

Prophecy's Role In the Dispensation of Grace

In nearly 30 years of being in what-is-called **the GRACE movement**, I am not aware of this subject (the title of this message) being proclaimed from mid-Acts' pulpits. What I have heard preached is, "The grace that Peter preached was **DIFFERENT** from the grace that Paul preached. Peter preached '**PROPHESIED-GRACE**' but Paul preached '**MYSTERY-GRACE**'." The **focus** has been on so many **DIVISIONS** that I can't help but wonder **why the SHIFT** to investigate this topic. But whatever the reasons, I am glad for the **ADMITTANCE** that **PROPHECY IS functioning during the dispensation of GRACE**. "Oh, no! You can't '**MIX**' prophecy with **mystery!**" still echoes in my head. But like the blue wound of a bruise, thank God, that quote is fading away, as I overlay it with truth.

God committed a dispensation to Paul (1 Cor 9:17), who expounded on how the 'no difference' principal works:

Eph 3:1-6 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ
for you Gentiles,
2 If ye have heard of **the dispensation** (also translated '**stewardship**')
of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
3 How that by revelation he made known unto me
the mystery <musterion>;
(as I wrote afore in few words,
4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge
in the mystery <musterion> of Christ)

Notice carefully that the verse does **NOT** say that the mystery was not made known **at all**. Listen to how it is now **made clear**:

5 Which **in other ages** was not made known unto the sons of men,
as it is now revealed (not 'now' as 'in this very minute, by Paul' but rather, 'now' as 'in this age' compared to 'in other ages')

unto his holy apostles and prophets (plural, more than just Paul)

by the Spirit; (Although God revealed it to His holy apostle'S' and prophet'S' by His Spirit, that does not dismiss the fact that God also used Paul to communicate information to the holy apostles and prophets, as Gal 2:2-9.)

What was the mystery of Christ?

6 That the Gentiles

- should be fellowheirs, (Acts 20:32, 26:18; Rom 4:14, 8:17; Gal 3:18,29; Titus 3:7, Eph 1:11,14,18) WITH Israel
- and of the same body, (Rom 12:5, 1 Cor 12:12-13, Eph 2:16, Col 3:15)
- and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: (Col 1:12, 1 Cor 10:17; Gal 3:18,22,29; Gal 4:22-31; Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25)

2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (Paul, does 'all' mean 'all?')

God communicated to mankind through His servants the prophets:

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. (Acts 13:1, Saul was a prophet.)

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery <musterion> of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Be aware of these 3 points as we read this next verse:

Point # 1) The Greek word <oikonomia> is translated both 'dispensation' and 'stewardship' (Luke 16:2,3,4) It is the same, except for the last 2 letters, as the Greek word <oikonomOS> is translated 'stewards.'

Point # 2) The Greek word for 'ministers' is also translated 'servants.'

Point # 3) The Greek word for 'the mysteries' (plural) is also translated 'the mystery' (singular). So therefore, what this means is

Christ's 'servants' were 'dispensers' of 'the mystery':

1 Cor 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards <oikonomOS> of the mysteries <musterion> of God.

This next verse shows that whether it is called

- the mystery of God
 - the mystery of the Father
- or
- the mystery of Christ
- it is 'the mystery':

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 <musterion> of God, and of the Father, and 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.

When 'mid-Acts-ers' run into verses that don't fit their paradine ...

they just **SPLIT** like atoms! They split Jesus in His earthly ministry

as **another Jesus** (2 Cor 11:4) from Jesus in His heavenly ministry

so they have no problem at all to make **the mystery** that Jesus gave to

His apostles be a '**PROPHECY-MYSTERY**' instead of a '**MYSTERY-**

MYSTERY' that Paul had the same way they make Peter's grace be a

'**PROPHESED-GRACE**', entirely different than Paul's '**MYSTERY-GRACE.**'

But these next verses show that it is the same whether it is called

- the '**mystery**' (singular) of the kingdom of '**God**'
- or
- the '**mysteries**' (plural) of the kingdom of '**heaven**'

Mark 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery <musterion> of the kingdom of God:

but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Matt 13:10-16 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 <musterion> of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them (**unbelievers**) 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, (Isaiah)**
which saith,

By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand;

and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 **For this people's heart is waxed gross,**

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

16 But **blessed are your eyes, for they see:**

and your ears, for they hear.

Likewise, Paul quoted **the SAME passage Jesus said was fulfilled and APPLIED THIS PROPHECY** by inspiration of God to **HIS** ministry

- about God's kingdom, which was, and still is, located in heaven

but one day, will come to earth (Matt 6:10, Rev 21:2)

and • about Jesus Christ, the Coming King of God's kingdom (Matt 27:37;

1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14, 19:16; Jer 23:5; Mark 14:61-62; Psa 24:7-10;

1 Cor 15:23-24; 2 Tim 4:1; 1 Thess 3:13; 2 Thess 2:1-9; Col 3:4; Luke 23:42)

What is the role of PROPHECY

in the dispensation of grace?

It was Paul's TEXTBOOK!

Acts 28:23-31 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.

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,**

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.

