

CAMP 2026

A Great Mystery

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Introduction

In 2024 our camp theme in this session was: **Who are you?** And we went over many scriptures to answer this question. In 2025 our topic was also personal causing each of us to realize that from the eternities past **I am His workmanship**, and from before the foundation of the world His desire was towards me. Our main verse of study last year was EPHESIANS 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* And we covered many scriptures that proved from eternities past He has seen us as **His workmanship**.

Now that the Lord has tarried until 2026 our topic of study will be, for now, a **mystery**. Let's begin by first looking at some scriptures in JOB, specifically examining some questions the Lord asked Job in JOB chapters 38-41. The reason for looking at some of these questions the Lord asked Job is to begin to define what a **mystery** is.

In JOB 38-41 the Lord asks Job some 81 questions, none of which Job could answer, nor can we, because, for now, the answer to us is still a **mystery**. (In the ages to come we will know all the answers to these questions.) We are not going over all 81 questions that the Lord asked Job to answer, but will just cover a sampling of the kinds of questions the Lord asked Job.

JOB 38:1 *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ...4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, 10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, 11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? 12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; 13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? ...16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? 17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death? 18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. 19 Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, 20 That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? 21 Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great? 22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? 24 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? 25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; 26 To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; 27 To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? 28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? 29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? ...34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? 35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? 36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? ...39 Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions, 40 When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait? 41 Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.*

JOB 39:1 *Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve? 2 Canst thou number the months that they fulfil? or knowest thou the time when they bring forth? ...13 Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich? 14 Which leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust, 15 And forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them. 16 She is hardened against her young ones, as though they were not hers: her labour is in vain without fear; 17 Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding. 18 What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider. 19 Hast thou given the horse strength? ...26 Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south? 27 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?*

We will stop here because the answers to all of these questions the Lord asked Job are **mysteries** to us. Webster defines a **mystery** as something unexplained, unknown, or kept secret. There are secrets, things unknown, **mysteries** that the Lord Himself declared He wants us to know. We find the Lord telling Jeremiah this in JEREMIAH 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Believing this verse is the key that unlocks our ability to see the *...great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.* Plus we have an added advantage since the Holy Ghost was sent on the day of Pentecost, for Jesus told us in JOHN 16:13-15 -- *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* In other words the *...great and mighty things, which thou knowest not,*... spoken of in JEREMIAH 33:3, are the **mysteries** that belong to God, and the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth, He will **reveal** them unto you!

Jesus gave the following explanation concerning **mysteries** to His disciples in MATTHEW 13. MATTHEW 13:10 *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He 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.*

We only find the word “**mystery**,” or **mysteries**” in the New Testament where it is the same Greek word used twenty-seven times. (The number twenty-seven has to do with THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL.) The Greek word translated “**mystery**,” or **mysteries**” is always the same word, *musterion* {moos-tay'-ree-on}, <3466> meaning: a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding, in other words a **mystery**.

This doesn't mean that there were not any **mysteries revealed** in the Old Testament, for there are many **mysteries** of things not obvious to our understanding, a great deal of unexplainable things made known in the Old Testament, but they were not called **mysteries** in the Old Testament. Let's look at one example before we get to the subject of this years study.

Let's go to DANIEL 2 where we find Daniel a Jewish captive in Babylon, numbered among the **wise men** of Babylon, and in this chapter Nebuchadnezzar is king. We won't read the whole chapter, though it may seem like it.

DANIEL 2:1 *And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. 2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. 3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. 4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, (the language of Syria) O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. 6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. 7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his*

servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. 8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. 9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. 10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. 12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

*14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: 15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. 16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. 17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are more commonly known to us as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, which is the names they were given by the prince of the eunuchs in DANIEL 1:7.) 18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (Do you think Daniel was a man of faith? Did Daniel know JEREMIAH 33:3 *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not... ?* If Daniel didn't know this scripture, Daniel certainly knew the Lord who spoke this scripture!) 19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: (the mysteries) he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. (Recall the questions the Lord asked Job above in JOB 38:19 *Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof... ?* Here we find that Daniel knew who holds the mysteries, and reveals the secrets.) 23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.*

*24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. 25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. 26 The king answered and said to Daniel, (God is my judge) whose name was Belteshazzar, (Belteshazzar was the Babylonian name given to Daniel. In Chaldee, the language of the Babylonians, Belteshazzar means: "The treasure of Bel," or "The despository of the secrets (or treasure) of Bel." Bel was the name of a Babylonian idol. According to the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia we find that in Babylonian this name was probably Belu-lita-sharri-usur, which means "O Bel, protect thou the hostage of the king," a most appropriate name for one in the place which Daniel occupied as a hostage of Jehoiakim at the court of the king of Babylon in DANIEL 1.) Again DANIEL 2:26 *The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.* (Daniel we know was a man of faith, and very well knew the words Moses spake to the children of Israel in DEUTERONOMY 29:29 *The secret things**

belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.) DANIEL 2:28 continued: Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; 29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. 30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

