

WHY

DO YOU need
a CHURCH family

We Are the Body of Christ!

Part Two
Through the Church

Ephesians 3:7-13

. . . to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.



The Mandate

... to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

Colossians 1:26

This mystery, now available to all, was for long ages consciously concealed in the mind of God so as not to be known even to angelic intelligences.

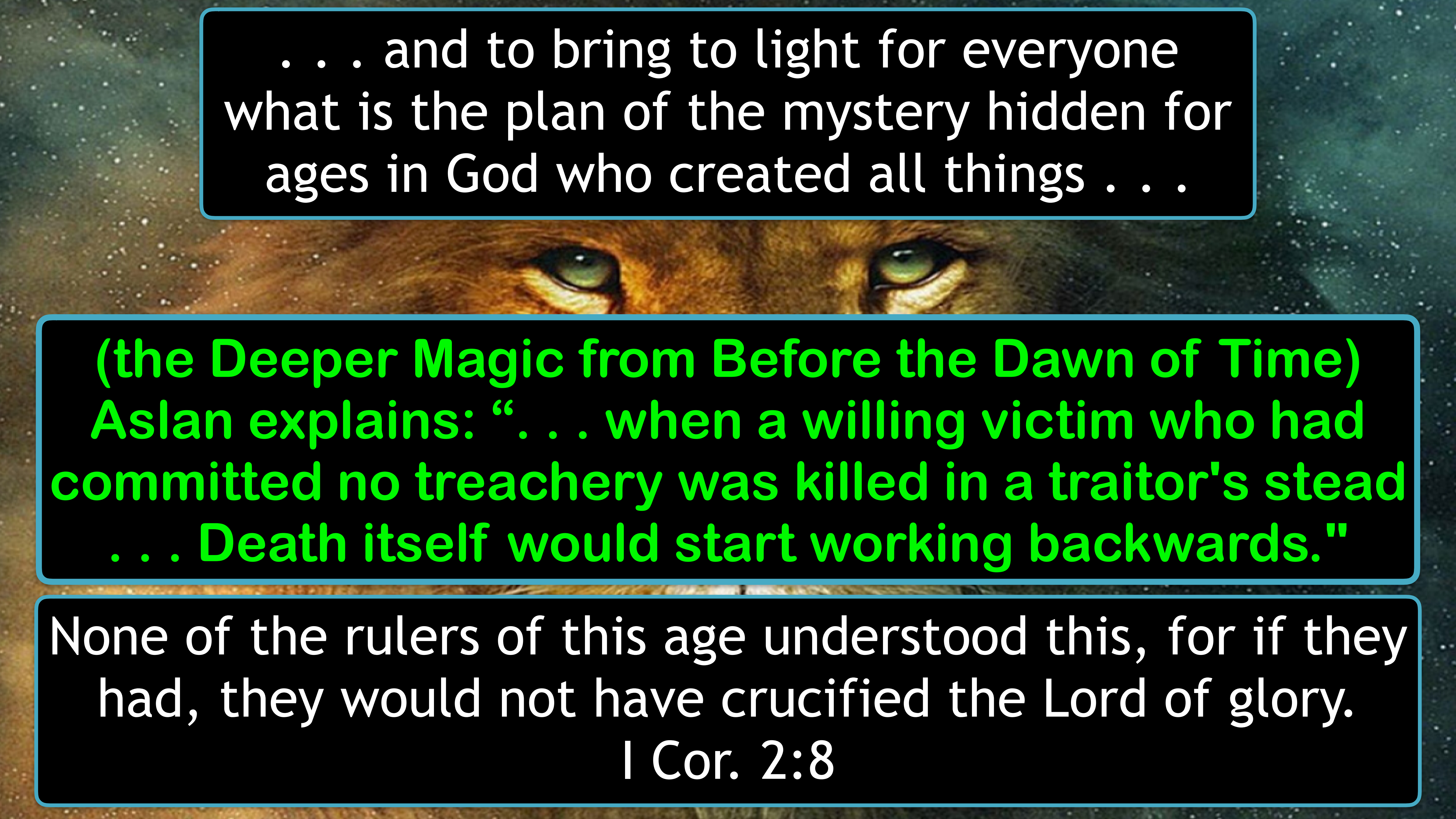
Expositors Bible Commentary

The “mystery of Christ” = mysterion: A hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding. The Death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, making Jew and Gentile one with God and one another.



Made known by revelation = apokalypsis: laying bear, making naked; a disclosure of truth concerning things before unknown.

All truth is made known by God. There is no truth that originates from us. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of our heart to the truth of Scripture (Eph. 1:18).

A close-up, high-resolution image of Aslan's face, focusing on his eyes. He has a golden-brown coat and striking green eyes. The background is a dark, starry space.

. . . and to bring to light for everyone
what is the plan of the mystery hidden for
ages in God who created all things . . .

**(the Deeper Magic from Before the Dawn of Time)
Aslan explains: ". . . when a willing victim who had
committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead
. . . Death itself would start working backwards."**


None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they
had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

I Cor. 2:8

(Photisai) Paul was called to “make plain” this message

The Manifold Wisdom of God

“manifold” = polupoikilos: multi-faceted and multi-colored. God’s wisdom in salvation is filled with beautiful variety; shades, tints, hues, and color. Through the cross of Christ, God has called Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free, men and women, rich and poor from every nation, language and people group. And, He makes this display using His church (that’s us!). (Galatians 3:28; Rev. 5:9)



Church - ekklesia: Called out ones; A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place; an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting.

✓ Not a building

✓ Not a denomination

→ People called by God into a local gathering of the Body of Christ



**A church is : A gathering of friends
under the Lordship of Christ for the
accomplishment of Kingdom purposes.**

**“Of course every believer is part of the
universal church, but for any Christian who
has a choice in the matter, failure to cleave to
a particular church is failure to obey Christ.”**

Charles Colson



What will we risk if we only
“date” our local church?

We will risk losing out on participating
in the display of the Lord’s manifold
wisdom in the Heavens.

**“Now you are the body of Christ and individually
members of it.” 1 Cor. 12:27**

Our Father, since you are infinitely worthy of praise;
Jesus, since you are King over all things forever;
Spirit, since we believe you have the power to take
the hardest of hearts and minds and show them the
beauty of Jesus and the ugliness of sin, we will go
into all the world, our world. And we will love the
gospel dearly, speak the gospel clearly, and live the
gospel sincerely. For your glory, our joy, and for the
peace of those who will be saved by your grace
because we loved them enough to share.