

Mystery of Israel's Blindness

The revelation of the grace of God helps us to obtain to the Glory of God!!

1 Peter 4:10

10As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

We are the stewards of the grace of God
That manifold grace of God is yours to have
It is that feast table that we can eat all that we want and it will never run out
To the degree that we have learned, we should witness, teach, preach, and share

GRACE

1. Salvation, our first step of faith with God
2. The Cross, what made our salvation possible through His blood
3. The Peace of God, what we, through our relationship, can come to in our hearts (divine love)
4. The five "much mores", much more grace from beginning to end
5. And now 7 mysteries He shows this age that no other age could

The seven mysteries of Paul's gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. The Mystery of Israel's Blindness (Romans 11:25)
2. The Hidden Mystery (1 Corinthians 2:7-9)
3. The Mystery of the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:51)
4. The Mystery of the Bride (Ephesians 5:32)
5. The Mystery of Godliness (1 Timothy 3:16)
6. The Mystery of Iniquity (2 Thessalonians 2:7)
7. The Mystery of Faith (1 Timothy 3:9)

Ephesians 3:4,5

4Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5Which 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;

Definition of Mystery

Concordance 3466

Greek word Musterion, that which being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those only who are illumined by His spirit.

God is revealing something that he has never revealed prior

1. It can't be discovered by human agency, it always comes as revelation from God, through His Spirit
2. The mysteries are revealed at God's own time and to whom seeks it

What does that mean? Does it mean that we can pick it up and understand it? NOOO!!!
 Does it mean that someone will tell you how to do it? NOOO!!!
 Does it mean that we can go to school to get it? NOOO!!!
 Does it mean that if our teacher has the word Dr. in front of his name that he can explain? NOOO!!!
 Does it mean that you can memorize the bible and it's yours? NOOO!!!

Does it mean that there is something that you can do to get it?

You can ask God!!!

You can have faith and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it...

You simply need to have a heart for God, to want a growing, understanding relationship with Christ

It is the same Holy Spirit that teaches us that taught brother Paul

You can seek it out in the scriptures, pray to understand...

How do we know that it is a mystery? It says so in the scriptures...

Romans 11:25 (The Mystery of Israel's Blindness)

13For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

14If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

15For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? 16For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. 17And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19Thou wilt say then, the branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: 21For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

22Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. 23And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. 24For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

25For 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.

He blinded all people, His chosen people, throughout the ages so that in His manifold wisdom and grace would reveal it to us!!

Think about that... blinded them from understanding that which is now given to us to understand for His divine plan for Christ, His Son

Philippians 3:8

8Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I **may** win Christ,

Paul uses words like unimaginable, unfathomable, incomprehensible, and unsearchable

Peter said that Paul's teachings were hard to be understood

You have heard me teach about modal verbs – verbs that express necessity or possibility
How do we get to know Him? Through His word we gain the knowledge of Him

Through His word we come to know Him intimately

If He tells us that these mysteries were hidden for the ages from men, from Israel (God's chosen people)
And now it is made manifest to the church, to the saints, to us!! Thank you Jesus!!

WHAT CAUSED GOD TO BLIND THEM

If we have paid much attention to the Old Testament teachings, it's not hard to believe

1 Cor. 10 – they were examples for us

Biggest example = if you don't want God's greatest promises, just murmur about them

Isaiah 29:10-13 (God's reasons for the discipline)

10For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. 11And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: 12And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. 13Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Is the faith in us one that in which God can work? It's His faith

Is our faith one that in which God can reveal the length, breadth, height and magnitude of His word?

Our revelation is directly proportional to our faith and the love in us

1. When we need a reason that benefits us so that it might be worth our time in checking into; we really don't want to know it
2. When we really don't want to know it, He really can't show us
3. There is no room for God in us when we are full of ourselves

It is your choice!!!

Where did it say that God would turn to the Gentiles?

Amos 9:11,12 (The rest of mankind may seek the Lord)

11In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: 12That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this.

The ancient Greek translation rendered this verse as follows: "That the rest of mankind may seek [the Lord], and all the nations upon whom my name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things."

We read in the passage from Amos that we called upon the Lord, we sought a savior, and we recognized Him as God Almighty. But it is the same with us isn't it? We don't all seek, we don't all acknowledge Him, and we don't all glorify Him as we should. Even Nebuchadnezzar finally humbled himself to acknowledge God. Just as there was with Israel, there is a faithful remnant in the Gentiles that will emerge as overcoming saints.

When His own chosen people did not have Him in their hearts, He called out a people for His name

How did He come to us in this church age?

Acts 22:17-21 (Jesus sends Paul to the Gentiles)

17And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; 18And saw him saying unto me, **Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.** 19And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: 20And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. **21And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.**

Scripture says that Paul was the apostle for the church, where?

Romans 11:13

for I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Paul's gospel is so unique in that it reveals and unlocks all the mysteries

Christ explained to the disciples how and why it was given to the believers to understand

Matthew 13:3-35 (given to the apostles to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God)

3And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, **Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?**

11He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, **By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. 18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not**

root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. 31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. 33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. 34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Psalm 78:1-3

1 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

If we are seeking and being sought, if we have a heart for God and His word, what does that mean? What does that get us? What is the goal?