In verses 31-35 Daniel tells king Nebuchadnezzar the forgotten dream, and in verses 36-45 Daniel further explains to king Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation of this dream. ...DANIEL 2:46 *Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. 47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. 48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.*

Some Mysteries Revealed to the Full Overcomer

That was a long introduction to our topic of study, which concerns some of the **mysteries** the Apostle Paul **reveals** to us in scripture, and two of them are called **great mysteries**. We mentioned above that the word “**mystery**,” or **mysteries**” in the New Testament is the same Greek word used twenty-seven times. The number twenty-seven has to do with THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL. The Greek word translated “**mystery**,” or **mysteries**” is always the same word, musterion {moos-tay'-ree-on}, <3466>, meaning: a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding, in other words a **mystery**. The word “**mystery**” itself is found twenty-two times in scripture. Twenty-two is the number of **LIGHT**, and as such points us to the **LIGHT** of the world, who is **Christ Jesus, He will be the main topic of discussion in this study**.

The Apostle John in his introduction of Jesus in JOHN 1 wrote the following starting in verse 4: *In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. (This was true even in His hometown of Nazareth.) 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

In these verses we find the word **Light** capitalized four times, highlighting the fact that Christ Jesus, The Word of God, is the true **Light**. Then we read in JOHN 8:12 what Jesus Himself said: *...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* JOHN 9:5 *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.* Do you know why the world we live in today is so full of darkness? It is because the majority of the 8 plus billion people in this world today are blind to the **Light** of life, who is Jesus! The natural blind do not see **light**, and the spiritual blind do not see the **Light**, who is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Before moving on let's read some words of the last testimony of John the Baptist found in JOHN 3. Recall that it was John the Baptist who introduced Jesus to the world in JOHN 1:29 by saying *...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* Again the next day John the Baptist said in JOHN 1:36 *And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!* (The phrase “**the Lamb**” (capitalized) is found twenty-eight times in scripture; twenty-eight being the number associated with ETERNAL LIFE. Now for John the Baptist's last testimony.)

JOHN 3:26 *And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond*

*Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. 27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. 29 He that hath the bride is the **bridegroom**: but the friend of the **bridegroom**, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the **bridegroom**'s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

In this portion of scripture we learn many things, but for this lesson please note that John the Baptist here introduced Christ Jesus as the **Bridegroom**. Again He will be the main topic of discussion in this study.

The Mystery of Godliness

The mystery of godliness is a large topic, and fully revealed in one thirty-five word verse of scripture, 1 TIMOTHY 3:16. May our Holy Ghost eyes of our understanding be fully enlightened to receive the maximum benefit of what the Apostle Paul wrote in this verse of scripture. One preacher noted that this verse is a brief summary of the gospel, which to the natural man (unsaved man) is a **mystery**.

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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.*

This is quite a verse, and as Brother Copley also noted in his 1 TIMOTHY study book, "this verse deserves special attention," which we will give it in this study. The reason this verse deserves special attention is because it not only refers to Jesus Christ first and foremost, but points to qualities also found in the Bride of Christ! Wow, may the Holy Ghost reveal this to our hearts as we search out **the mystery of godliness**. We find in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 a nine-word introduction to six significant facts, six root statements that comprise the **mysterious truth of godliness**.

The Amplified Bible translates 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *And great and important and weighty, we confess, is the hidden truth (the mystic secret) of **godliness**. He [God] was made visible in human flesh, justified and vindicated in the [Holy] Spirit, was seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, [and] taken up in glory.*

Conyebare's translation of 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 states: *And, without contradiction, great is **the mystery of godliness** - 'God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit; beheld my angels, preached among the Gentiles; believed on in the world, received up in Glory.'*

The King James Version of 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 consists of thirty-five words. 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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.*

Thirty-five is the number associated with **HOPE**. Who is our **HOPE**? 1 TIMOTHY 1:1 answers our question this way: *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our **hope**.* Here we learn our **HOPE** is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is all about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is the gospel story summed up in one verse; one thirty-five (**HOPE**) word verse of scripture! 35 (**HOPE**) is the product of 5 (**GRACE**) times 7 (**SPIRITUAL COMPLETION** or **SPIRITUAL PERFECTION**)! 35 (**HOPE**) also is the sum of 16 (**LOVE**) plus 19 (**FAITH**). Look at the six things 1 TIMOTHY 6:11 tells us to follow after: *...follow after righteousness, godliness,*

faith, love, patience, meekness. Which of these six qualities are found in Christ? Which of these six qualities are found in the Bride of Christ?

One more point of interest before we begin examining our text of 1 TIMOTHY 3:16, and that is to note that this verse has a 9 word introduction to a 26 word profound text. The number 9 is associated with FINALITY or DIVINE COMPLETENESS, and 26 is the number pointing to the GOSPEL, or the GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL! So again we find that 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is the GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL summed up in one verse. There are six prominent facts contained in the 26 words that compose the body of our text concerning **the mystery of godliness**.

