

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

By Brother Mike Sutherland

The word “mystery (mysteries)” occurs 27 times in our King James Bible. All of those appear in the New Testament. A short definition of a mystery is a Biblical doctrine that was known to God alone in the Old Testament, but was not revealed to mankind until the New Testament. Its primary Biblical definition is given in *Romans 16:25-26* and *Colossians 1:24-27* which state:

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: *Romans 16:25-26*

²⁴ Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: ²⁵ Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ²⁶ **Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is 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: *Colossians 1:24-27*

That is the Biblical definition of the word “mystery” given to us in *Romans 16:25-26* and *Colossians 1:24-27*. The word “mystery” is not to be understood in the normal sense that we use it today, and that is to denote something that cannot be understood. In the New Testament, a mystery is something that has always been known to God, but was not revealed to man until it was plainly stated in the New Testament. Once it was plainly stated in the New Testament, it was a revealed mystery, or a revealed secret, that can be understood if we know and study our Bibles. The word “mystery” in the New Testament is a New Testament application of *Deuteronomy 29:29* which states:

²⁹ The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are* revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law. *Deuteronomy 29:29*

In short a New Testament “mystery” is a SECRET held by God until he chose to reveal it to his children. Once those things are revealed to God's children, they become their everlasting possession(s). The mysteries are first alluded to in *Matthew 13:35* which states:

³⁵ That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. *Matthew 13:35*

Those secrets, or mysteries, were known in the mind of God from the creation of the world. The first

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

mystery we will deal with is:

THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD (HEAVEN)

There are differences in “the kingdom of heaven” and “the kingdom of God”, but for our purposes here those distinctions do not matter. Briefly put, paradoxically, the kingdom of heaven is a physical, earthly kingdom. The kingdom of God is a spiritual, heavenly kingdom. Though those kingdoms are different, they run concurrently with many events taking place in both at the same time. If you do not keep that in mind, their interpretation will drive you crazy. In a sense, the kingdom of heaven is a subset of the kingdom of God. Now, let us look at the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven (God). In *Matthew 13:3-15*, *Mark 4:11-12*, and *Luke 8:10*, and *John 12:37-43*, the MYSTERIES of the kingdom of heaven and/or the kingdom of God are related to Israel’s blindness prophesied of in *Isaiah 6:9-10*. We quote those passages:

³ And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; ⁴ And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: ⁵ Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: ⁶ And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: ⁸ But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. ⁹ Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁰ And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? ¹¹ He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,** but to them it is not given. ¹² For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. ¹³ Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: ¹⁵ For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. *Matthew 13:3–15*

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:

¹² That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and *their* sins should be forgiven them. *Mark 4:11–12*

¹⁰ And he said, Unto you it is given to know the **MYSTERIES** of the kingdom of

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. *Luke 8:10*

³⁷ But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: ³⁸ That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? ³⁹ Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, ⁴⁰ He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. ⁴¹ These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. ⁴² Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: ⁴³ For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. *John 12:37-43*

⁹ And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; And see ye indeed, but perceive not. ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people fat, And make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. *Isaiah 6:9-10*

Though the mystery of kingdom of heaven/kingdom of God and the parable of the sower appear in *Matthew 13*, *Mark 4*, and *Luke 8*, we see their fullest exposition by the LORD Jesus Christ in *Matthew 13*. According to *Matthew 13*, the mystery of the kingdom of heaven is made up of seven different elements that include (1) the sower and the seed bed, (2) the tares and the wheat, (3) the grain of mustard seed, (4) the leaven, (5) treasure hid in a field, (6) the goodly pearls, and (7) the net and the fish.

The parable of the sower states that there are four different seed beds that produced four different human responses to the gospel. The seed that fell by the wayside was devoured by the birds. They are kin to the unclean and hateful birds of *Revelation 18:2*. The wayside seed found no place to sprout up. Then we had the seed that fell on stony places and had no seed bed that they could take root in because of the hardness of the seed bed. That pictures the seed that fell on hardened hearts. When it tried to take root, it was destroyed by the heat of the devil in the fires of persecution and tribulation. Then we have the seed that fell upon a thorny seed bed. The seed sprouted up and was choked to death by the thorns. That pictures the potential convert whose empty profession is choked to death by the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches. Then we have the seed that fell on good ground that sprouted and produced much fruit.

