

## **Did Jesus Really 'NOT' Know the Mystery ?**

Years ago, at some 'mid-Acts' Bible conferences, after the meetings, while folks were sitting around a table talking .... I was in the company of preachers who were comparing Jesus' earthly ministry with the apostle Paul's ministry. Statements were made .... that **Jesus did NOT know the mystery WHILE He was living here on earth** .... although He later revealed it to Paul .... after He was risen, glorified, and ascended to heaven.

This caught my interest, and so I assigned the subject to the featured preacher to be presented each evening at the next conference I held in Tennessee the following March. The conference attendees seemed to enjoy the messages, but afterward, conflict arose and I even defended the topic.

I am no longer a 'mid-Acts-er' .... since I studied my way out of their 'constantly dividing' .... and making 2 Jesus' (1 being the 'earthly Jesus' and the other being, the 'risen, glorified Lord'). So I wanted to deal with this issue once again .... to see clearly this time .... without being pre-disposed to accept 'mid-Acts' teaching.

We will begin at the classic 'mid-Acts' passage .... which they use to say that no one -- including Jesus Christ Himself -- knew anything about 'the mystery' .... until Jesus went 'far above all heavens' (Eph 4:10) .... and got it from God the Father .... and then gave it to Paul.

Let's look at what 'thus saith the Lord' .... at 'what saith the scripture'!

The dispensation of the grace of God was given to Paul for the Gentiles:

**Eph 3:1-10** For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ  
for you Gentiles,

2 If ye have heard of **the dispensation of the grace of God**  
which is given me (Paul) to you-ward: (to you Gentiles)

Paul received 'the mystery' by revelation ....

and had already written briefly about it before:

3 How that **by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;**  
(as I wrote afore in few words,

Paul called this revelation .... 'the mystery of Christ':

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

As we read and re-read this next verse .... we will notice 3 points in it:

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;

Point 1) 'In time past' .... 'the mystery of Christ' was not declared the way it is now seen. No one recognized 'the mystery' while they were under the OLD testament. The disciples did not understand the 'fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ' (Rom 15:29) .... even though Jesus sent and commissioned them to 'teach all nations' (Matt 28:19) .... 'into all the world' .... to 'preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:16). It is not that they did not know it 'at all' - but that they did not 'realize' all it meant:

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;

Point 2) A distinction is made in the verse between 'in other ages' .... and 'as it is now'. However, 'now' does not **exclusively belong to PAUL's INFORMATION** .... as 'mid-Acts-ers' suppose. 'But now' statements are also made in the epistles of Hebrews, James, and Peter .... not just in Paul.

'Mid-Acts-ers' wrongly-divide by believing .... that **'now' is ONLY PAUL's MINISTRY** .... and that 'other ages' are the ministries of all the 'other holy apostles and prophets':

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;

Point 3) 'Mid-Acts-ers' teach that the mystery of Christ was revealed ONLY to PAUL .... and that it went **THROUGH Paul** .... to everyone else. "But what saith the SCRIPTURE?" 'The mystery of Christ' was revealed **to His holy apostleS (PLURAL) and prophetS (PLURAL) .... and HOW? BY GOD's SPIRIT .... NOT by Paul:**

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;**

Just what was 'the mystery of Christ'? It is **SPECIFICALLY stated.**

**We Gentiles will be 'fellow-heirs' with them Israelites.**

Though 'mid-Acts-ers' are constantly talking about 'the mystery that was revealed to Paul' .... they DENY the fact that we Gentiles will SHARE in the inheritance that was promised to Abraham's seed. They teach we Gentiles have a DIFFERENT inheritance that 'now' Israelites can also have, if they believe through Paul, and not through Peter, James, or John, or even Jesus:

(Eph 3:) 6-a That the Gentiles should be **fellowheirs,**

'The mystery of Christ' also includes that we Gentiles

are in the **SAME 'GROUP'** with all of God's saints:

6-b and of the **same body,**

'The mystery of Christ' also includes that we are all 'in Christ' ....

which also means that we are all Abraham's seed (Gal 3:29):

6-c and **partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**

Without question, Paul was sent to the Gentiles to dispense God's grace:

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

'Mid-Acts-ers' make the MOST of Paul .... but what saith the scripture?

8 Unto 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;

'Mid-Acts' preachers who think Christ could not have known 'the mystery' during His earthly ministry .... quote that 'the mystery' was 'hid in God'.

However, we must remember that, after all, 'the mystery' is 'the mystery of Christ' .... and therefore we ask,

Did not Christ know His own mystery?

Did Jesus not know the mystery concerning His Own Self?

Did Christ quit being God while He lived on earth as a man?

9 And 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:

Now that the apostles and prophets have full understanding (Luke 24:45),  
 'the mystery of Christ' .... which is the 'wisdom of God' .... is no longer  
 hidden. Now it is proclaimed by the church:

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

The principalities and powers in heavenly places .... and the princes of  
 this world .... can know 'the wisdom of God' .... the mystery of Christ':

**1 Cor 2:6-8** Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect:  
 yet **not the wisdom of this world**, (which is foolishness with God,  
 as it is written, in 1 Cor 3:19 and Job 5:13)  
 nor of **the princes of this world**, that come to nought:

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.