2 Thessalonians 2:14 (conformed to the image of Jesus Christ)

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The revelation of God's grace is the key to us obtaining the glory of God

Ephesians 3:4,5

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 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;

Colossians 1:24-28

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 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: 28Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Look at the statements in those scriptures:

1. I am a minister, according to the dispensation of God given to me for you
2. To fulfill the word of God
3. The mystery which hath been hidden from ages and generations
4. But now is manifest in the saints
5. Whom God would make known the riches of the glory among the Gentiles
6. Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory
7. Teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present him perfect in Christ

What does that mean, to fulfill the word of God?

This gospel completes the word of God; it completes His plan for Jesus Christ

It is given to us to fulfill the word of God in that God's plan will be complete when this age is complete.

It is given to the church to know the manifold wisdom of God, the manifold grace of God.

This age of Christianity will complete that which God is building for His Son; it will complete the entire body of Christ.

What do you mean by Dispensation?

A dispensation is God's special arrangement of time and events into God's perfect order

A dispensation is a period of time during in which man is tested in respect to his obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God.

Each dispensation is the same in that man is presented with a responsibility by God, followed by a failure by man, and a judgment carried out by God

It is used for the administration by God, in which "the fullness of times" (or seasons) God will sum up all things in the heavens and on earth in Christ.

The seven dispensations are:

1. The age of innocence (Adam and Eve before sin) Genesis 1:28
2. The age of conscience (Adam and Eve after eating the fruit) Genesis 3:7
3. The age of human government (from the Ark to the tower of Babel) Genesis 8:15
4. The age of promise (Abraham to the Red Sea)Genesis 12:1
5. The age of law (The Red Sea to the Cross) Exodus 19:1
6. The age of grace (which we live in which will end with tribulation) Acts 2:1
7. The Kingdom age (which is the last age before eternity)

How do we learn this mystery, and what purpose these dispensations played?

We study to show ourselves approved; we do not corrupt the gospel of Jesus Christ

We have the word of God at our fingertips

The word has been so corrupted over the course of the church age, Satan has tried to kill it, he has tried to torture it out, and then he corrupted it, we see so much division in the church today

We learn, we grow, and we come to understand and to have a true relationship with Him

When this happens the word of God becomes etched into our hearts - LIVING EPISTLES

Romans 2:16

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.
This is where Paul says that “their conscience bearing witness”

Galatians 1:9

9As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Ephesians 3:1-21

1For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: ***(The church age we just talked about, our dispensation)***

3How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ***(This is the mystery that we are talking about in a single fold because there is so much beautiful promise in this mystery for the Gentiles)***)

4Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5Which 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;

6That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

(There it is, that we should partake in the exceeding riches of God's grace)

7Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. 13Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. 14For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Paul had a God-given responsibility to share these mysteries with this grace age, the church age

***When will this mystery be revealed to the Jews? We must understand two things:
The Times of the Gentiles and the Fullness of the Gentiles***

Luke 21:20-28 (The Times of the Gentiles)

20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. 25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

The times of the Gentiles = from 606 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar takes the Jews captive, that began the times of the Gentiles and it continues right up until the fulfillment of Luke 21:24

The Fullness of the Gentiles = Peter declared how at the first God did visit the Gentiles to take a people for His name. The fullness of the Gentiles ends when Jesus returns, look at Luke 21:27
It is the church that is the people taken out for His name. He is building the body of Christ out of living stones.

The fullness of the Gentiles could come to pass at any moment, the church age is at it's close

Acts 15:13-18 (God's Divine Plan)

13And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: 14Simon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. 18Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

Israel will be blind until the fullness of the Gentiles comes to pass

Deuteronomy 29:2-5 (God's review of the past)

2And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land; 3The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles: 4Yet the Lord hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day. 5And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.

Isaiah 6:9,10 (Isaiah's new commission)

8Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. 9And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye

indeed, but perceive not. 10Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

John 12:37-43 (John's account of the fulfillment of Isaiah 6)

37But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. 42Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

This Gospel is about everything that God has for us, it is about the exceeding grace of God and what 'we' the Christian Body has to do with it...

He is building a body for His son

Out of that Body He will take a bride for His Son

We can choose to eat of His grace all that we want; we can die a babe in Christ

God is no respecter of persons; He wants a heart that is set on Him

He wants a soul that seeks Him back

He does not care who we are, He cares about our feelings for Him

This relationship is only up to you, you can laugh at it, you can disregard it, you can put it off for later, but we saw what happened to the Israel and if He is not in our hearts, we will be blind to the grace

Forget those things which are behind, press on and ask God this...

Let's go to the Lord

Father in heaven, please soften my heart to understand

Give me the revelation of the depth of your word

Give me revelation of all that I can take

Give me understanding, let me grow in you

Give me knowledge, let me know you

Give me wisdom as you give it freely

Teach me to Love

I want to understand the mysteries of your word

I want to see how much you have for me

Open doors for me to share you

Help me to be a good witness

Let me be the light that emerges from the broken clay

Help me to run this race with endurance and patience

But Father Please!
Complete the good work in me

In the mighty name of Jesus I pray, Amen