The parable of the tares and wheat tells us that the kingdom of heaven will be made up of believers and unbelievers. The tares represent the unbelievers. The wheat represents believers. When the tares come to full maturity, they are extremely poisonous. We are warned to let the tares and the wheat grow together and the LORD will harvest the tares first from amongst the wheat and bundle them up to be cast into the fires of hell.

The parable of the grain of mustard in *Matthew 13:31-32* is given with no explanation from the LORD Jesus Christ. Some commentators have speculated that it represents a mixed multitude of

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

believers and unbelievers within a professing Christianity that has grown to huge numbers. The parable of the leaven is given with no explanation from the LORD Jesus Christ. It cannot be anything good because leaven is never used in a good sense in the Bible. Here is what *Matthew 13:33* says about leaven:

³³ Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. *Matthew 13:33*

Note some of the statements by the Bible in the New Testament concerning leaven:

⁶ Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. *Matthew 16:6*

¹¹ How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? ¹² Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. *Matthew 16:11–12*

¹⁵ And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. *Mark 8:15*

⁶ Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth. *1 Corinthians 5:6–8*

Leaven is a type of sin and compromise when dealing with the affairs of the church, New Testament Bible believing Christians, and Old Testament saints. Sin is also a type of the interference by the state in the affairs of Bible believing churches. The leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees is the sin of compromise, false doctrine, heresy, and apostasy in Bible believing churches. It is a falling away from God's revealed standards and commandments. The leaven of Herod is the church tolerating interference by political leaders in church affairs. The leaven of Herod is also setting up state sponsored and state controlled churches in Christianity. In *1 Corinthians 5:6–8*, leaven is also given as a type of sin by individual members in Bible believing churches. I said all that to say this: Leaven cannot be a good thing in *Matthew 13:33*. The leaven of *Matthew 13:33* deals with the sin and compromise that will eventually lead to a powerless church of Laodicea that has a sign above the door reading "ICHABOD": "for the glory is departed". I have also seen several commentators who believe that the leaven in *Matthew 13:33* is referring to the Gospel. I do not buy that. The parable of the treasure hid in a field in *Matthew 13:44* is given without any elaboration by the LORD Jesus Christ as to its meaning. *Matthew 13:44* states the following:

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

⁴⁴ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. *Matthew 13:44*

Many interpret the man of verse 44 as being the LORD Jesus Christ and the treasure in the field as being the nation of Israel. There has been much speculation by the commentators on the meaning of this parable. We will leave it at that.

Then we have the parable of the pearl of great price which is stated as follows in *Matthew 13:45-46*:

⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. *Matthew 13:45-46*

Again, this is a parable that the LORD Jesus Christ gives and offers no explanation as to its meaning. Many speculate that the merchant man is the LORD Jesus Christ and that the church is the “pearl of great price”. Again, there has been much speculation by the commentators on the meaning of this parable. We will leave it at that.

Finally, we have the parable of the net that was cast into the sea. The Bible puts it this way in *Matthew 13:47-52*:

⁴⁷ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: ⁴⁸ Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. ⁴⁹ So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. ⁵² Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe *which is* instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure *things* new and old. *Matthew 13:47-52*

The meaning of this parable is clear. There will be unclean fish brought into the church as members who will be cast into hell because they are unsaved. All of that brings us to :

THE MYSTERY OF ISRAEL’S BLINDNESS

We need to again quote *Isaiah 6:9-10* before we enter into our short discussion on Israel’s blindness:

⁹ And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; And see ye indeed, but perceive not. ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people fat, And make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. *Isaiah 6:9-10*

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

The mysteries of the parables of the sower are inseparably connected to the mystery of Israel's blindness. They are a fulfillment of *Isaiah 6:9-10*. *Isaiah 6:9-10* is quoted and/or alluded to seven (7) different times in the New Testament. Those seven times include *Matthew 13:14*, *Mark 4:12*, *Luke 8:10*, *John 12:37-43*, *Acts 28:25-27*, *Romans 11:8-10*, and *Romans 11:25*. In the New Testament, all seven references to *Isaiah 6:9-10* are given in the context of the preaching of the gospel to an assembled group of Jews. While *Isaiah 6:9-10* prophesied of the coming blindness of the nation of Israel, it did not identify the length of that blindness. The Holy Ghost revealed the length of that blindness to the Apostle Paul in *Romans 11:25* where he stated:

