

# Ephesians 3:1-13

## Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.  
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

## Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

# Scientists Say That Something Very Weird Is Going on With the Universe

This could change everything.

/ OffWorld / Astrophysics / Cosmological Constant / Dark Energy



## Biblical Passages About Mystery

- Job 11:7-12, 21:16
- Psalm 64:6
- Proverbs 20:24
- Ecclesiastes 8:17
- Mark 4:8-13
- Luke 9:44-45, 18:32-34
- Rom 11:24-27, 16:25-27
- 1 Corinthians 2:5-9
- Ephesians 1:7-10
- Colossians 1:24-28
- Revelation 17:5-8

## 1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.  
Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am  
known.

## Old Testament Examples of Hope for the Gentiles

- Genesis 12:1-3, 15:4-6, 17:19-20, 22:18
- Hagar, Genesis 16
- Ruth, book of Ruth
- Boaz/Rahab, Joshua 2
- Isaiah 19:18-25, Zechariah 14:16
- Isaiah 42:6, 52:10, 60:10-16
- Hosea 1:10, 2:23

## Hosea 2:23

And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy;  
Then I will say to those who were not My people,  
‘You are My people!’  
And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’

## Romans 11:11-32

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. ...

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved. ...

Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:10, 10:16

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” says the LORD, “I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

## “unsearchable riches of Christ” Eph 3:8

- Boundless
- Unsearchable
- Inexplorable
- Untraceable
- Unfathomable
- Inexhaustible
- Illimitable
- Inscrutable
- Incalculable
- Infinite

## John Stott on God's Wisdom

It is through the old creation (the universe) that God reveals his glory to humans; it is through the new creation (the church) that he reveals his wisdom to angels.

## John Stott on the Church's Centrality to the Gospel

The good news of the boundless riches of Christ which Paul preached is that he died and rose again not only to save sinners like me (though he did), but also to create a single new humanity; not only to redeem us from sin, but also to adopt us into God's family; not only to reconcile us to God, but also to reconcile us to one another.

## John Stott on the Bible's Focus

It is on the decisive victory won by Jesus Christ over the powers of darkness, on the peace treaty ratified by his blood, and on the sovereign proclamation of an amnesty for all rebels who will repent and believe.

# Time

- Buy time
- Spend time
- Use time
- Get time
- Give time
- Save time
- Invest time
- Spend time wisely
- Waste our time

## Summary

We drive cars, use copiers, type on computers, and perform many other tasks with only a dim sense of what makes a car run, a copier copy, or a computer compute. The same is true of the mystery of being in Christ. We don't have to fully understand God's grace before we take full advantage of it. We don't have to comprehend (and certainly never will on this side of eternity) why God loves us, but that should never keep us from experiencing and relishing in his love. – Max Lucado

## Ephesians 3:1-13

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the **mystery** of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

## Ephesians 3:1-13

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the **mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Job 11:7-12 MSG

“Do you think you can explain the **mystery** of God? Do you think you can diagram God Almighty? God is far higher than you can imagine, far deeper than you can comprehend, Stretching farther than earth’s horizons, far wider than the endless ocean. If he happens along, throws you in jail then hauls you into court, can you do anything about it? He sees through vain pretensions, spots evil a long way off—no one pulls the wool over his eyes! Hollow men, hollow women, will wise up about the same time mules learn to talk.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Job 21:16 AMP

But notice, the prosperity of the wicked is not in their hand (in their power); The counsel of the wicked [and the **mystery** of God's dealings with the ungodly] is far from my comprehension.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Psalms 64:6 GNT

They make evil plans and say, "We have planned a perfect crime."

The human heart and mind are a **mystery**.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Proverbs 20:24 TPT

It is the Lord who directs your life, for each step you take is ordained by God to bring you closer to your destiny. So much of your life, then, remains a **mystery**!

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Ecclesiastes 8:17 Voice

I saw all the works and ways of God, and it became clear to me that no one is able to grasp fully this **mystery** called life. Try as we might, we cannot discover what has been done under the sun. Even if the wise claim to know, they really haven't discovered it.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Mark 4:8-13 NKJV

But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the **mystery** of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'" And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Luke 9:44-45 TPT

Everyone marveled, trying to process what they had just witnessed. Jesus then turned to his disciples and said, “Listen carefully and let these words sink into your hearts. The Son of Man is about to be betrayed and surrendered to the authority of men.” But the disciples could not grasp the meaning of what he was saying, for it was a veiled **mystery** to them, and they were too embarrassed to ask him to explain it.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Luke 18:32-34 AMPC

For He will be handed over to the Gentiles and will be made sport of and scoffed and jeered at and insulted and spit upon. They will flog Him and kill Him; and on the third day He will rise again. But they understood nothing of these things; His words were a **mystery** and hidden from them, and they did not comprehend what He was telling them.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Romans 11:24-27 NKJV

For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Romans 14:22-26 WEB

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who doesn't judge himself in that which he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because it isn't of faith; and whatever is not of faith is sin. Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery** which has been kept secret through long ages, but now is revealed, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Romans 16:25-27 NKJV

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery** kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith- to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

1 Corinthians 2:5-9 NKJV

that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Ephesians 1:7-10 NKJV

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the **mystery** of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Colossians 1:24-28 NKJV

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the **mystery** which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

## Biblical Passages About Mystery

Revelation 17:5-8 NKJV

And on her forehead a name was written: **MYSTERY**, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.