

THE REVELATION OF “THE MYSTERY” OF THE CHURCH

(Ephesians 3:1-6)

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

II. THE BELIEVER’S POSITION IN CHRIST (1:3-3:21)

A. God’s Mysterious Plan Revealed in this Dispensation (3:1-13)

1. The REVELATION of the Mystery (vv. 1-3)

- a. Paul thought of himself _____ as a prisoner of the Romans nor of the Jews, but a prisoner of _____, currently under house arrest for the Gentiles. (v. 1, cf. Acts 21:27-28:16)

* What does this tell us about Paul’s perspective regarding his circumstances? (Acts 20:18-21; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Philip 1:12-14)

- b. It was an assumed reality that the apostle’s readers had heard of the _____ [Gr. *oikonomia*] of the _____ of God; which was revealed to Paul for the _____. (v. 2)

* What is a “dispensation”?

* Did Paul choose his apostleship and his ministry? Or was he divinely appointed by God? (Acts 9:15; Rom. 15:15-16; Gal. 2:7-9; 1 Tim. 1:12-13)

- c. This “*mystery*” that had previously been an incomprehensible truth that was _____ from all men had _____ been supernaturally “_____” to Paul. (v. 3, cf. Col. 1:24-27)

2. The EXPLANATION of the Mystery (vv. 4-6)

- a. It was the apostle's intention to not only _____ "*the mystery of Christ*," but to _____ it, and _____ it for the Ephesians and for all future generations. (v. 4)
- b. Regarding the "*sons of men*" in ages past, _____ even Yahweh's closest companions in the OT (men like Abraham and Moses) were _____ to this _____ and what it truly is. (v. 5a, cf. Isa. 41:8; Ex. 33:11; Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:8)

* In light of this, why does the Covenant Theologian (amillennialists') view fall far short?

- c. The verb "*revealed*" (*aor./pass./indic.*) indicates that this was a definite _____; and coupled with the word " _____ " it informs us of the _____ immediacy of the revelation as Paul wrote this letter. (v. 5b)
- d. As with all revelation from God, the " _____ " is the Divine Agent who _____ in and through "*His holy apostles and prophets*" so they could deliver it. (v. 5c, cf. 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11)
- e. In verse 6 the apostle now defined the *mystery* by using three compound nouns stating that saved Gentiles and saved Jews are forever...
- 1) "*fellow* _____" (Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 3:29; 4:7)
 - 2) "*of the same* _____" (1 Cor. 12:12-28; Col. 1:18; 2:1-3)
 - 3) "*partakers of His* _____ *in Christ through the* _____" (1:13-14; 2:16; Gal. 3:28-29; 2 Tim. 1:1)