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. *Romans 11:25*

The fulness of the Gentiles is closely related to the times of the Gentiles identified by the Holy Ghost in *Luke 21:24* which states:

²⁴ And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. *Luke 21:24*

The fulness of the Gentiles is realized when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. The times of the Gentiles will be full when in the foreknowledge of God, the last Gentile soul is saved before God again starts dealing with Israel and the Jew as national entities. Just as the LORD Jesus Christ was dealing with individual Jews about their salvation in the Gospels, God today is still dealing with individual Jews in the matter of their personal salvation. Note the use of the phrase "that blindness in part is happened to Israel" in *Romans 11:25*. What that means is that that blindness is not applied to all Jews, just part of them. Jews are still being saved today. In *John 12:42*, after reminding the Jews of what the prophet Isaiah said in *Isaiah 6:9-10*, the LORD Jesus Christ made the following statement: "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue". The LORD Jesus Christ was saying that even then, regardless of the temporary blindness of national Israel, that individual Jews were being saved. So it is today!

The fact of the blindness of national Israel was not a mystery because God had already revealed that to us in *Isaiah 6:9-10*. The mystery was how long that blindness would endure. It is that revealed mystery of *Romans 11:25* that establishes the length of Israel's blindness. That blindness is further commented on by the Holy Ghost in the Old Testament in *Isaiah 29:9-12*:

⁹ Stay yourselves, and wonder; Cry ye out, and cry: They are drunken, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with strong drink. ¹⁰ For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, And hath closed your eyes: The prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. ¹¹ And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, Which *men* deliver to one that is learned, Saying, Read this,

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

I pray thee: And he saith, I cannot; for it *is* sealed: ¹² And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, Saying, Read this, I pray thee: And he saith, I am not learned.
Isaiah 29:9-12

Isaiah 29:10 is quoted in *Romans 11:8* in relation to the deep spiritual sleep that the nation of Israel was placed in because of their rejection of God and his subsequent judgment of Israel because of Israel's rejection. That deep sleep was further described as spiritual blindness in *Roman 11:25*. There was even a purpose in God's blinding of the nation of Israel! It was because of God's love for the Gentiles and for the salvation of us Gentiles. Hallelujah! According to *Romans 11:11*, God used the fall of the Jews to bring salvation to us Gentile dogs! Again, I say hallelujah! The next mystery we will deal with is:

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

The fact that the Gentiles would be made a people of God was not a mystery because it was the subject of many Bible prophecies from the Old Testament and some in the New Testament. The revealing of the mystery of the church is a consequence of sowing the seeds of the Gospel. We see that presented in the parables of the sower in *Matthew 13:3-23*, *Mark 4:3-20*, and *Luke 8:4-15* where the Gospel was first preached to the Jew. You have to sow the seed before you can build a church. Before you can sow the seed you have to break up the fallow ground and remove the thorns. When the Lord Jesus Christ preached salvation to the Jew with the parable of the sower in *Matthew 13* verses 7 and 22, he was making an application of *Jeremiah 4:3* where the Holy Ghost states: "For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns". The fallow ground has to be plowed with the word of God, the thorns removed, and the seed sewn into the field that the Holy Ghost has prepared through conviction and drawn the lost sinner to. Once the seed is planted, we need to continue to water the seed with the water of the Word of God until the lost sinner is converted by God he Holy Ghost.

The "MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH" is a two fold mystery. That two fold mystery deals with (1) the uniting of the Jew and Gentile into one body called the church and (2) that that one body would be headed up by the LORD Jesus Christ, the husband of one wife, to his BRIDE, THE CHURCH. 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 2:11-22* and *Ephesians 3:1-12*), or the special relationship Christ has with His churches (*Ephesians 5:30-33*). Those are but three characteristics of the MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH. God's heart's desire is that the Jews and Gentiles would be one in Christ. That is one of the major themes of the book of Ephesians. Now let us read *Ephesians 2:11-22*, *Ephesians 3:1-12*, and *Ephesians 5:30-33*:

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; ¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: ¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; ²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. *Ephesians 2:11–22*

¹ For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, ² If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: ³ **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) ⁵ Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶ That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:** ⁷ Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. ⁸ Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; ⁹ And 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: ¹⁰ To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, ¹¹ According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: ¹² In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. *Ephesians 3:1–12*

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 flesh. ³² **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** ³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband. *Ephesians 5:30–33*

God's intended oneness of that body, his church, is emphasized by *Ephesians 4:1-6*:

¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

vocation wherewith ye are called, ² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. *Ephesians 4:1–6*

That means that there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father for Jew and Gentile alike. That end has not been fully realized yet.