The nine word introductory statement Paul makes before exposing the six prominent facts concerning **the mystery of godliness** contains important information that we shouldn't ignore. We will begin our examination of this verse with the word "**controversy**," which is found thirteen times in scripture, but only this one time in The New Testament. "**Controversy**" as used here means: an acknowledgement of the truth. Thus this statement *...And without controversy...* simply means: undeniably, or certainly. In other words the truth that Paul was about to write here was indisputable. Thus Paul is saying: Undeniably, and indisputable *...great is the mystery of godliness*.

Our next introductory word in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is the word "**great**," megas in the Greek, <3173> which here speaks of something exceedingly large, and covers a wide area of things. So we can add to what Paul is saying: Certainly, and undeniably exceedingly large, and deeply vast is *...the mystery of godliness*. Something this huge in scope can only come from God, and, as the rest of 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 points out, the focal point of this **great ...mystery of godliness...** is upon our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. However we are to also realize that this **great ...mystery of godliness...** includes us, as we will see in this study.

As noted earlier the Greek word translated "**mystery**," or **mysteries**" is always the same word, musterion {moos-tay'-ree-on}, <3466> meaning: a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding, in other words a **mystery**. Remember what we read earlier in DANIEL 2:28 *But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets...* . Again DEUTERONOMY 29:29 *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.* And we also read in JEREMIAH 33:3 these words of the Lord: *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.* The Apostle Paul also wrote how the hidden or secret things, the **mysteries**, are **revealed** unto us, and one place he wrote about this is in 1 CORINTHIANS 2.

First a quick note about the word "**mystery**." The very first time in chronological order that the Apostle Paul wrote the word "**mystery**" is in 1 CORINTHIANS 2:7, which we will look into in a moment. This *...mystery of godliness...* that we are studying about was written approximately ten years later, and was the last mention Paul makes of the word **mystery**. Paul uses the word "**mystery**" fifteen times in his epistles, and the word "**mysteries**" three times.

We are going to spend a couple of minutes in these verses of 1 CORINTHIANS 2 because it is foundational to our understanding these **mysteries** we are discussing in this study. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:7 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.* Who is *...the wisdom of God...* ? Look for a moment across the page of your Bible, and highlight these two verses we are going to reference in 1 CORINTHIANS 1 to answer this question. 1 CORINTHIANS 1:24 *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. ...30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.* Again, who is *...the wisdom of God...* ? The *...the wisdom of God...* is *...Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...* etc. Now let's read again 1 CORINTHIANS 2:7 & 8 like this: *But we speak the wisdom of God (who is Christ Jesus) in a mystery, (the mystery is Christ Himself) even the hidden wisdom, (Christ Jesus, who of God is*

made unto us wisdom) which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: (the Holy Spirit) for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 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.** 13 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. 14 But the natural man (unsaved man) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Thus we see that it takes the Holy Ghost to **reveal** unto us the **mysteries** of God. Recall what Jesus told His disciples on the night of the Last Supper in JOHN 16. JOHN 16:12 *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, (the Holy Ghost) is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* In other words the **mysteries** that belong to God, the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth, our heaven sent Guide, He will **reveal** them unto you!

In 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 the last word to explore in Paul's introduction to *...mystery of godliness...* is the word "**godliness.**" We find the word "**godliness**" fifteen times in scripture, all in the New Testament, and where the word "**godliness**" is found is also very **revealing**. (Fifteen is the number of REST.) The word "**godliness**" is not found in Old Testament scripture, and only two writers of New Testament scripture use this word "**godliness;**" the Apostle Paul, and the Apostle Peter. Paul writes "**godliness**" in his Pastoral Epistles of 1 & 2 TIMOTHY, and TITUS, (written in 67 & 68 A.D. according to the research of Conybeare and Howson) using this word "**godliness**" eleven times; nine times in 1 TIMOTHY. To Paul was **revealed** *...the mystery of godliness.* These three epistles of 1 & 2 TIMOTHY, and TITUS, were written late in Paul's life to fellow Church Apostles, and by this time Paul himself was a well-seasoned Church Apostle. Peter was the other Apostle who wrote the word "**godliness,**" and he did so in his last epistle of 2 PETER where he writes the word "**godliness**" four times. The Greek word translated "**godliness**" in our text is eusebeia {yoo-seb'-i-ah}, <2150> and as used here in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *...the mystery of godliness...* expresses **godliness** as embodied in, and communicated through the truths of the faith concerning Christ. Brother Copley also noted that "**godliness**" is mentioned nine times in 1 TIMOTHY, and he wrote: "it seems to be the theme of the epistle." Brother Copley mentioned that God's dealings with humanity are all **mysterious** to the natural (unsaved) mind, because only the spiritual mind, the mind which has been made new by the Gospel, and by the instruction of the Holy Spirit, can understand the things of God, which facts we just covered earlier in 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-14.

Now let's get into the six significant facts that comprise the **mysterious** truth of **godliness** found in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16. 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *And without controversy great (exceedingly large) 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.*

As we examine these six important points noted in *...the mystery of godliness...* as they all pertain to Christ first of all, let us take note that these six items were also witnessed by someone, and recorded in scripture for our learning, *...that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name... ...JOHN 20:31.*

God was manifest in the flesh

This first significant fact that the Apostle Paul points out here in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is that *...God was manifest in the flesh*. The word “**manifest**” is found in thirty-seven verses of scripture, and the number thirty-seven is the number associated with THE WORD OF GOD, who according to REVELATION 19:13 is Jesus! REVELATION 19:13 *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God*.

