

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

The word “mystery (mysteries)” occurs 27 times in your King James Bible. All of those appear in the New Testament. A short definition of a mystery is a Biblical doctrine that was not revealed in the Old Testament. Its primary Biblical definition is given in Romans 16:25-26 which states:

Romans 16:25-26

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, ²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

There are TEN mysteries:

1. **The Mystery Of Godliness** — I Timothy 3:16; Colossians 2:2. This refers to the incarnation of Jesus Christ. See: John 1:1,14; 14:9.

1 Timothy 3:16

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.

John 1:1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 14:9

⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

2. **The Mystery Of “Christ In You”** — Colossians 1:26,27. This refers to the indwelling of Christ in the life of the believer through the Person of the Holy Spirit. See: John 14:17,20,23.

Colossians 1:26-27

²⁶ Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is

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made manifest to his saints: 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:

John 14:17

¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:20

²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

John 14:23

²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

3. **The Mystery Of The Kingdom Of God** — Mark 4:11.

Although the Old Testament speaks much of the coming kingdom, its present form as a spiritual, invisible entity was not seen.

Mark 4:11

¹¹ And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

4. **The Mystery Of The Church** — Ephesians 5:32.

The Old Testament does not mention anything about the founding of the New Testament Church by Christ, the component members of New Testament churches (Ephesians 3:3-9), or the special relationship Christ has with His churches (Ephesians 5 :23-32; Revelation 1:12,13,20).

Ephesians 5:23-32

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. ²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: ³⁰ For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one

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flesh. ³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

5. **The Mystery Of Israel's Blindness** — Romans 11:25.

The entire 11th chapter of Romans deals with the temporary (present-day) setting aside of Israel as a nation — a fact not seen in any Old Testament prophecy.

Romans 11:25

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.

6. **The Mystery Of The Rapture** — I Corinthians 15:51.

The Old Testament prophets saw the return of Christ to the earth with His saints in power and glory, but not His coming to the air for the saints.

1 Corinthians 15:51

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

The fact that the events that occur in 1 Corinthians 15 happen after those recorded in Matthew 24 proves that Matthew 24 is NOT about the Rapture of the saints. The Holy Ghost in 1 Corinthians 15 states that the fact that there was going to be a rapture was not revealed to anyone until it was revealed to Paul in 1 Corinthians 15. A careful reading of Matthew 24 will show that there is NO resurrection recorded in Matthew 24. By definition, the Rapture is an event that must be accompanied by a resurrection since the Rapture is the redemption of the body.

7. **The Mystery Of Iniquity** — II Thessalonians 2:7.

The coming Antichrist is mentioned several times in the Old Testament, but the fact that he will be Satan manifested in the flesh is not.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

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

8. **The Mystery Of Babylon The Great** — Revelation 17:5.

The Babylonian is seen throughout the Old Testament narrative, but this final form of a one-world religion as a tool of the Antichrist (Revelation 17:7) is New Testament truth.

Revelation 17:5-7

⁵ And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶ And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the

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martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 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.

9. The Mystery Of God — Revelation 10:7.

This mystery is in reality the long time span of this present age of man. “The mystery of God is the long delay of our Lord in taking the kingdom unto Himself and in establishing righteousness in the earth. The mystery of God is seen in these thousands of years tentacles around this earth.”

Revelation 10:7

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.

10. The Mystery Of Consummation — Ephesians 1:9,10.

This may be described as the mystery of eternity.

Ephesians 1:9-10

⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: