

The Revelation of the Mystery



READ IT:

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; ³that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, ⁷of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. ⁸To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ¹³Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

EPHESIANS 3:1-13

The main point: God's grace embodied in the Gospel, focuses on the mystery that has now been revealed and in which the Gentiles participate.



EXAMINE IT:

Observation—What do I see?

- Any repeated words? _____
- Who is the subject? _____
- Who is the object? _____
- What are the action verbs? _____
- What are the conjunctions? _____
- Any purpose clauses ("so that")? _____
- Any commands? _____



OUTLINE IT:

Structure/Bones—What are the important markers?

A. The Revelation of the Mystery (vv.1-5)

1. A mystery now revealed (vv.1-4)

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; ³that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

2. A mystery once hidden (v.5)

⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

B. The Revealed Mystery Explained (vv.6-12)

1. It involves the "Gentiles." (v.6)

⁶to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

2. As "Apostle to the Gentiles," Paul's task was...

a. To preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. (vv.7-8)

⁷of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. ⁸To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

b. To bring to light the administration of Christ (v.9)

⁹and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

c. To make known the wisdom of God through the church in the plan of God. (vv.10-13)

¹⁰so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ¹³Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.



UNDERSTAND IT:

Interpretation—What does it mean?

Key words and theological and practical uses

What are the key words and why do they matter?

What is the key doctrine(s) and what other passages support it?

What are the uses of this doctrine in everyday life?



APPLY IT:

Choose which applications apply and how you will seek to practice it in your life today.

- What *instruction* does this text reinforce?
- What *error* does this text refute?
- What *duty* does this text require?
- What *prohibition* does this text forbid?
- What *examination* does this text call for?
- What *commitment* does this text declare?
- Is there an *example* to follow?
- Are there *commandments* to obey?
- Are there *errors* to avoid?
- Are there *sins* to forsake or confess?
- Are there *promises* to claim?
- Are there *principles* to implement?
- Are there *temptations* to resist?
- Are there *praises* to render?
- Are there *attitudes* to adjust?

Write it here: (bring it back with you next week to see if you applied it—I double-dog dare you!)

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