

THE MYSTERIES OF
THE NEW TESTAMENT

(continued from within)

- The ways of God in Grace – Eph. 3:9
- The Word in a comprehensive way – I Cor. 4:1.



*Jesus Christ
Is Lord!*

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MYSTERIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

MYSTERY – is defined primarily that which is known to the initiated – to initiate into the mysteries. **Cp Phil. 4:12.** “I have learned the secret. ... R.V.

In the New Testament, it denotes NOT the **mysterious** (as with the English word), but that which being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, **can be made 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.**

In the ordinary sense, a mystery implies knowledge **withheld**. However the Scriptural significance is **revealed**. Hence the terms especially associated with the subject are “made known”, “manifested”, “revealed”, “preached”, “understand”, and “dispensation”.
(Ex. Col. 1:26)

Mystery is used in approximately 12 different ways in the gospel.

It is used of:

- Spiritual truth generally, as revealed in the gospel. **I Cor. 13:2; 14:2** (all mysteries)
Cp I Tim. 3:9
- Among the ancient Greeks, “the mysteries” were religious rites and ceremonies practiced by secret societies, into which anyone who so desired might be received. Those initiated into these “mysteries” became possessors of certain knowledge, not shared with the uninitiated, and were called “the perfected”. Paul has these mysteries in mind in **I Cor. 2:6-16** and presents THE GOSPEL in contrast to it. “Here” the “perfected” of course the “believers” who ALONE can perceive the things revealed.
- Christ, who is God Himself revealed under the conditions of human life? **Col. 2:2-3; 4:3.**
- The Church – Christ’s Body – union of redeemed men with God in Christ. – **Eph. 5:32 (Cp Col. 1:27)**
- The rapture into the presence of Christ, of those members of the

- Church which is His body alive on earth at the time of His Coming. **I Cor. 15:51**
- The operation of those hidden forces that either retard or accelerate the Kingdom of Heaven – **Matt. 13:11; Mark 4:11** (Ex. Law of Seedtime & Harvest)
 - The cause of the present condition of Israel – **Romans 11:25**
 - The spirit of disobedience to God – **I Thes. 2:7; Rev. 17:5,7 (Cp. Eph. 2:2).**
 - Seven local churches and their angels – seen in symbolism. **Rev. 1:20.**

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