There certainly are a lot of scriptures that prove Jesus Christ, Emmanuel (God with us MATTHEW 1:23) *...was manifest in the flesh*. This fact is profoundly, and simply stated in JOHN 1. JOHN 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made*. Here we find Jesus called **The Word**. In JOHN 1:14 we further read: *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth*. These verses in JOHN 1 also prove what Paul wrote in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 true: *...God was manifest in the flesh*.

Notice here in JOHN 1:14 what the Apostle John wrote in parentheses *...(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father)...* . This may be one of the most important parenthetical statements in scripture. Let’s look at it a little closer for a moment. JOHN had just written in JOHN 1:14 (minus the parenthetical statement): *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth*. What a profound declaration, that *...the Word was made flesh*. Yes indeed *...God was manifest in the flesh...* and not only so, but He *...dwelt among us...* . But even this fact doesn’t quite cover all that John was **revealing** here, for John adds that *...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth*. How many sermons have been preached on “**grace and truth**” only the Lord knows for sure. John himself even added this tidbit in JOHN 1:17 *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*. “**Grace and truth**” are two more words that describe our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. John after writing *...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth...* still wasn’t satisfied with what he had written, even though this was truly an overwhelming statement, because it was still a marvel to the Apostle John that he himself witnessed all of this, for three plus years, that *...God was manifest in the flesh*. So John inserts in the middle of this sentence in JOHN 1:14 this parenthetical statement: *...(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father)...* . Wow! Ponder on your own time the immensity of this statement. Let me help you ponder this for a moment.

Realize that the Apostle John wrote his gospel record almost sixty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, both events of which John also witnessed close up! It was like John was saying here, (after pondering for fifty-some years Christ’s life, and the fact the he John was one of His closest disciples); ‘I was one of His closest followers, and even got to hear His heart beat as I laid my head upon His breast, and was among the few who beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of God the Father. I witnessed His countless miracles; the turning water into wine; His raising the dead; His feeding the multitudes; His walking on water. I felt His breath; I even lived with Him for over three years. Wow, He truly was here **manifest in the flesh**, and amazingly I got to witness this first hand.’ John further recalls the marvel of personally witnessing Christ’s life when we wrote the following: JOHN 20:30 *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name*. It seems that John was through writing about Christ’s life at this point, then he adds one more chapter, which concludes with these words: JOHN 21:24 *This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. 25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen*.

After pondering for nearly sixty years all that John witnessed of Jesus Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, John was able to summarize all of this into this short parenthetical statement: *...(and we*

*beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father)... ...JOHN 1:14. One may wonder when exactly did John behold Jesus **glory**, and realize this **glory** was ...*the glory as of the only begotten of the Father?* The first time we read of this in JOHN 2 at the marriage in Cana of Galilee, which only John writes about in scripture. JOHN 2:11 pretty much summarizes John's thoughts of his witnessing this event where Jesus turned the water into wine. JOHN 2:11 *This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.* Yes indeed ...**God was manifest in the flesh.** Next we note something that the Apostle John left out of his gospel, but the other three gospel writers wrote of John, James, and Peter being there at the transfiguration of Jesus, when Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus. LUKE 9:32 tells it like this: *But Peter and they that were with him (James, and John) were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.* Truly John here again ...**beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.***

After writing The Gospel According to St. JOHN, the Holy Ghost then inspired the Apostle John to write some more of the fact that ...**God was manifest in the flesh.** So the Apostle John took a pen in hand, and wrote of this again in 1 JOHN. 1 JOHN 1:1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. 1 JOHN 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 1 JOHN 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 JOHN 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

Additionally we have 89 chapters in the four gospel records that further prove that ...**God was manifest in the flesh,** showing His life from birth when the shepherds got to see Him, and His infancy where He was seen of Simeon, and Anna in LUKE 2. His young child life when Jesus was two years old, and seen of the **wise men** from the east in MATTHEW 2. His young man's life when Christ astonished the doctors in the temple when He was twelve years old in LUKE 2, and His life as a very robust man when Jesus public ministry began when He was around thirty years old. Truly what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is true, that ...**God was manifest in the flesh...** a perfect human being, the Son of man, Christ Jesus!

Remember we said earlier that this **great mystery of godliness** also includes us, and Brother Copley also noted this, that "God is **manifest** also in sinful flesh, which increases the **mystery of godliness.**" {End of quoting Brother Copley.} We find how this is in the following scriptures, which take us through the born again experience, and beyond. In JOHN 3:7 Jesus Christ Himself informed that very religious law abiding Pharisee, Nicodemus, ...*Ye must be born again.* Then Jesus told Nicodemus in JOHN 3:15 & 16 -- *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* The Apostle Paul gives the simple instruction on how to get saved in ROMANS 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* Once saved you are a believer, forever a new creation in Christ Jesus according to 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, which reads: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: (new creation) old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

We learned in our meaning of the Bible numbers study that there is a number for NEW CREATION, or NEW BIRTH, and that is the number eight. Next let's go to COLOSSIANS 1, where the Apostle Paul further **reveals** this **mystery** starting in verse 26. COLOSSIANS 1:26 *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.

