

# The Mystery from the Beginning

God purposed from the beginning His plan to save mankind but hid the understanding of it from man until it was fully accomplished. The Greek *mysterion* means “hidden.” The apostle Paul taught that God’s plan had been hidden since the beginning, even within the creation account narrative itself: “according to the revelation of **the mystery [mysterion], which was kept secret since the world began**” (Rom 16:25); “But we speak the wisdom of God in **a mystery [mysterion]**, even the hidden *wisdom*, which **God ordained before the world** unto our glory” (1Co 2:7); “**the mystery [mysterion], which from the beginning of the world** hath been hid in God, who **created all things** by Jesus Christ” (Eph 3:9); “**For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother**, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **This is a great mystery [mysterion]**” (Eph 5:31-32).

Paul said that God didn’t allow man to understand the salvation He would accomplish through His Son because they wouldn’t have cooperated, “Which none of the princes of this world knew: **for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**” (1Co 2:7-8). He kept it secret so that sinful men would unwittingly carry out the crucifixion, not knowing what they were doing, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luk 23:34), “And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers” (Act 3:17).

“And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of **the mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been **hid in God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ” (Eph 3:9). Since God’s plan was “hid in God,” or kept to Himself, there was no possibility for an information leak. Although the Old Testament prophets diligently sought answers, God didn’t allow them to fully understand what they were writing, “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently” (1Pe 1:10). And even the angels weren’t privy to God’s plan, “which things the angels desire to look into” (1Pe 1:12). It was all of Him and by Him, so that He would receive all of the glory, “For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.” (Rom 11:36).

Jesus taught in parables and proverbs for the very purpose that it wouldn’t be understood at the time what He was doing, “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, **I will open my mouth in parables**; I will utter things

which have been **kept secret from the foundation of the world**” (Mat 13:35), “These things have I spoken unto you **in proverbs**: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but **I shall shew you plainly of the Father**” (Jhn 16:25). However, after God’s plan of salvation was accomplished, He began speaking plainly to His disciples for them to understand, “**Then opened he their understanding**, that they might understand the scriptures” (Luk 24:45).

In God’s wisdom, He prophesied in the beginning the plan of salvation He would accomplish through His Son but hid it to such a degree that it couldn’t be understood without His direct revelation. The dilemma was that it had to be hidden well enough so that it was absolutely impossible to understand without His help yet at the same time incredibly indisputable so that it couldn’t be sincerely denied after it was revealed. Paul said that the message Christ preached is clearly seen within the creation so that we’re left with no excuses, “For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ** ... For the invisible things of him **from the creation of the world are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse**” (Rom 1:16, 20).

Later in his letter to the Romans, Paul revealed the mystery of Adam prefiguring Christ, “Nevertheless death reigned from **Adam** to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of **Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come**” (5:14), and the necessity of the curse for our hope of salvation, “**For the creature was made subject to vanity**, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath **subjected the same in hope** ... **For we are saved by hope**” (8:20, 24). He concluded his letter alluding to the Seed of the woman bruising Satan’s head, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed; it shall bruise thy head**, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen 3:15), “And the God of peace shall **bruise Satan under your feet shortly**” (16:20), “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**” (16:25).

It’s imperative that the message of salvation had been shown definitively from the beginning so that no doubt would ever remain concerning the true saving message. All religions and teachers that express something different are exposed as false. What was hidden in the beginning leaves us all without excuse “so that they are without excuse” (Rom 1:20).