

When Will the Dispensation of Grace End ?

First, we will do the short answer, then we will look at a longer explanation.

Here is the brief version answered in just **one verse** (1 Cor 15:52):

1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,** and we shall be changed.

Question #1: Are there any indications in the verses about **WHEN** the resurrection of the dead will take place?

Answer: Yes, the timing of the resurrection will be **at the last trump.**

Question #2: Can we identify 'the last trump' in scripture?

Answer: Yes, there is a future series of 7 trumps to be blown in the book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ. 'The last trump' is the 7th trump:

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before **God**; and to them were given **seven trumpets.**

Question #3: What happens when the 7th trumpet blows?

Answer: It will conclude **the MYSTERY of God:**

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

Question #4: Does Paul, who was a **servant** (Greek <doulos>) of God (Rom 1:1, Gal 1:10, Titus 1:1) and a **prophet** (Greek <prophetes>) (Acts 13:1) also speak of **the mystery of God?**

Answer: Yes, he did:

Paul equated the mystery of God with the mystery of Christ:

Col 2:2 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 (Greek <musterion>) **of God** (Greek <theos>), and of the Father, **and of Christ** (Greek <Christos>);

Question #5: Is that Paul's only mention of the mystery of God and Christ?

Answer: No, Paul also wrote of **the mystery (or mysteries - same Greek word) of God or of Christ** a few other times:

Notice 'minister**S**' and 'steward**S**' are plural, not singular not just Paul:

1 Cor 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of **the ministers of Christ**, and **stewards** (Greek <oikonomos>, similar to the Greek word <oikonomia> translated **dispensation**, thus 'stewards' are '**dispensers**')
of the mysteries (Greek <musterion>) **of God** (Greek <theos>),

Paul requested prayer that God would give him opportunity to make **the mystery of Christ** known, as he should (1 Cor 9:16-18):

Col 4:2-4 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
 3 Withal praying also for us (**plural**), that God would open unto us (**plural**) a door of utterance, **to speak the mystery** (Greek <musterion>) **of Christ** (Greek <Christos>); for which I am also in bonds:
 4 **That I may make it manifest** (also Rom 16:25-26), **as I ought to speak** (also Eph 6:18-20).

In the very passage where the **dispensation of the grace of God** is named, Paul **specifically DETAILED exactly the mystery of Christ:**

Eph 3:1-7 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 to you-ward: (though it was 'given' to Paul for the Gentiles - also Rom 11:13, he was not the only one to whom it was revealed)

3 How that **by revelation he made known unto me**

the mystery (Greek <musterion>); (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in

the mystery (Greek <musterion>) **of Christ** (Greek <Christos>))

5 Which **in other ages** was not made known unto the sons of men, **as it is now revealed** (they did not **recognize** the mystery in 'time past' the way it is understood in 'this age' - also 1 Pet 1:10-12)

unto his holy apostles and prophets (not just Paul)

by the Spirit; (not by Paul)

Here is the explanation of the mystery of God, the mystery of Christ:

6 That the Gentiles should be **fellowheirs,**

('joint-heirs' with Christ as Rom 8:17,

'being heirs together' of the grace of life as 1 Pet 3:7,

'the heirs with him' of the same promise as Heb 11:9)

and **of the same body,** (Eph 2:16, 4:4; Col 3:15; Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12)

and **partakers of his** (God's-vs.2) **promise in Christ** by the gospel:

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.

When Paul recounted his Damascus Road experience to King Agrippa, he told how Jesus had commissioned him to preach to the Gentiles about their acceptance as **'FELLOWS' with the same 'INHERITANCE'**

among obviously those of Israel who had already believed in Christ:

Acts 26:15-18 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus (the **same Jesus Who had an earthly ministry**) whom thou persecutest.

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;

(Acts 26:) 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from **the Gentiles,**
unto whom now I send thee,

18 To open their **(the Gentiles')** eyes,
 and to turn them **(the Gentiles)** from darkness to light,
 and from the power of Satan unto God,
 that **they (the Gentiles) may receive** forgiveness of sins,
 and **inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that**
is in me (Jesus). (also Eph 1:9-11,14,18; Col 1:12, 3:24) Gentiles now
 have inheritance among them that were 'in Christ' before Paul (Rom 16:7).