Great ...*is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh*,... this speaks of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and includes us, for once we are born again, we are a NEW CREATION in Christ Jesus, and Christ is **manifest** in my mortal body! Thus all believers can say what the Apostle Paul said in GALATIANS 2:20 ...*Christ liveth in me*... !

God was... .. justified in the Spirit

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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.*

The second significant fact that the Apostle Paul points out here in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is that God, (our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Beloved Son of God) was ...*justified in the Spirit*... .

Let's begin our examination of this second item of this ...*mystery of godliness*... that our beloved Saviour Jesus Christ was ...*justified in the Spirit*... by defining the word **justified**. Brother Hill taught us that the word **justified**, and **justification**, means: just as if I never sinned. Truly Jesus never sinned, and 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 informs us that Christ ...*knew no sin*. 1 PETER 2:22 explains that Jesus: ...*did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth*... ! 1 JOHN 3:5 also speaks of Christ Jesus, and says: *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin*. The Greek word translated "**justified**" here in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 is a verb, dikaiōo {dik-ah-yo'-o}, <1344> and as used here it means: to declare, pronounce, one to be just, or righteous. In ROMANS 8:33 we read: ...*It is God that justifieth*... and **justifieth** here is the same Greek word dikaiōo {dik-ah-yo'-o}.

Now let's read where Christ was ...*justified in the Spirit*. The Spirit here means the Holy Spirit, also called in scripture the Holy Ghost. All four gospel's record that the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove upon Him, who knew no sin, at the time John the Baptist baptized Him. We read in MATTHEW 3:13 *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Mark records this event like this in MARK 1:9 *And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: 11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Luke writes the following in LUKE 3. LUKE 3:21 *Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.* The Apostle John records this event in JOHN 1, writing: JOHN 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. 32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*

Truly Christ was ...*justified in the Spirit*,... and we read in 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3 ...*how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures*. Now let's read ROMANS 6:7, which I will read

to you from the literal translation Greek to English: *For the (one) having died has been justified from sin.* Twice in scripture we find Christ Jesus called the **Just One**, (ACTS 7:52 & ACTS 22:14), and speaks to Him, Jesus Christ, who was *...justified in the Spirit.*

Remember that this **great mystery of godliness** includes us in all six points mentioned in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16. So how does the fact that Jesus Christ was *...justified in the Spirit...* include us? There are many scriptures that answer this question, but for simplicities sake let's just consider what is written in ROMANS 3. Starting in ROMANS 3:23 we read: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (the means by which sin is covered) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.* Now let's read what is written in ACTS 13:38 & 39. ACTS 13:38 *Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*

God was... ..Seen of angels

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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.*

The third significant fact that the Apostle Paul points out here in 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 concerning **the mystery of Godliness** is that while on earth our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, was *...seen of angels...* . In last years camp we learned that the ultimate Master Craftsman is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. COLOSSIANS 1:16 & 17 informs us: *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.* So we see He made the **angels**, and we read in HEBREWS 12:22 that there is *...an innumerable company of angels...* in Heaven.

One day a couple thousand years ago we read in LUKE 1:26-35 that the **angel** named Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth unto a virgin girl named Mary, who told her that she was highly favoured of the Lord, and that the Holy Ghost shall cause her to conceive a son called Jesus. In MATTHEW 1:20 the **angel** of the Lord told Joseph in a dream: *...fear not to taken unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.* So for the next nine months our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was hidden in the womb of Mary, out of view from the innumerable company of **angels** in heaven.

In LUKE 2 in the city of David, (Bethlehem), Christ was born in a barn of all places, and placed in a lowly manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. As He cried for the first time *...manifest in the flesh...* the **angels** heard, and recognized that voice they hadn't heard for nine months, and we read in the following account of LUKE 2 how *...God... ..manifest in the flesh...* and was *...seen of angels.* Also here in LUKE 2 we find that there were shepherds, who were in the same country watching over their flocks by night, on the very same night Jesus was born. LUKE 2:9 *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.* (Why were the **angels** saying this? One reason was because they got to glimpse for the first time in nine months Christ the Lord, now *...manifest in the flesh...*!) 15 *And it came to pass,*

as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Next we read that the Man Christ Jesus was *...seen of angels...* after He was tempted of the devil in the wilderness. We read in MATTHEW 4:11 after this was over: *Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.* MARK 1:13 states the same event like this: *And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.* The word “ministered” found in both of these verses is found thirty-seven times in scripture, the number we pointed out earlier that is associated with THE WORD OF GOD. HEBREWS 1:14 also informs us that **angels** are “ministering spirits,” as these two verses also point out.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, hours before He was crucified, while praying in the garden of Gethsemane, we read in LUKE 22:43 *And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.* These strengthening words spoken to Christ Jesus by this **angel** were truly heavenly words sent from God by this ministering spirit.

