

The Secret Revealed



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Ephesians 1:9,10 [God] having made known unto us the mystery [the secret] of his will, according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself:

That in the dispensation of the fullness 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.

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

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The Secret Revealed

God kept a secret from before the world began until He revealed it to the apostle Paul after Pentecost in the year Jesus was resurrected and ascended into heaven. It was important that He kept this information secret because, according to I Corinthians 2:7,8 (shown below), had the princes of this age known the secret (the chief “prince of this world” is the devil), they would not have crucified Jesus. Jesus’ crucifixion is the pivotal point of His (God’s) story (history). Had that not occurred, all creation would have been lost. Therefore, God kept this information hidden. He ordained from before the world began, but He didn’t reveal it. He kept it secret.

In this document I want to set forth exactly what this secret is and what it means to all of Creation. This is not an exhaustive study, but I’m supplying the principal scriptures that describe the secret and much of what it entails. I’ve organized these verses into the various topics they relate to. I suggest reading the context of the verses presented below in the King James, New King James, RSV or your favorite Bible. I encourage the reader to take this work further so you can gain the knowledge of the secret God wants the whole creation to know.

Information by itself is relatively useless until it is applied. Applied knowledge is called “wisdom.” God wants us to understand the secret and to apply that knowledge in our daily living so that we can make it known to others, including the “principalities and powers in the heavenly realm.” How can we apply what we don’t know? How can we expect to communicate what God wants communicated if we don’t know what that is?

Let’s go through the Word of God to see what God says about the secret. Most Bible translations use the word “mystery” (Greek, “mysterion”) instead of the word secret. The word “mystery” originally meant “secret.” The word “secret” is the preferred translation because once a secret has been revealed it is no longer a secret. Keep this in mind when reading the verse below. There is nothing “mystical” about the secret. The secret was simply hidden knowledge

of God's ultimate plan which He has now fully revealed. He calls this secret: "The purpose of the ages."

Proof that the secret was never revealed before Pentecost:

- 1) Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began
- 2) I Corinthians 2:7,8 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.
- 3) Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men
- 4) Ephesians 3:8 the untraceable (unsearchable) riches of Christ
- 5) Ephesians 3:9 the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God
- 6) I Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit which was in them did signify of Christ, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Who God revealed the secret to:

- 1) Ephesians 3:3,4 He revealed it through Christ to the apostle Paul: How that by revelation he [Christ] made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

What the secret is:

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness 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.

Restated in Colossians (a correctional epistle directing believers back to Ephesians):

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

This doctrine was unheard of before the revelation of the secret. It was well known that the Savior would come and save Israel from their sins and free them from their enemies. It was well known that Gentiles could become proselytes but would never share in the full inheritance Israel would receive. But that's all that was revealed. No wonder this "new doctrine" was so violently attacked by both Israel and Rome.

What God reveals here in Ephesians 1:10 is the very secret itself in all its glory. ***All things in heaven and on earth are to be reconciled to Christ in the administration of the fullness of times.*** Do you get that? Do you believe it? It may go against everything you've ever been taught but you just read it yourself. Read it again. In the administration God calls "the fullness of times," Christ shall reconcile "all things in heaven and earth to himself." That's huge. It's far beyond anything that had been previously revealed. That is the secret. But there's more. Hidden in the secret is a specific period of Christ's rule during a never-before revealed time span that we will discuss next.

The Administration of the Grace of God

"The secret of God" shown above includes a time period previously unknown. This time period is called "the administration of the grace of God" and is sandwiched between the sufferings of Christ (the Law Administration) and Christ's return for his church.

1) The Dispensation of the Grace of God

Ephesians 3:1-2 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: 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words...

2) The Administration of the Secret

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship (the administration) of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God (the word "fellowship" is incorrect; it's the Greek word "oikonomia" which means "the administration of a household")

3) The Dispensation of God

Colossians 1:25,26 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.

The administration of the secret, the administration of the Grace of God, is in effect from Pentecost until the moment Christ returns for his church. The apostle Paul was given the privilege of laying the foundation with the other Grace Administration apostles and prophets, and we have the privilege of building upon that foundation. Let's make sure it's that foundation (the secret) that we are building upon so we steer people in the right direction. When Christ returns, we will not be disappointed at the reward stand.