Paul also told the Ephesian elders that by God's edifying grace,
 they would **share as fellow-heirs among ALL God's saints:**

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, **I commend you** to God,
 and **to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up,**
 and **to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.**

In the context of communion, Paul taught the church of God at Corinth,
them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all
that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

(1 Cor 1:2), the fellow-ship that Gentiles have with Israel and Christ:

1 Cor 10:17 For we being many are one bread (John 6:48,51), and
one body: for **we are all partakers** of that one bread. (ALL the saints
 of ALL time, saved by Christ's body death on the cross, by His blood)

PAUL taught that the fulness of the Gentiles will be the END
of the dispensation of grace when Israel's blindness is over
and Jesus Christ will come from heaven (2 Thess 1:7-10)
to resurrect 'ALL' His dead saints (1 Thess 3:13) and to deliver
Israel and graff them back in their own tree AGAIN (Rom 11:23)
 which corresponds with the end of the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy
 (Dan 9:24; 2 Thess 2:1-10; 1 Cor 15:23-28, 1:7-8, 4:5; 1 Thess 2:19):

Rom 11:25-26 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits;

**that blindness in part is happened to Israel,
until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

26 And so all Israel (Rom 9:6-8, Gal 3:16,29, 4:28-31) shall be saved: **as it is written**, (Paul quoting prophecy? Oh, yes!) There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Israel):

Now let's recap WHEN the dispensation of grace will end:

- at the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor 15:52)
- at the last trump (1 Cor 15:52) which is the 7th (Rev 10:7)
- when the mystery of God/Christ is finished (Rev 10:7, Col 2:2)
which is the dispensation of the grace of God (Eph 3:1-7)
- when all God's saints will share in the same inheritance (Eph 3:6; Acts 20:32, 26:15-18; 1 Cor 10:17).

'Mid-Acts-ers' change all of those scriptures. They say:

- 1 Cor 15:51-52 is an **'UNCOUNTED' MYSTERY** resurrection, before **what scripture says is the 1st resurrection** (Rev 20:4-5), **when, not ALL, but only PART** of the dead saints will be raised

(just the ones that have believed "Paul's" gospel during the dispensation of grace --- no one in Christ before Paul).

- They either totally **ignore** the last trump or they completely **fabricate** 3 trumps (with NO verses at all) like,

toot #1 - when He descends from heaven

toot #2 - when the dead are raised

toot #3 (the last toot) - when the alive are 'raptured'.

- They say 'the mystery of God' (Rev 10:7) is

a **'prophetic program mystery'** and is a **DIFFERENT mystery of God** than Paul's **'mystery program mystery'**.

- 1) an **earthly** inheritance for saints in 'Israel's earthly kingdom program' meaning those saved 'outside of Paul's gospel'

Yet, Paul wrote that Abraham is OUR father, too:

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end **the promise might be sure to all the seed (Gal 3:29)**; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of **Abraham; who is the father of us all,** (also Rom 4:11)

And Paul wrote that heavenly Jerusalem is OUR mother, too:

Gal 4:26 But **Jerusalem which is above** is free, which **is the mother of us all.**

- 2) a **heavenly** inheritance for ONLY those saints saved in what-they-call 'the mystery program' meaning 'just during the dispensation of grace'

For example, 'mid-Acts-ers' use Paul's epistles to **create a SEPARATE, HEAVENLY DESTINY** for who-they-call ONLY 'the body of Christ':

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings **in heavenly places** in Christ:

But 'mid-Acts-ers' **DISREGARD** other verses about **heavenly blessings**:

Matt 6:20 But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,** where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Luke 6:23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, **your reward is great in heaven:** for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you,**

The blessings that are in heaven now will come to earth, because Christ will come to earth and bring His saints and kingdom (Matt 6:10, 2 Tim 4:1)

Which do you believe? The scriptures or the 'mid-Acts-ers'?

Now, for a few **more** verses to **DIS-PROVE** 'mid-Acts-ers' false teaching.