Yes our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was *...seen of angels...* as a man *...manifest in the flesh...* while here on earth, and He also knew that He was always surrounded by **angels**, just like He was, and is in heaven. Jesus told Peter as Jesus was being arrested there in MATTHEW 26:53 *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?* A legion in that day would be 6826. Twelve legions of **angels** would be 81912. One **angel** of the Lord slew 185,000 in one night according to 2 KINGS 19:35 and ISAIAH 37:36! By that math *...more than twelve legions of angels...* could wipe out the population of the earth overnight! However that was never the plan of God. Paul wrote in 1 TIMOTHY 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.* Jesus Himself said in MATTHEW 18:11 *For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.* Again Jesus said in LUKE 9:56 *For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.* And He said in LUKE 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Thus we find that even though He could have called more than twelve legions of **angels** to help Him, and that even though He had the power to knock all His opponents backwards, and off their feet with His spoken word, as happened in JOHN 18:6, it was always Jesus intention to freely give Himself for our sins!

We could say much more about the fact that Jesus was *...seen of angels...* after His resurrection, but recall this **great mystery of godliness** includes us in all six points, so how does the fact that Jesus was *...seen of angels...* include us? One scripture pretty much summarizes this fact. HEBREWS 1:14 is where our Apostle Paul writes that the **angels** God sends our way are *...ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.* Rarely do we see these **angels**, but they are ever with us as PSALMS 91:11 explains: *For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.* Yes indeed we too are *...seen of angels...*

God was... ..Preached unto the Gentiles

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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.*

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was **preached unto the Gentiles** by Daniel the prophet, who taught **the Gentile wise men** of his day the Holy scriptures, along with Daniel's prophecies, and what signs to look for the coming Messiah. **The Gentile wise men** of the east passed this information down for generations knowing, and believing Daniel's prophecies. In MATTHEW 2 the King of the Jews was sought by **the Gentile wise men** of the east, who came to worship Him because **God was... ..preached unto the Gentiles.** When they found Him in MATTHEW 2, Jesus was two years old living in Nazareth, where they fell down and worshipped Him, and gave Him their treasures

of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold was a gift for a royal king; frankincense a gift for a priest, and myrrh a gift for a prophet. These gifts symbolically show that these **wise men** knew that Jesus was special. Did these **wise men** know that Jesus was King of Kings (1 TIMOTHY 6:15); did these **wise men** know that Jesus was the great High Priest (HEBREWS 4:14); did these **wise men** know that Jesus was the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee (MATTHEW 21:11)? I am going to say yes they knew who Jesus was, for they truly were **wise men**. Keep in mind these **wise men** had two years to change their mind and cease from following the star of the Lord, the star of the King of the Jews, who just also happens to be the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, the great High Priest, and the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. They continued on their course until they found him, overcoming all obstacles until they did. In this sense they were Gentile racecourse runners.

During His lifetime Jesus forbid His disciples to preach unto the Gentiles, as we read in MATTHEW 10:5 & 6 -- *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

It wasn't until ACTS 10 when Peter was sent unto the house of Cornelius, a **Gentile** Roman centurion of the Italian band, that we read of Jesus being ...*preached unto the Gentiles*. And because of the instruction we just read in MATTHEW 10:5 & 6, Peter was very reluctant to go to the house of Cornelius, until three times he was convinced by a vision of the Lord to go there. Hopefully you are familiar with this story in ACTS 10. When Peter got to Cornelius' house, it was packed with Cornelius' **Gentile** family and friends. ACTS 10:34 *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. 36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.*

In ACTS 11 we find Peter back in Jerusalem explaining to the Jews of Jerusalem why he went to the house of a **Gentile**, and what happened there. ACTS 11:15 *And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*

In ACTS 15 about ten years later we find Peter again mentioning this visit to the house of Cornelius when he addressed the council at Jerusalem. ACTS 15:7 *And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. 8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; 9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*

A few verses later James, the Pastor at Jerusalem confirms what Peter said to be true: ACTS 15:13 *And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto*

*me: 14 Simeon (Peter) hath declared how God at the first (for the first time) did visit **the Gentiles**, to take out of them a people for his name.* (Look at this closely. God during this yet present Church Age is visiting the Gentiles, to take out of them a rib portion company from that mystical body of Christ that will forever be known as Mrs. Jesus, The Bride of Christ, The Lamb's Wife!!! The mystical body of Christ has a head, who is Jesus, for EPHESIANS 5:23 tells us *...Christ is the head of the church.* This mystical body of Christ, like the body of Adam, has a wife in it, who is the rib portion. Truly this is *...a people for his name.* Pray that the Holy Ghost will reveal this to you own heart!) We also see in the book of ACTS that this visit to the house of Cornelius also was the last time Peter preached to a group of **Gentiles**.