Christ is the wisdom of God:

**1 Cor 1:24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks,  
**Christ** the power of God, and **the wisdom of God**.

.... and Christ is the wisdom of God .... to us who are 'in Him':

**1 Cor 1:30** But of him **are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made  
 unto us wisdom**, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Saints should fully understand 'the mystery' so they won't be tricked:

**Col 2:2-4** That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in  
 love, and unto all riches of **the full assurance of understanding, to the  
 acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of  
 Christ**; (Notice: 'the mystery of God' = 'the mystery of Christ'.)

3 **In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom** and knowledge.

4 **And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing  
 words.** ('mid-Acts' preachers saying Jesus didn't know His own mystery.)

The scriptures clearly show and agree that whether 'the mystery' was translated singular or plural, it is the SAME .... and 'the kingdom of GOD' and 'the kingdom of HEAVEN' are the SAME.

**Jesus gave 'the mystery' to His disciples:**

**Mark 4:34** But without a parable spake he not unto them (multitudes): and when they were alone, **he expounded all things to his disciples.**

**MARK's** account of Jesus' words said,

'the **mystery** (singular in the KJV) of the kingdom of **GOD**':

**Mark 4:9-12** And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

11 And he said unto them, **Unto you it is given to know the mystery (Greek <musterion> of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without,** all these things are done in parables:

- 12
- That seeing they may see, and not perceive;
  - and hearing they may hear, and not understand;
- lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

In **LUKE's** account -- of the same parable -- Jesus said,

'the **mysterieS** (plural in the KJV) of the kingdom of **GOD**':

**Luke 8:10** And he said (to His disciples), Unto you it is given to know **the mysterieS (Greek <musterion> of the kingdom of God:** but to others in parables;

- that seeing they might not see,
- and hearing they might not understand.

**MATTHEW's** account -- of the same parable -- said,

'the **mysterieS** (plural in the KJV -- but the EXACT same Greek word) of the kingdom of **HEAVEN**':

**Matt 13:9-17** Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him,

Why speakest thou unto them (**the multitudes**) in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know **the mysteries (Greek <musterion>)** 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; (**Isa 6:9-10**)
- 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.

As Paul explained to the Jews about His ministry to the Gentiles, he quoted the SAME PROPHECY from Isaiah that Jesus quoted to His disciples in the context of **'the mystery' of the kingdom of HEAVEN (which is the kingdom of GOD)** .... and it being given to them to know it:

**Acts 28:23-29** And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; **to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets,** from morning till evening.

24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

(Acts 28:) 25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, **Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, (Isa 6:9-10)**

26 Saying, Go unto this people, and say,

- Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand;
- and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross,

- and their ears are dull of hearing,
- and their eyes have they closed;
  - lest they should see with their eyes,
  - and hear with their ears,
  - and understand with their heart,
  - and should be converted, and I should heal them.

28 **Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.**

29 And **when he had said these words, the Jews departed,** and had great reasoning among themselves.

The **ministers of Christ ....**

were ALL preaching **the gospel of Christ .... and the mystery of Christ:**

**1 Cor 3:21-23** Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;

22 Whether **Paul,** or **Apollos,** or **Cephas,**  
or the world, or life, or death,  
or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

**1 Cor 4:1-2** Let a man so account

of us (**Paul, Apollos, Cephas/Peter from verse 22,**  
**as of the ministers of Christ,**  
**and stewards of the mysteries (Greek <musterion>) of God.**

2 Moreover **it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

The **ministers of Christ ....** are the SAME as the **ministers of God**

(also **Isa 61:6,** where Israel was to be called 'the ministers of our God').

They were ALL preaching **the gospel of God** and **the mystery of God:**

**2 Cor 6:4** But in all things approving ourselves as **the ministers of God,** in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

**The Greek word for 'mystery' is the same <musterion> .... whether Jesus spoke it during His earthly ministry in the gospel records or whether Paul wrote it for Him in his epistles.**

It was called **'the mystery'**. (Rom 16:25; Eph 3:3,9; Col 1:26)

It was called **'the mystery of the gospel'**. (Eph 6:19)

It was called **'the mystery of Christ'**. (Eph 3:4; Col 2:2, 4:3)

It was called **'the mystery of the Father'**. (Col 2:2)

It was called **'the mystery of God'**. (Col 2:2, Rev 10:7)

It was called **'the mysteries of God'**. (1 Cor 4:1)

It was called **'the mystery of the kingdom of God'**. (Mark 4:11)

It was called **'the mysteries of the kingdom of God'**. (Luke 8:10)

It was called **'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven'**. (Matt 13:11)

It was called **'the wisdom of God in a mystery'**. (1 Cor 2:7)

It was called **'this mystery among the Gentiles'**. (Col 1:27)

By whatever phrase 'the mystery' was called .... Jesus HAD to know it .... in order to GIVE it to His disciples - which He did. **Did Jesus know 'the mystery'? Yes, He did.** It was 'His'. He was God, is God, as always has been God. 'Mid-Acts-ers' teach there were 2 Jesus' - One Not-Knowing, and the Other All-Knowing. They are not being faithful with 'the mystery'!