What the secret administration ordains:

Ephesians 3:3-5 How that by revelation he [God through Christ] made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs (with Israel), and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.

As stated previously, this was unheard of in Old Testament and Gospel times. While the secret reveals that in the administration of the fullness of times God shall gather together in Christ all things in heaven and on earth, prior to that glorious day, He is drawing a special body of people together called the church

of Grace. All people are equal in this body, whether Jew, Gentile, bond or free. The body is called Christ's own body. This church is the active church during the administration of the grace of God revealed as part of the secret of God. The church is the first phase of the fulfillment of the secret.

1) Christ the Head of his body, the Church, of which believers are individual members

Ephesians 1:19-23 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 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: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all.

2) Colossians 1:18-19 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;

3) Colossians 1:27 To whom [the saints: believers] God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

The church of Christ, made up of Gentiles and a remnant of Israel, is different than the church Jesus started to build in the gospels. Remember that the secret was not yet revealed during the gospel period. The gospels present a largely different picture. A clear example is when Jesus sent out the 12 and then the 70 "to the twelve tribes of Israel." Jesus told them not to go to the Gentiles.

The gospel "church" preached repentance for the coming Kingdom of God. The grace administration church preaches "the gospel of the secret" as we shall soon see.

What believers have by God's grace:

1) Ephesians 1:3-7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

2) Ephesians 1:11,12 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

3) Ephesians 1:13,14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory

4) Ephesians 3:10 In whom [Christ] we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

5) Colossians 1:27 the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

6) Philippians 3:20,21 For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

The inheritance the church of Christ receives is different than the inheritance promised to Israel. Nothing about the church's inheritance speaks of a nation or ruling the nations. Nothing about the church's inheritance mentions lands flowing with milk and honey. No, our inheritance is "in the heavens."

“In the heavens” is a phrase used to describe the spiritual realm. We, the church, “have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the spiritual realm.” Our citizenship is not on this earth in Jerusalem but in heaven where Jesus is now. Those are just two of the stark contrasts between Israel’s allotment and the Church’s allotment.

The “riches of the glory” of the secret is, “Christ in you – the hope of glory.” The pronoun “you” is plural in this verse, including the whole body of Christ rather than one individual in that body. Christ is in his members of which the church consists. I Corinthians 12 describes this body as its individual members. One member may be an eye while one is a foot. They both need each other. So this “hope of glory” is that Christ is in the church as a whole because his spirit is in each individual believer.

Whenever you read the word “hope” in the Bible, it is referring to what God has promised in the future that has not yet transpired. We “hope” in His promises for what will be and we base that hope on His integrity, His love and His justice as revealed in His Word of truth. “Christ in you” is our “hope of glory” because just as God has already glorified Christ, so will he glorify us; and in the meantime, Christ is in us to direct, comfort and edify the members of his body personally and through the ministries he’s given to the church.

Christian leaders are supposed to live and teach the secret:

- 1) Ephesians 6:19 to make known the mystery of the gospel
- 2) Colossians 2:2,3 that they may know the mystery of God, even Christ, 3 in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden
- 3) Colossians 4:3 that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ
- 4) I Timothy 3:9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience

Christian leaders are commanded to live and to teach the same gospel that Paul lived and taught. It’s the gospel of the secret, never before revealed. It’s the full revelation of what God has done in Christ to reconcile all things in heaven and on earth to Himself. It includes a special time period called the Administration of Grace (also called the administration of the secret). It

requires supreme emphasis on the letters written directly to and which directly concern the church.

When we mix the rules given to Israel with those given to the church, the water is muddied and the benefits of the secret are not fully realized. This is not God's will. Doctrinal divisions have occurred which have splintered the body of Christ into pieces, all because of not distinguishing the church of Jesus Christ in the Grace Administration from the congregation of Israel. This is a major reason that the gospel is hindered, but the Word of God is not bound. It is still available today to anyone willing to seek truth from God.

What believers are supposed to do after receiving the revelation of the secret:

- 1) Ephesians 1:15-21 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 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: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.
- 2) Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.
- 3) Ephesians 3:10,11 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold

wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord

4) Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

5) Pray Continually

Ephesians 6:18-20 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

6) Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (which is the gospel of the secret)

God takes the revelation of His secret very seriously. It's the cherry on his prophetic cake. He wants you, His child, a member of Christ's body, to fully understand and appreciate what He's done in Christ for you. He also wants you safe and powerful in this evil world and he wants to shower you with rewards at the reward stand when Christ returns.

