] of Christ....For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" ([Col. 2:2, 9](#)).

"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" ([1 Tim. 3:16](#)).

"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds" ([Col. 4:3](#)).

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" ([2 Cor. 5:19](#)).

- 10.** The mystery of iniquity and of sin in the world and of man's disobedience to God.

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [hinders] will let [hinder], until he be taken out of the way" ([2 Thes. 2:7](#)).

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" ([Ephes. 2:2](#)).

- 11.** The mystery of the seven stars or local churches and pastors.

"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels [messengers, pastors] of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches" ([Rev. 1:20](#)).

- 12.** The mystery of Babylon in the end time.

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH....And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns" ([Rev. 17:5, 7](#)).