There is an Apostle sent unto **the Gentiles**, whom we all know is the Apostle Paul, the same guy who was previously known as Saul of Tarsus, the young man at the stoning of Stephen in ACTS 7:58. Saul of Tarsus was saved on the road to Damascus in ACTS 9 when the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared unto Saul as a light brighter than the noonday sun. We read in ACTS 26:16-18 Jesus words that He the told Saul of Tarsus that day, that put him on the course he was to follow. ACTS 26:16 *But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from **the Gentiles**, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.* Years later Saul of Tarsus, now known as the Apostle Paul, wrote in ROMANS 11:13 *For I speak to you **Gentiles**, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.*

At the time of his death our beloved Apostle Paul, the Apostle sent unto **the Gentiles**, had written one hundred chapters of scripture contained in fourteen books of the New Testament. Thirty-seven times in his fourteen epistles Paul writes the phrase "**the Gentiles**." Fourteen is the number of DELIVERANCE or SALVATION, and thirty-seven again is the number associated with THE WORD OF GOD, who is Jesus. Paul writes in 1 CORINTHIANS 1:23 *...we preach Christ crucified...* . In COLOSSIANS 1:25-28 Paul writes: *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: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:...* .

Need we ask how the fact that Christ was *...preached unto the Gentiles...* includes us? All we **Gentiles** that are saved have a testimony on how Christ was *...preached unto...* you. The Apostle Paul said it like this in GALATIANS 2:20 *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.*

God was... ..Believed on in the World

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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.*

This fifth point on how Christ was *...believed on in the world...* is a story that also has many testimonies that continue on still today. Let's first look at this point from the perspective of when He was first "**manifest in the flesh**," and even before. In LUKE 1:38 we read how Mary the mother of Jesus was the first who "**believed on in the world**" that Christ had come into the world when she said: *...Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.*

In MATTHEW 27:54 we have a record of what the Gentile Roman centurion, and those that were with him said at the crucifixion of Jesus after He yielded up the ghost, and the earth did quake:

Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. This was just the beginning of how Jesus Christ was *...believed on in the world...* after His death. After Jesus resurrection we have many accounts on how on how Christ was *...believed on in the world.* In ACTS 1:3 we read how our resurrected Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ *...shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days...* . In ACTS 2:41 on the day of Pentecost, after Peter preached his first sermon, we read: *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* In ACTS 2:47 we read: *...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.* In ACTS 3 Peter preaches his second sermon, and in ACTS 4:4 we read the results of this sermon: *Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.* Jump ahead to the time of Paul's first missionary journey, where we find this statement in ACTS 14:1 *And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together (Paul and Barnabas) into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.* Still some more years down the road we read on Paul's third missionary in ACTS 19:8 at Ephesus how many more **believed**, and in ACTS 19:20 we find this statement: *So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.* From that point until now has been multiplied how many have been saved because Christ was *...believed on in the world.*

We find the phrase "**believed on**" fourteen times in scripture. Fourteen again is the number point to DELIVERANCE or SALVATION.

Christ was *...believed on in the world...* when you got saved, and that is part of your own testimony. That is how this statement includes you: Christ was *...believed on in the world.*

God was... ..Received up into Glory

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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.*

The fact that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was **received up into glory** completes the sixth part of the gospel story, and **the mystery of godliness**, that is expressed in this one powerful verse of Holy Ghost inspired scripture. The word "**glory**" is found 402 times in scripture, but the phrase "**into glory**" is only found this one time. This sixth part of the gospel story of how He was *...received up into glory...* is told in several scriptures, that we will now look further into.

Question: Was Jesus caught up into glory; carried up into glory; ascended up into glory; taken up into glory; or received up into glory? Hint: There is more than one correct answer here.

There is more than one verse of scripture that tells the story of how our resurrected Lord and Saviour was *...received up into glory.* In MARK 16:19 we read: *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.* The Greek word here translated "**received up**" is analambano {an-al-am-ban'-o}, <353>. Analambano {an-al-am-ban'-o} is the combination of two Greek words: ana <303>, meaning: up; upwards; or into the midst, and lambano {lam-ban'-o}, <2983> found 263 times in the New Testament, which is most commonly translated: to take, or **receive**. Analambano {an-al-am-ban'-o} means: to take up, or to **receive up**. This is the same Greek word used in our text of 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was *...received up (analambano <G353>) into glory.*

The next portion of scripture that tells how our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was *...received up into glory...* is found in the last verses of LUKE. LUKE 24:49 *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. 50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: 53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.* Here in LUKE 24:51 we find our resurrected Saviour

“**carried up**” into heaven, which is also telling the same story of how He was ...*received up into glory*. The Greek word translated “**carried up**” here is anaphero {an-af-er'-o}, <399> coming from two Greek words; ana (again) <G303> meaning: up; upwards; into the midst; and phero <G5342> meaning: to carry away. Thus we find anaphero {an-af-er'-o} <G399> meaning: to be carried away into the midst.