Paul prays that we might be filled with spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God pertaining to the secret, so that we become enlightened about our God-given hope in Christ, so that we might know God's inheritance in the saints and so we can know the exceeding greatness of His power in our own lives.

We have been saved only by His grace through the faith of Jesus Christ given to us. We have been saved "unto good works" which God has foreordained that we should walk in them. Those works are based on Grace Administration doctrine, reproof and correction. Part of that work is to make known unto the spiritual rulers of this world the secret held from the before the world began. When we live and act on what God has revealed to the church, we are making the truth of the secret known to the spiritual powers that be.

To do those works that God has foreordained, He wants us to take the whole armor of God to ourselves so that we can stand in this present day and so that we can stand at the reward stand when Christ returns where He will lavish is with rewards as long as we follow His rules. He wants us to pray continually and to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, which is the gospel of the secret.

The secret includes that "all Israel shall be saved:"

In Romans chapters 9-11, God Clarifies Israel's calling and position in Christ. He emphatically states that He has "concluded all in unbelief that He might have mercy upon all," and so "all Israel shall be saved."

- 1) Romans 11:1,2 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.
- 2) Romans 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.
- 3) Romans 11:11,12 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. 12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the

world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

- 4) Romans 11:26-32 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 fullness of the Gentiles be come in.
26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.
28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. 30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

The “remnant at this present time” are those Israelites now coming into the church because it says “at this present time” not some future time. In the future, all Israel will be saved because God has already concluded them all in unbelief that He might have mercy upon all. This aspect of the secret again is totally new revelation. The secret is that all things in heaven and earth shall be reconciled to God through Christ so that has to include all of Israel also, and in Romans 11, God clarifies that they will be. What a glorious God we have who is not willing that any should be lost.

Summary

So what is this secret God revealed after Pentecost? The secret is Christ. It's the revelation of the fullness of what Christ accomplished through his sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection, only partially revealed before. Never before had God revealed the full details about what Christ would accomplish. In the administration of the fullness of times, God will gather together in Christ all things in heaven and on earth so that God will be all in all (Ephesians 1:10). That's “big news” that was never before revealed to mankind

and how glorious it is. The truth that God will reconcile all things in heaven and earth to himself through Christ is the pinnacle of God's plan. Let us not take it lightly. Let's place the same importance on it that God does.

The secret includes a period of time called the administration of the grace of God (as opposed to the administration of the fullness of time which is still future, mentioned in Ephesians 1:10). In this administration, God birthed the Christian church which has Christ as head and all believers as members of his body. This is in stark contrast to the imagery of the vine and the branches in the gospel period (which occurred during the administration of the law) where an unproductive branch could get cut off and destroyed.

There are many differences in how God deals with people during this period of the grace of God. Salvation in the gospels requires one to "believe unto the end" but in the grace administration, it is conferred upon belief alone. There is a difference in the inheritance the saints receive and the inheritance Israel will receive at Christ's return. Israel will inherit Jerusalem and rule the nations while Christians inherit "the heavenly places" (the celestials). Israel's citizenship is in Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom but our citizenship is in heaven. There are many more differences and contrasts.

Many Christians today try to apply the teachings in the gospels to themselves. This is not always correct. There is plenty of instruction in both the Old Testament and the Gospels that is applicable today. But there is also much that is not. We need to apply what is written specifically to us during the period, the administration, in which we live, as well as those things revealed previously which are not superceded by the revealed secret.

To understand what God has to say to and about the church of Grace and the period of time we live in until Christ's return for the church, study the church epistles (Romans through Thessalonians) and apply what you learn. These epistles contain the complete doctrine, reproof and correction for those who live in the Church age (the present administration of Grace).

To learn what leaders in the church should be like and should be doing, read I and II Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Be sure to study Jude to understand the

urgency of our times to “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints.”

We live in a truly unique period of time. The rules are different and the blessings are different. Get to the point that you intimately know what God has given you and what God expects of you in this present administration of God’s grace.

If I can be of any help to you in understanding and applying the secret, drop me an email at info@christianculturecenter.org. I’ll be happy to help as time allows. I specialize in the administration of Grace and God has equipped me to teach it with all boldness. Praise be to God and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

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