

## Ephesians 3:1-21 **Mystery and Wisdom of God – Revealed**

### Mystery of the Dispensation of Grace

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles-- <sup>2</sup> if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup> by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), <sup>5</sup> 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: <sup>6</sup> that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, <sup>7</sup> 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.

### Ministry of Paul to the Gentiles

<sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> 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;

<sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

### Prayer for your strength

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, <sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- <sup>19</sup> to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### Glory to God

<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Mystery of the Dispensation of Grace [\[Ephesians 3:1-7\]](#)

- ✠ Paul is in prison because of his ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.
- ✠ To Paul was given the ministry of the dispensation of the Grace of God by direct revelation.
  - ✧ By reading Paul's epistles we understand his knowledge of this mystery of Christ.
  - ✧ In ages past this mystery was not known to mankind, but has now been revealed by the Holy Spirit to the holy Apostles and prophets.
  - ✧ The mystery revealed is; that the **Gentiles should be fellow heirs with the Jews of the same body of Christ.**

- ✧ As fellow heirs, the **Gentiles also are partakers of God's promise in Christ through the Gospel.**
- ✧ Paul became a minister of the Gospel according to the **Gift of the Grace of God**, which was given to him by the effective working of the **Power of God.**

#### Ministry of Paul to the Gentiles [\[Ephesians 3:8-13\]](#)

- ✧ Paul views himself as the least of all the Saints.
  - ✧ As such, Paul is amazed that the grace was given to him to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.
  - ✧ His goal is to make everyone see what is the fellowship of the mystery of Grace in Christ.
  - ✧ Paul reminds us that from the beginning of time, this mystery of the Gospel of Christ has been hidden in God the creator of all things.
  - ✧ Jesus Christ was the Word through Whom God created all things. [\[Ephesians 3:9, Genesis 1:1 – 2:3, John 1:1-10, Colossians 1:13-17\]](#)
  - ✧ The purpose of the Church the Body of Christ is; that the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.
- ✧ Principalities and Powers in Heavenly Places are watching God's work through the Church.
  - ✧ The Principalities and Powers in Heavenly places is a reference to the Angels and Spiritual beings both good and bad. [\[Romans 8:38, Ephesians 1:21, 3:10, 6:12, Colossians 1:16, 2:15\]](#)
  - ✧ Angels desire to understand the **eternal purpose** God intended in Christ Jesus our Lord. [\[1 Peter 1:10-12\]](#)
- ✧ Now the manifold Wisdom of God is made known by the Church to the Principalities and Powers in Heavenly Places.
  - ✧ The purpose of God revealed by the Church is to reveal the **eternal** destiny of both the good and the bad.
  - ✧ Eternal life and glory with God in Jesus Christ for the Saints.
  - ✧ Eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire for the disobedient of both the spiritual beings and human beings.
  - ✧ The eternal purpose of God is accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - ✧ It is Jesus Christ Who will judge the good and bad at the time of His coming. [\[John 5:22, 26-27, 16:8, Acts 10:42, 17:31, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 2:16, 14:10-12, 1 Chronicles 16:33, Psalm 96:13, 98:9, Revelation 11:16-18, 22:12, Matthew 16:27, Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26\]](#)
  - ✧ Through the Church God is revealing his **wisdom** of eternal judgment to Satan and his fallen hordes.
  - ✧ In Christ Jesus our Lord we have boldness and access with confidence through faith.
  - ✧ Paul encouraged the Ephesians by saying, "Therefore, do not lose heart at my tribulations which I suffer for you."
  - ✧ Paul is confident that his suffering is for the glory of the Gentile Church.

#### Prayer for your strength [\[Ephesians 3:14-19\]](#)

- ✧ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✧ God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the One from whom the whole family in Heaven and Earth is named, that is **all** creation.
- ✧ Paul's prayer for the Ephesian Church is:
  - ✧ God will, according to the riches of His glory, grant the Church to be strengthened in the inner man with might through His Spirit.
  - ✧ The Holy Spirit is our source of strength.
  - ✧ The strength in the inner man is needed to give us courage and power to stand holding fast to the Gospel message we first received in the face of all opposition to come.
  - ✧ Paul desires that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.

- ✧ That we may be rooted and grounded in love.
- ✧ That we along with all the Saints may be able to comprehend the great extent, width, length, depth, and height of the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.
- ✧ That we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Glory to God [\[Ephesians 3:20-21\]](#)

- ✧ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.
- ✧ God is able to do things far beyond anything we may ask or even think by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.
- ✧ To God be the glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.
- ✧ Amen
- ✧ The Church exists by Christ Jesus for the intent that throughout all generations forever and ever, God is glorified.