Next let's read the story of how our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was ...*received up into glory*... in ACTS 1, and we will spend some time here. ACTS 1:1 *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, <G353> after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ...8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up <G353> from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. ...21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up <G353> from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

In this portion we just read four “**taken up**” statements concerning how our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was ...*received up into glory*... and in verses 2, 11, and 22 this again is the same Greek word analambano {an-al-am-ban'-o}, <G353> which we discussed above being the same word found in our text of 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 translated “**received up**.” In ACTS 1:9 the phrase “**taken up**” comes from a different Greek word, epairo {ep-ah-ee'-ro}, <1869> meaning: to lift up, raise up, raise on high. We also find epairo {ep-ah-ee'-ro} nineteen times in New Testament scripture. Nineteen is the number pointing to FAITH. Interestingly we also find the phrase “**taken up**” in nineteen verses of New Testament scripture. There is a related word also found nineteen times in scripture that verifies Jesus was ...*received up into glory*... and that is the word “**ascended!**” (Stated another way, the word “**ascended**,” is found nineteen times in scripture, the phrase “**taken up**” is found in nineteen verses of New Testament scripture, and the Greek word epairo {ep-ah-ee'-ro} meaning to raise up on high, is also found nineteen times in New Testament scripture, triple emphasizing to the believer that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was ...*received up into glory*... and we see this by FAITH.)

One quick example how the word “**ascended**” relates to the fact that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was ...*received up into glory*... is found in Peter's first sermon of ACTS 2. ACTS 2:32 *This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.* Peter here was giving witness here that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was ...*received up into glory*.

Remember we said that all six points of this **mystery of godliness** include us? We saw this explained to us in ACTS 1:9-11, which we just read. ACTS 1:9 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; (epairo {ep-ah-ee'-ro} <G1869>) and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up (analambano {an-al-am-ban'-o} <G353>) from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

How was Jesus **received up into glory**? ACTS 1:9 ACTS 1:9 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; (epairo {ep-ahee'-ro} <G1869>) and a cloud received him out of their sight.* The Greek word translated “received” here in ACTS 1:9 is hupolambano {hoop-ol-am-ban'-o}, <5274> here meaning: to take up and carry away, or to receive hospitably; to welcome. Recall that lambano {lam-ban'-o}, <2983> most commonly is translated: to take, or receive. Here in ACTS 1:9 lambano is modified by the Greek word hupo <5259,> which means: under. Thus literally Jesus here took under Him this cloud as it hupolambano ...*received him out of their sight.*

So we see Jesus was ...*received up into glory*... by a **cloud**, but this was no ordinary **cloud**. If you have ever been out in the country you may have seen in the distance what looked like a **cloud**, or smoke, yet you knew it wasn't either a **cloud** or smoke? After closer examination you discovered it was a flock of flying birds that at times looked like a **cloud**, or smoke. This **cloud** we find in ACTS 1:9 wasn't a flock of birds, but rather it was a flock of already resurrected Saints, which we more respectfully find termed in scripture a **cloud**! HEBREWS 12:1 calls them ...*a cloud of witnesses*... . We first find this ...*cloud of witnesses*... described in MATTHEW 27. MATTHEW 27:52 *And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.* Note that MATTHEW 27:52 plainly tells us that “many bodies of the saints,” not all, but ...*many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.* The Apostle Paul references this same group of people in HEBREWS 12:23 and calls them ...*the spirits of just men made perfect*,... . Paul also addresses this same subject, and speaks of these very same group of saints in EPHESIANS 4:8-10. EPHESIANS 4:8 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)* These many bodies of the saints that arose after the resurrection of Jesus are indeed the Old Testament worthies of faith found in HEBREWS 11. In HEBREWS 12:1 the very same Old Testament worthies of faith are called “a **cloud of witnesses**.” HEBREWS 12:1 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses*,... . This “**cloud of witnesses**,” speaking of the Old Testament worthies of faith, are this “cloud” of ACTS 1:9 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

So we see in ACTS 1:9 that Jesus ...*received up into glory*... by a **cloud** of Saints. Jesus, who was ...*received up into glory*... by a **cloud** of Saints, how is He coming back? Our answer is found in what we read in ACTS 1:9-11. ACTS 1:9 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.* Thus we learn here that this same Jesus, who 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*... by a **cloud** of Saints, will return in like manner surrounded by a **cloud** of Saints. The Apostle Paul in 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14 describes this **cloud** of Saints with Jesus like this: *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.* 1 THESSALONIANS 4:17 goes on to state: *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* (as part of this ever increasing **cloud** formation). The “**like manner**” that Jesus, who was ...*received up into glory*... by a **cloud** of Saints, is coming back is also told about in JUDE 1:14 ...*Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints*,... . The Apostle John wrote it like this in REVELATION 1:7 tells us: *Behold, he cometh with clouds*;... and as we have just learned, this **cloud** is a **cloud** of Saints.

1 TIMOTHY 3:16 *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 TIMOTHY 6:11 *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

JEREMIAH 33:3 *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

DEUTERONOMY 29:29 *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

The word “secret” is found seven times in DANIEL, six times in DANIEL 2.
The word “secrets” is found three times in DANIEL 2.

DANIEL 2:18 *That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.*

DANIEL 2:19 *Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

DANIEL 2:22 *He revealeth the deep and secret things:... .*

DANIEL 2:27 *Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king*

DANIEL 2:28 *But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets... .*

DANIEL 2:29 *As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.*

DANIEL 2:30 *But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.*

DANIEL 2:47 *The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.*