'Mid-Acts-ers' say Paul's teaching about **the COMING of the Lord is a secret, MYSTERY coming that does not 'count' as 'His 2nd coming'**:

1 Cor 1:7-8 So that ye come behind in no gift; **waiting** (2 Thess 3:5, Rom 8:23) **for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:** (1 Thess 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, 5:23; 2 Thess 2:1,8; Matt 24:27,30)

8 Who shall also confirm you **unto the end**, (1 Cor 15:23-24, 10:11) that ye may be blameless (1 Thess 3:13, 5:23; 2 Pet 3:4,12-14) **in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (2 Pet 3:10-12)

The coming of the Lord and the END of the world that PAUL wrote about are the same coming of the Lord and the same end of the world that Jesus' disciples asked Him about:

Matt 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of **thy coming**, and of **the end of the world**?

'Mid-Acts-ers' say James, Peter, and John taught **a DIFFERENT coming of the Lord** than Paul taught -- but they are wrong. It is the **SAME coming**:

James 5:7 **Be patient** therefore, brethren, **unto the coming of the Lord.** Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

2 Peter 3:4 And saying, **Where is the promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, **all things continue as they were** from the beginning of the creation.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear** (1 John 3:2), we may have confidence, and **not be ashamed before him at his coming.** (Rev 1:7, 22:7,12,20)

'Mid-Acts-ers' also say Paul's teaching about **the APPEARING of the Lord is a secret, MYSTERY appearing that does not 'count' as 'His 2nd appearing'**.

Paul related the appearing of Christ to when He is shown as King of Kings and Lord of Lords which is how John also describes His appearing:

1 Tim 6:14-15 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:** (also Col 3:4, Titus 2:13, 2 Tim 4:1,8)

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, **the King of kings, and Lord of lords** (also Rev 17:14, 19:16);

'Mid-Acts-ers' know that **Hebrews** which they say is 'not FOR them' tells of Jesus' **2nd appearing** which they say is 'not FOR them'.

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.

'Mid-Acts-ers' make the appearing PETER wrote about

a DIFFERENT appearing than the appearing PAUL wrote about:

1 Peter 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:** (also 1 Pet 5:4)

Jesus will descend from heaven **with '3 sounds'**.

But 'mid-Acts-ers' teach that they are **all the same '1 sound'**.

They say a shout -- is the voice -- is the trump, but they are wrong:

1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven

- with **a shout <keleuma>**,
 - with **the voice <phone>** of the archangel,
 - and • with **the trump <salpigx>** of God:
- and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

'Mid-Acts-ers' teach that we will be **in heaven forever**. However, careful attention to **what the verse says** shows that we will be **WITH the Lord forever**. We will **be in His personal presence forever**. **Wherever He is, we will be**, and we all know that He is coming back to earth:

1 Thess 4:17 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**.

The action of being caught up in the air is commonly called the 'rapture.' The word 'rapture' in this sense, means 'a transport in joy, when believers (both the resurrected dead and the alive) will be swooped up in the clouds to meet Jesus when He comes from heaven.'

I have nothing personal against the word itself 'rapture' the controversy is with the **TIMING** of it. A 'mid-Acts-er' preached a message called "Timing Is Everything" and proceeded to say that the resurrection would have already past when **the Bible tells the 'timing' of the FIRST resurrection**, just like Paul gave an example in the context of 'mid-Acts-ers' favorite verse, the instruction to **RIGHTLY DIVIDE**:

2 Tim 2:15-18 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.
 16 But **shun** profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.
 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;
 18 **Who concerning the truth (the what? the truth) have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; (they didn't know the timing of the 1st resurrection) and overthrow the faith of some.**

In summary, 'mid-Acts-ers' teach that the **EVENT that CAUSES** the dispensation of grace to end will be **the 'pre-tribulation' rapture** of what-they-call the body of Christ meaning **only** the saints that have been saved by Paul's ministry **during the dispensation of grace.**

- They are wrong about the pre-tribulation.
- They are wrong about Christ's coming -- not being His 2nd coming.
- They are wrong about who will be resurrected

as they are dividing the church of God, and separating the saints of God.

The truth is the dispensation of grace will end

- when the Lord descends from heaven
- at the resurrection of the dead
- at the last (the 7th) trump
- when the mystery of God / Christ will be finished
- when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled
- when Israel's blindness is over
- when the Lord comes / appears the 2nd time
- at the end of the world
- after the 70th week of Daniel ends
- at the day of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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