James #77

Understand the mystery of God’s plan.

Let us keep Michele in prayer (Rod & Michele faithful members) she is dealing with some very serious medical issues.

Also, let us keep Pastor Jason in prayer, he is ready to open his new church in Massachusetts, it is called - Salt and Light ministry.

Pick it back up in Ephesians chapter one where we left off RF.

As I mentioned last lesson, this letter was sent out to all congregations under the Apostle Paul’s authority. It speaks to the plan of GOD and the calling into SM.

Eph 1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him,

/Mystery Doctrine is woven into the foundation of the PLAN of GOD. Mystery is used dozens of times in NT teaching, meaning a concept or precept that was never fully revealed or fully understood. The hint of secrets unknown, or yet to be revealed can be found in OT scripture, yet a word to denote mystery in this fashion, is not found in the OT.\

The book of Daniel is an excellent reference to this topic. In fact, specifically Daniel 2:19 and Daniel chapter 12.

We may touch on these scriptures, in the very near future.

[Eph 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/10/s_1098010) regarding *His* plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

The mystery of HIS plan only comes together IN CHRIST and reveals the fullness of the times.

Mystery doctrine was first introduced by TLJC;

/Mat 13:11 And Jesus answered them, “**To you it has been granted to know the mysteriesof the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been granted.

The style of parables and stories Jesus used in teaching HIS followers was the introduction into Mystery Doctrine for the Church Age.\

The word MUS-TERION, is very divisive and yet it is the exact word used over 2 dozen times by the apostles as well.

It was often used for a cloaked narrative or a secret club, such as a fraternity.

There is a reason that word is used.

The deeper meanings of those parables and stories were lost even on the legalistic, intellectual leaders of the day.

Because the flesh is opposed to the truth of Jesus Christ.

/1Cor 2:14 But **a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness** to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because **they are spiritually discerned**.\

Without our union with Christ and the active power of that union, which is through the filling power of God the HS, BD is not easily digested.

We are always and forever in union with Christ, yet in time…we must walk inside that union by means of the HS.

 REPEAT

Jesus used parables and stories to open up mystery doctrine.

We will look at examples of mystery doctrine woven in the basic parables most people know about.

Along with how the word mystery is used in NT teaching.

The mystery the Apostle Paul speaks of is a foundational building block of understanding the full plan of God.

[/Eph 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/10/s_1098010) **regarding *His* plan**(*oikonomia)***of the fullness of the times,** to bring all things together **in Christ**, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

 *With a view to an administration (dispensation) suitable to the fullness of the times, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In HIM*.\

The original Greek context is much closer to that.

The spiritual and natural come together in the doctrine of the Hypostatic union.

We will dive deeper into that word dispensation which is –

OH-CON-DAH-ME-A in the Greek, in this series we are now in.

The view of the mystery of God’s plan is being highlighted here from verse 9.

The fullness of the times (plural) speaks to the times from now (CA), which is the fullness of the Gentiles, into the Tribulation and then the 1,000 years of Christ on earth that starts at the 2nd Advent.

That is the fullness of the times - plural

 REPEAT

Understand the subject matter.

The full context of what is being taught matters!

/The Bible was not completed in the Torah (first 5 books of the OT), nor was it done in Malachi (last book of OT). There was great details of analogies, typologies and shadows of what was coming, yet it was not complete until the book of Revelation. Therefore, the whole plan of God must be seen and interpreted by the full canon of scripture.\

The mystery spoke to that which may have been hidden or is yet to come. There may be hints of a mystery, but it remains a mystery until something or someone reveals it!

A mystery is sometimes seen in partial, or clues, yet you cannot remove the term mystery until it is fully known.

 REPEAT

Jesus and the apostles were specifically using this word mystery for a greater purpose.

/[Eph 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/11/s_1098011) In Him we also have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to the purpose of Him** who works **all things in accordance with the plan**(*prothesis*)**of His will,**

Notice the predestined (predesigned plan) purpose is only found IN CHRIST. When our MESSIAH was revealed on the cross this mystery opened up.\

PROTH-A-SIS, is used for the word plan.

Because it means to be opened up on full display, not covered or hidden.

It was done by the very power and effective work of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

/Eph 1:11 – *we have obtained an inheritance which was predestined according to HIS purpose (prothesis)* *who works* (*energeō) all things;*

To be on display for a purpose *(prothesis)*, often used to describe the 12 loaves of unleavened bread (shewbread), corresponding to the tribes of Israel, loaves which were offered to God every Sabbath. Openly displayed, separated into two rows, for seven days upon a table placed in the sanctuary (front portion) of the tabernacle.\

EN-ER-GAYO, is where we get our English word energy from. It means effective power. Christ brings the effective power and spiritual energy for this plan.

