

THE MYSTERY ... FOR YOU ***Ephesians 3:2-7***

Our English word “_____” is based on the Greek word *mysterion* found 20 times in the writings of Paul. Why was Paul so focused on the mystery in this letter? V.1 states Paul was a _____ in Rome when he wrote. V.13 indicates Paul feared the Ephesians would lose _____ because of his tribulations, so he wrote of the mystery so that they would be encouraged and _____ over what God was doing through his life & ministry.

I. WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN BY THE WORD “MYSTERY”?

A. The Mystery Was _____ Since the World Began

- 1) Paul uses this word differently than mystery authors; it is not something a _____ figures out
- 2) In Romans 16, Paul explains the mystery as “the mystery kept _____ since the world began”
- 3) Mystery = knowledge kept _____ by God; when God keeps a secret no human being can unlock it

B. The Mystery Could Be Known Only Through _____ by the Spirit

- 1) Then how can we know this secret? Only because God has revealed it: it is now an _____ secret
- 2) God revealed this mystery to the Apostles of Christ and NT prophets who recorded it in the _____

C. The Mystery Was a _____ Given to Paul by Grace

- 1) Paul never got over the grace of God to a Jewish rabbi who _____ the church of Christ
- 2) The NT isn't clear exactly when the mystery was fully revealed to Paul: perhaps his 3 yrs in _____
- 3) Paul emphasizes this mystery was given to him for _____ --to encourage you; its glory inspires you

II. WHAT IS THE MYSTERY? Like the Biltmore House, the mystery has four different _____

A. The Mystery of _____

- 1) At its heart, this mystery is about Jesus the _____ but His 1st advent was a mystery to many Jews
- 2) His person is a mystery: how can He be 100% God & 100% human w/out _____ the 2 natures?

B. The Mystery of the _____

- 1) It is unclear exactly what an OT saint had to believe to be redeemed: they did not have the _____
- 2) _____ proclaimed the gospel—the good news; He revealed it to Paul who shared it in 1 Cor.15
- 3) In many places where Paul preached, there were mystery cults teaching that a person could have a mystical experience w/ their god by being taught certain secret knowledge: Paul _____ the word!
- 4) We don't keep this mystery a secret! We proclaim it, yet so many on earth have _____ heard it!

C. The Mystery of the _____

- 1) Col.1:27 reveals the mystery in the words: “Christ _____ you”—in what sense is Christ IN believers?
- 2) Before He died, Jesus promised to send another Comforter like Himself—the Spirit of _____
- 3) God's Spirit did not _____ saints in the OT: the Spirit “came upon” specific persons, not indwelt

D. The Mystery of the _____

- 1) In Eph.5, Paul compares the role of the wife to the _____ and the role of the husband to _____
- 2) The church as the _____ of Christ & the body of Christ was unknown in the OT—it was a mystery
- 3) Part of the mystery of the church is that _____ Christians are co-heirs, co-body (members of the body of Christ) & co-partakers of the same promise as Jewish Christians—complete reconciliation