

## 9. God Has Told of the End of the Revelation of His Mystery

Revelation and the interpretation of revelation belong to the Lord, God. In Gen 40:8, Joseph established that interpretations are the sole province of God:

8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

Peter affirmed this principle in the New Testament, establishing once again the authority of God of reveal scripture and to interpret scriptures in 2 Peter 1:20-21:

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

No man has the power to reveal scripture or interpret scripture; he does have the power to read and study the scripture and follow the words of scripture. Deut 29:29 teaches:

29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

According to Hab 2:2-3, the Lord has made his will plain to understand, but sometimes man must wait to the end:

2 Then the Lord replied:

"Write down the revelation  
and make it plain on tablets  
so that a herald may run with it.

3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
it speaks **of the end**  
and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;  
it will certainly come and will not delay.

Even Daniel was confronted with a confounding situation where he wanted to know what the interpretation to a prophetic dream was. Michael told him that it was not for him to know in Dan 12:8-10:

8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"

9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because **the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.** 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

## **God's Mystery Hidden until the Christ**

1 Cor 2:6-10

*6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 However, as it is written:*

*"No eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
no mind has conceived  
what God has prepared for those who love him" –  
10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.*

Several principles apply to God's revelation of his mystery (what was once hidden, but now is made known):

God's wisdom is what God destined for our Glory.

He destined it before the time began.

He has revealed it to the New Testament apostles and prophets by his spirit.

Not even the rulers **of this age** understood it.

Not only was God's mystery hidden from the rulers of this world, but it was hidden also from the Old Testament prophets and the angels. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:10-12:

*10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

If the rulers did not know the mystery of God, nor the angels, nor the Old Testament prophets, then who did know and when did they know it. Paul tells in specific detail when and to whom the revelation of God's mystery was given.

## **God's Mystery Revealed in Jesus**

1 Cor 2:10-13

*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words*

These are clear and certain words: the very spirit of God gave the inspired men the very

thoughts of God. The apostles understood this clear and certain message; and they spoke that message in the very words taught by the spirit. Leaving no doubt of the certainty of the revelation, the inspired men expressed spiritual truths in spiritual words, leaving us the New Testament, the very words of God revealing his mystery. That these were the New Testament apostles and prophets cannot be disputed; for Paul also said in Eph 3:5:

. . .5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

When was the mystery of God made known? In the New Testament times [now]! By whom was the mystery of God revealed? By the Spirit of God! To whom was it made known? God's holy apostles and prophets!

In Luke 2:28-32, when the infant Jesus was taken to the temple to be consecrated to the Lord, Simeon called him "your salvation" and "a light for revelation to the Gentiles:

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

Rom 16:25-27

*25 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic **writings** by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him – 27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

The revelation of the mystery is made known through the sacred writings [scriptures in KJV, ASV, and NASV]. The *now* makes these New Testament scriptures.

Gal 1:11-12

*11 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

The gospel is not something man made up; but it came by revelation.

Eph 3:2-6

*2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

So it is that God revealed his mystery to the New Testament apostles and prophets, who wrote scripture, which when we read, we understand their insight into the mystery of Christ.

## ***How Certain Is It That the Revelation of God Was Given to the Apostles and Prophets?***

Rev 1:1

*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place.*

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus taught clearly that the revelation of God to him would also go to his apostles and prophets. Here, God gave Jesus with the specific intent that he show his servants. This same message was given to all the apostles in Matt 11: 27:

27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

In the episode of Matt 16:16-19, was told that the Father revealed the truth of the Christ:

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

In John 17:6-8, Jesus included in his prayer that he gave the disciples the words that God had given him:

6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 **For I gave them the words you gave me** and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

These revelations to the apostles and prophets constitute scripture which are sacred writings from God. Rom 16:25-27 declares:

25 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the **revelation of the mystery** hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the **prophetic writings** by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— 27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

In the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb in Rev 15:2b-4, a triumphant victory celebration praises God for the revelation of his righteous acts:

They held harps given them by God 3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of `God and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,  
Lord God Almighty.  
Just and true are your ways,  
King of the ages.

4 Who will not fear you, O Lord,  
and bring glory to your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come  
and worship before you,  
**for your righteous acts have been revealed."**

### **God's Mystery Is Completely Revealed**

Eph 1:9-10

*9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

The mystery of God's will, purposed in Christ, brought all things in heaven and on together under Christ. How many things were brought together? All things! All things in heaven and on earth! In Col 1:25-27, Paul describes his ability to present the word of God in its fullness:

25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to **present to you** the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is **now disclosed to the saints**. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Anyone or any church professing to add to what the New Testament teaches is a false teacher. The Bible closes with God testify to the completeness of the revelation of his mystery. Who dares to add to it? At the time of the sounding of the seventh trumpet God's mystery stood accomplished. Rev 10:5-7 records:

5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. 6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! 7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, **the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.**"

In Rev 11:15-19, that trumpet sounded and the loud voices in heaven explained what it meant:

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
the One who is and who was,  
because you have taken your great power  
and have begun to reign.

18 The nations were angry;  
and your wrath has come.  
The time has come for judging the dead,  
and for rewarding your servants the prophets  
and your saints and those who reverence your name,  
both small and great –  
and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

In Rev 21:3-8, God himself declared the end of the mystery; and any other ending is false teaching and false prophecy:

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

God has fully revealed his mystery in precise detail, through the apostles and prophets of his son, Jesus Christ. To change it, to add to it, to take away from it leads to the most disastrous results. Thus the revelation of God's mystery is forever set and permanent for all generations to read and obey. God has spoken!

The afterword to the entire Bible is Rev 22:18-20:

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."