



The Mystery - God's Purpose of Redemption

By Ken Terry on July 12, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Ephesians 1

Our Christian faith hinges upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary. All the Old Testament points to the Christ, the Redeemer, the Savior of God's people. In Him, Jesus, all those who believe and follow Him will gain the Father's favor of mercy, grace and forgiveness. Paul speaks this so eloquently in our passage today: *"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"* (Ephesians 1:7-9, NKJV).

This is the mystery that was hidden through the ages. Throughout the Old Testament era there were prophets, judges and devout men of God who were visited by messengers of God pertaining to the ways of God and His requirements for His people. Even though His people were sinful, rebellious and wayward, He always had a special love for them. He spoke of a Redeemer who would rescue them. We now know the Redeemer to be Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. However, this promised One of God means so much more than that. *"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"* (Colossians 1:26-27, NKJV).

Christ is revealed to us through the New Testament scriptures. Through them, we understand what is expected and required from us to live a righteous and productive life. We are privileged with the ability to read and study about Christ. Many people throughout the Old Testament era and during this church age have suffered, been tortured, and died for the cause of Christ. Therefore, let us never take these things for granted. We, the Gentile believers, have been given a wonderful gift, the hope of glory, which is Christ in you! Steward God's gift to you well, my friends. You have been chosen for such a time as this.

"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will" (Ephesians 1:4-5, NKJV).

PRAYER: Our Father in the Heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for Jesus. Thank You, Father, for loving us and sending Your Son, the Holy One of God, to rescue us from a certain death, eternal separation from You for eternity. We thank You for loving us and caring for us when we are unlovable. We thank You, Father, Your mercy and grace set forth by the finished work of Christ Jesus on our behalf. Father, we thank You for Jesus' indwelling Spirit in us. Please help us prove ourselves worthy of Your great love as we walk and abide in Him! We ask all these things in Christ's holy name, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Ephesians 2

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