

MYSTERIES OF THE CHURCH

Two definitions of a Mystery:

“A truth revealed for the first time.”

“A truth not revealed until the proper time.”

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Two biblical definitions of a mystery:

Eph 3.9 “mystery. . . from the beginning of the world had been hid in God”

Rom 16.25 “mystery which was kept secret since the world began”

20 occurrence of “mystery” in the Church Epistles

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

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Rom 16.25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you 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,

1 Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1 Cor 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the **mysteries** of God.

1 Cor 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all **mysteries**, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

1 Cor 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh **mysteries**.

1 Cor 15:51 Behold, I shew you a **mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the **mystery** of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Eph 3:3,4 How that by revelation he made known unto me the **mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Eph 3:9 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 5:32 This is a great **mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.

Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the **mystery** of the gospel,

Col 1:26 Even the **mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the **mystery** of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Col 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the **mystery** of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

2 Thes 2:7 For the **mystery** of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

1Ti 3:9 Holding the **mystery** of the faith in a pure conscience.

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the **mystery** of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Rev 1:20 The **mystery** of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery** of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY**, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the **mystery** of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

NOTES:

- Church mysteries seemed to have a theological explanation.
 - Each biblical statement must be understood according to the biblical definitions from Ephesians and Romans given at the top of page one.
 - Not all mysteries are as clear as others.
 - The usage of “mystery” does not seem to be in the same category as Eph 3.3,4 or Eph 5.32 which were accompanied by an explanation by Paul.
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- A. Jesus’ “mysteries” were different from Paul’s in that they were mysteries of the Kingdom, not the Church universal.
 - B. Our brief discussion here only deals with the mysteries which apply uniquely to the Church Age.
 - C. Mysteries were unknown in the Old Testament by this word.
 - D. Mysteries in the The Revelation seem to be a bit different than those in the epistles.