

The Mystery of Jesus Christ, God in Believers, Hidden but Now Revealed

- **Jesus was waiting for the fullness of time to occur before He was born**
 - “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Gal 4:4-5)
- **Jesus knew when His time to be crucified was determined**
 - “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—Him, being delivered by the determined purpose [horizo boule] and foreknowledge [prognosis] of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.” (Acts 2:22-24)
 - “His hour had not yet come”
 - Jn 2:4; 7:6,8;30; 8:20
 - “the hour has now come”
 - “But Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.” (Jn 12:23)
 - “Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.” (Jn 16:32)
 - “Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You” (Jn 17:1)
 - “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” (Jn 17:5)
 - “that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem” (Lk 9:51)
 - “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.” (Matt 26:18)
- **Jesus is the primary focus of Christians and has the preeminence in their Hearts**
 - “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2Pet 3:18)
 - “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence [proteuo].” (Col 1:18)
- **The Gospel of Jesus has been revealed**
 - “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 [musterion] kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith” (Rom 16:25-26)
- **Paul wanted Christians to know his knowledge in the mystery of Christ**
 - “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery [musterion] (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand [noeo] my knowledge [sunesis] in the mystery [musterion] of Christ)” (Eph 3:3-4)
- **The New and Living Way supersedes the shadow of the Old Covenant**
 - “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by **a new and living way** which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Heb 10:19-22)
 - “For the law, having a shadow [skia] of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.” (Heb 10:1-4)
 - “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (Jn 1:17)
 - **Unclean according to the Law were no longer unclean:** “In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air...And a voice spoke to him again the second time, What God has cleansed you must not call common.” (Acts 10:12,15)
- **Gentile Christians obey just 4 commandments in the Old Covenant Law (Acts 15:28-29):**
 - you abstain from things offered to idols
 - abstain from blood
 - abstain from things strangled
 - abstain from sexual immorality
- **The Resurrected and Ascended Jesus was a Hidden Mystery, Veiled Truth, but is now Revealed**
 - “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery [musterion], the hidden [apokrupto] wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1Cor 2:7-8)
 - “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries [musterion] of God.” (1Cor 4:1)

- “having made known to us the mystery [musterion] of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.” (Eph 1:9-10)
- “how that by revelation He made known [gnorizo = revealed] to me the mystery [musterion] (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand [noeo] my knowledge [sunesis] in the mystery [musterion] of Christ)” (Eph 3:3-4)
- “and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery [musterion], which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden [apokrupto] in God who created all things through Jesus Christ” (Eph 3:9)
- “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish...This is a great mystery [musterion], but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (Eph 5:25-27,32)
- “that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery [musterion] of the gospel” (Eph 6:19)
- “of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery [musterion] which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.” (Col 1:25-26)
- “To them [the saints] God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery [musterion] among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col 1:27)
- “that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery [musterion] of God, both of the Father and of Christ” (Col 2:2)
- “that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery [musterion] of Christ, for which I am also in chains” (Col 4:3)
- “holding the mystery [musterion] of the faith with a pure conscience.” (1Tim 3:9)
- “And without controversy great is the mystery [musterion] 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.” (1Tim 3:16)
- **Indwelling Divine Power and Divine Nature**
 - “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power [theios dunamis] has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers [koinonos] of the divine nature [theios phusis], having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2Pet 1:2-4)
- **Promise of a New Covenant in the Old Covenant**
 - “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” (Jer 31:31-33)
- **Promise of the Indwelling and Abiding Holy Spirit in the Old Covenant**
 - “Therefore prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. **I will put My Spirit in you**, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it, says the LORD.” (Ezek 37:12-14)
 - “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2:28-29)
- **The Old Covenant was a Shadow and a Copy**
 - “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow [skia] of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.” (Col 2:16-17)
 - “For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy [hupodeigm] and shadow [skia] of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” (Heb 8:4-5)
 - “For the law, having a shadow [skia] of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would

have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." (Heb 10:1-4)

- **The New Covenant, a Binding Agreement based on the blood of Messiah, between God and sinners is a Better Covenant**
 - "Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission [aphesis] of sins." (Matt 26:27-28)
 - "And He said to them, This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many." (Mk 14:24)
 - "Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you." (Lk 22:20)
 - "In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (1Cor 11:25)
 - "But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises." (Heb 8:6)
 - "to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel." (Heb 12:24)
 - "Therefore it was necessary that the copies [hupodeigma] of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies [antitupon] of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Heb 9:23-24)
 - "And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us." (Heb 11:39-40)
- **The Mediator of the New Covenant is Messiah Jesus, who is both God and Human, who never sinned**
 - "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1Tim 2:5)
 - "But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises." (Heb 8:6)
 - "And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance." (Heb 9:15)
 - "to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel." (Heb 12:24)
- **Salvation by faith alone was revealed in the New Covenant**
 - "But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed." (Gal 3:23)
 - "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith." (Rom 3:27)
 - "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." (Rom 3:28)
 - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 5:1)
 - "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified." (Gal 2:16)
 - "Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" (Gal 3:2)
 - "But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe." (Gal 3:22)
 - "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith." (Gal 3:24)
 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph 2:8-9)
 - "be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith" (Phil 3:9)
 - "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." (Jm 2:24)
 - works = good deeds, not obedience to the Old Covenant Law
 - "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake." (1Thes 1:5)
 - "remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father" (1Thes 1:3)
- **The Mystery will be completely accomplished**
 - "but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery [musterion] of God would be finished [teleo], as He declared to His servants the prophets." (Rev 10:7)
- **Only Christians will know the Mysteries of God's Kingdom, His revealed plan, and Jesus Christ in you, the Hope of Glory**
 - He answered and said to them, Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given." (Matt 13:11)

- “And He said to them, To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.” (Mk 4:11-12)
- “And He said, To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.” (Lk 8:10)
- **Mystery of the Trinity**
 - “that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery [musterion] of God, both of the Father and of Christ” (Col 2:2)
 - “Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” (1Jn 2:23)
 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.” (2Jn 1:9)
- **Mystery of Messiah indwelling His children**
 - “To them [the saints] God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery [musterion] among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col 1:27)
- **The Gospel, Good News, is a mystery revealed**
 - “that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery [musterion] of the gospel” (Eph 6:19)
 - “that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery [musterion] of Christ, for which I am also in chains” (Col 4:3)
- **Mystery of Faith permeating the entirety of one’s life**
 - “holding the mystery [musterion] of the faith with a pure conscience.” (1Tim 3:9)
- **Communion celebrates the Death of Messiah, and it supersedes the Passover**
 - “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.” (Matt 26:26)
 - “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, Take, eat; this is My body.” (Mk 14:22)
 - “Then He said to them, With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**” (Lk 22:15,19)
 - “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**” (1Cor 11:23-24)