The ancient Hebrew spoke of this as the BREAD OF PRESENCE - always on display or always in our presence.

The full plan of GOD is found IN CHRIST who is always present for us.

 REPEAT

/The plan of GOD could not come to fruition until CHRIST was not only put on display as the sacrifice for a lost and dying world. The timing for the mystery of the plan had to be revealed after the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ. Through HIS power and HIS work, we were given the Holy Spirit in a unique fashion (indwelling) which began the foundation of the Church age. The completed canon of scripture was the end of that foundation we now live in.\

The interruption of the CA at the Cross of Christ is a key component under the umbrella of mystery doctrine.

 [Eph 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/12/s_1098012) to the end that we who were the first to hope in the Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Why are we the first to HOPE in Christ?

What about the OT saints?

It has always been faith alone in Christ alone.

We are the first hope of a new generation, a new dispensation which interrupted the Dispensation of Israel – which was a mystery to those OT saints.

 REPEAT

It is no longer a mystery, because we now have TLJC on full display – we also have the completed canon of scripture, HIS very mind.

This means part of the doctrines under the umbrella of mystery doctrine is the fact that dispensations are foundational in understanding your Bible.

Eph 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

IN HIM….IN HIM.

/[Eph 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/14/s_1098014) **who is a first installment of our inheritance**, in regard to the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

The Baptism of the HS at salvation means you are sealed and indwelt by the Trinity. This is the 1st installment of the plan, never before has the whole body of Believers been indwelt (mystery doctrine).\

CA Bel you are sealed and given the first installment of the promise of the plan of God.

Now there is a difference between the indwelling and the filling power – so you best know the difference.

Most Christians do not…because most Christians have no interest in mystery doctrine.

 REPEAT

[Eph 1:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/15/s_1098015)For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints,

Paul is addressing this to several congregations.

[Eph 1:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/16/s_1098016) do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers;

/[Eph 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/17/s_1098017)that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you **a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him**.

Your free will matters – because *GOD may give you* deeper insight and knowledge, if YOU pursue a serious relationship with the WORD – Jesus Christ.\

We recognize God’s plan is perfect, it took into account all details…negative or positive and then HE opened it up for all of us to benefit from.

Yet the emphasis is IN CHRIST.

/The source of blessings happens in the plan of God (Eph 1:3).

The power for the plan is only found IN CHRIST;

Eph 1:20 which **He brought about in Christ**, when **He raised Him** from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand** in the heavenly *places,\*

We know the plan of God was established in eternity past, it was sealed by the justice system of God through a Divine decree.

Meaning it cannot change.

/The abundant grace of GOD is the foundational concept behind the plan.

Eph 2:8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith;** and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* **the gift of God**; 9 **not a result of works,** so that no one may boast.

(2Pet 3:18, 2Cor 12:9-10, Heb 12:28, 1Cor 15:10)\

The Angelic Conflict is fully addressed in this perfect plan from eternity past.

One of the main reasons we were created was to participate in this spiritual warfare.

The battle against Satan and his army has always been highlighted in scripture starting in Genesis chapter 3.

The depth and finality of the angelic conflict is fully revealed in the CA Mystery doctrine.

/The vast sphere of the spiritual conflict is fully opened and resolved in NT teachings —

Eph 6:12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the **world forces of this darkness**, against **the spiritual *forces* of wickedness** in the heavenly *places.* (Eph 3:10) \

The beneficiary of the plan of God is always the Believer in Jesus Christ.

Though we must account for free will.

Every Christian is responsible for their own walk with GOD.

/The plan of God is only revealed through Bible doctrine for the Bel filled by GOD the HS;

Jer 15:16 **Your words were found and I ate them**, And Your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name; LORD God of armies.\

Upon HIS resurrection there was a new decree concerning the word of GOD.

This was to establish the Church Age dispensation.

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, some *as* prophets, some *as* evangelists, some *as* pastors and teachers,

Apostles and prophets were involved in the foundation period of the new CA.

Those offices were designed to expire shortly before the completed canon of scripture.

Evangelists and pastor-teachers are to carry the load of teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and accurately handling the word for the body of Christ.

/2Tim 3:16 All scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man *or woman* of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.\

You can never grow spiritually nor fully understand your Bible outside of accurately handling the word.

The majority of the OT saints had no idea there would be a NT to complement and complete the OT.

All they knew was God’s word was to be upheld and handled with precision.

/Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written: ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

Jhn 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only *Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth.\