30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

(Here again, as in vs. 23, Paul repeated his 2 main issues):

31 **Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him. (see Acts 26:22-23)**

The saints were established in Christ's testimony, when Paul wrote to them concerning the end, the day of Christ, when the Lord Jesus comes:

1 Cor 1:6-8 Even as **the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:**

7 So that ye come behind in no gift;

waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

8 Who shall also **confirm you unto the end,**

that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Later in the same epistle, Paul declared **God's testimony** to them:

1 Cor 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, **declaring unto you the testimony of God.**

Paul encouraged Timothy not to be embarrassed of **our Lord's testimony**:

2 Tim 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of **the testimony of our Lord**, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

We just read from Paul about being confirmed. declared, and unashamed of

- the testimony of **Christ**
- the testimony of **God**
- the testimony of **our Lord**

Next is

- the testimony of **Jesus**

'Mid-Acts Wresters' have to **SPLIT** here, so prophecy won't **MIX** into the dispensation of grace. They must create a '**PROPHECY-TESTIMONY**' to be distinct from a '**MYSTERY-TESTIMONY**'.

Rev 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren **that have the testimony of Jesus:** worship God: for **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

In order to stay with their paradine having at least 2 of everything

'mid-Acts-ers' classify Jesus as one of the '**PROPHECY-PROPHETS**'.

But in Paul's writings, 'mid-Acts-ers' need '**MYSTERY-PROPHETS**'

just to keep things **DIVIDED** so they won't **confuse** programs:

1 Cor 14:32-33 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in **all churches of the saints.**

Surely you figure or know by now that 'mid-Acts-ers' have both
a '**PROPHECY-CHURCH**' and a '**MYSTERY-CHURCH**'.

'Mid-Acts Wrestling' is both sad and ridiculous. Think about it!

- **Would Saul have been a 'mystery-prophet'**
- **who was sent out of a 'prophecy-church' in Acts 13**
- **yet who was the 1st member of a 'mystery-church'**
- **that began with his own conversion in Acts 9? How absurd!**

Acts 13:1-3 Now there were in **the church** that was at Antioch **certain prophets and teachers**; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and **Saul**.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate** me Barnabas and **Saul** for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

'Mid-Acts-ers' distinguish Paul's writings as distinct 'mystery' information.

**On their charts, they divide Paul's epistles, as mystery
from the rest of the Bible, as prophecy.**

A brief (not exhaustive) comparison between Paul's writings
and other prophets' writings will again answer the question

**What is the role of PROPHECY
in the dispensation of grace?**

Both Paul and John prophesied about **the wrath to come**:

1 Thess 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from **the wrath to come**.

Matt 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from **the wrath to come?**

Both Paul and Jesus prophesied of **this world, and the one to come:**

Eph 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in **this world, but also in that which is to come:**

Matt 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in **this world, neither in the world to come.**

Both Paul and Peter prophesied that **Jesus will judge the alive and the dead:**

2 Tim 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and **the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead** at his appearing and his kingdom;

Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he (**Jesus of Nazareth**) which was **ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.** (also see 1 Pet 4:5)

Both Paul and Peter gave prophetic warnings for the saints **to know of things that shall come in the last days.**

(‘Mid-Acts-ers’ teach that there are 2 different sets of last days):

2 Tim 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come.**

2 Pet 3:3 Knowing this first, that **there shall come in the last days scoffers**, walking after their own lusts,

In the context of the day of the Lord, both Paul and Peter prophesied and instructed believers to **watch and be sober:**

1 Thess 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us **watch and be sober.**

1 Pet 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: **be ye therefore sober, and watch** unto prayer.

when Christ shall appear. 'Mid-Acts Wresters' teach that there are 2 different appearings of Christ, but the scriptures do not show that:

Col 3:4 When **Christ**, who is our life, **shall appear**, then shall ye also appear with him **in glory**.

Heb 9:28 So **Christ** was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall **he appear the second time** without sin unto salvation.

1 Pet 5:4 And when **the chief Shepherd shall appear**, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when **he shall appear**, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Paul and Peter both prophesied about the glory at Christ's appearing:

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and **the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**; (also 2 Thess 1:10)

1 Pet 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and **glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ**:

Both Paul and Jesus prophesied of gathering together the saints:

2 Thess 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **by our gathering together unto him**,

Mark 13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might **gather together in one** all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should **gather together in one** the children of God that were scattered abroad.

Paul and Peter and Joel promised **salvation to whoever calls**

on the Lord's name:

Rom 10:13 For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:** for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Both Paul and Jesus preached to believe on Christ:

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but **believeth on him** that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. **(Just like Abraham, see Rom 4:3, Gal 3:6, James 2:23, Gen 15:6)**

John 3:36 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.

Paul and Peter both preached 'no difference' between Israel and the Gentiles:

Rom 10:12 For **there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **(also see Rom 3:22)**

Acts 15:9 And put **no difference between us and them,** purifying their hearts by faith.

Both Paul and Amos prophesied of the evil day:

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in **the evil day,** and having done all, to stand.

Amos 6:3 Ye that put far away **the evil day,** and cause the seat of violence to come near;

Both Paul and Peter prophesied that **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night:** (also Rev 16:15, Matt 24:43)

1 Thess 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**

2 Pet 3:10 But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;** in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Both Paul and Peter prophesied Jesus is the **chief corner stone:**

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being **the chief corner stone;**

1 Pet 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion **a chief corner stone,** elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Both Paul and Jesus propesied of **the resurrection of good and bad:**

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be **a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.**

John 5:29 And shall come forth;
they that have done good, unto **the resurrection of life;**
and they that have done evil, unto **the resurrection of damnation.**

What is the role of PROPHECY during the dispensation of grace? Looks like a MAJOR one to me! Paul prophesied of future events as much, or more, than anyone! Don't be deceived by 'mid-Acts-ers' who are 'wrongly'-dividing.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"