Our next mystery is:

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

The mystery of godliness refers to the fact that God was/is manifest in the flesh. We find that doctrine in *1 Timothy 3:16; Colossians 2:2-9, John 1:1, John 1:14, and John 14:9*. Put another way, the mystery of godliness refers to the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The incarnation refers to the fact that the LORD Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and that makes him **God manifest in the flesh**.

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. *1 Timothy 3:16*

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**; ³ In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. ⁵ For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. ⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him: ⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For in him dwelleth all **the fulness of the Godhead bodily**. *Colossians 2:2–9*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. *John 1:1*

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 1:14*

⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? *John 14:9*

From *1 Timothy 3:16*, I want you to notice that the Holy Ghost used the continuous present tense verb “manifest” instead of the past tense verb “manifested” to alert us to the fact that the LORD Jesus Christ is still in his flesh to this very day. Note that *Colossians 2:9* states that in the body of the LORD Jesus Christ **“dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”**! That means that the physical body of the LORD Jesus Christ is God also. It also means that the LORD Jesus Christ embodied all three members of the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The LORD Jesus Christ **“did not become the Son of God at the incarnation”**! That is the Incarnational Sonship heresy of John MacArthur and others.

The Son of God has always existed. That means he is the ETERNAL SON OF GOD. That is the pure Biblical doctrine of Eternal Sonship of the LORD Jesus Christ. The LORD Jesus Christ is Jehovah manifest in the flesh. The name JESUS literally means “Jehovah saves”. Some other points need to be made here. The LORD Jesus Christ did not become, or morph into, flesh. He was made flesh. The LORD Jesus Christ did not just take up a body and then drop it off when he ascended to heaven. He was made flesh. The LORD Jesus Christ did not put on a robe of flesh. He was made flesh. A robe can be put on and taken off at will. The LORD Jesus Christ is at the right hand of the Father in heaven in his crucified flesh with the open crucifixion wounds in his hands so that the Jews may look upon him at the Second Coming whom they have pierced (*Zechariah 12:6*, *John 19:37*, and *Revelation 1:7*).

The God-Man has not always existed, except in the mind of God. The God-Man came into existence for the benefit of mankind at the incarnation. From man’s perspective, the God-Man is an everlasting being who is an eternal being in the mind of God. As God, the LORD Jesus Christ is referred to as the “Son of God” in the Gospels. As a Man, the LORD Jesus Christ is referred to as the “Son of man” in the Gospels. It is stated many times by Bible preachers and teachers that the LORD Jesus Christ is “100% man and 100% God”. The theological term for that union of two natures is “the Hypostatic Union”. Part of the mystery of godliness is the unfathomable union of the nature of man and the nature of God!! That brings us to another fact. The Bible states at least five times that the Lord Jesus Christ is sinless. That could not happen if the physical body of the LORD Jesus Christ is not God. The LORD Jesus Christ could not sin because he is God manifest in the flesh. The LORD Jesus Christ was not tempted because he could sin: He was tempted to show us that he could not sin. Further evidence that he could not sin is the fact that God’s blood was pumped through his veins (*Acts 20:28*). *Hebrews 4:15* joins with *2 Corinthians 5:20-21*, *Hebrews 9:28*, *1 Peter 2:21-22*, and *1 John 3:2-5* in declaring the sinless nature of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are two reasons the body of the LORD Jesus Christ could not have rotted. The number one reason is that he was sinless. The number two reason is that fulfillment of God’s prophetic promise was at stake. In that regard, compare *Acts 2:26-27* with *Psalms 16:9-10*:

²⁶ Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: ²⁷ Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. *Acts 2:26-27*

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: My flesh also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. *Psalms 16:9–10*

A final point needs to be made here, and it is a critical point. With the exception of the 1611 King James Bible, **EVERY** English Bible (!!?) corrupts and/or perverts the text of *1 Timothy 3:16* in some manner. I have looked at *1 Timothy 3:16* (God was manifest in the flesh) in every version that I have available to me in either print or electronic format. I have looked at at least 36 versions now and have included in a document the context of each of those versions all the way back through the start of verse 14. For those that substitute the words “he”, “who”, and “which” for God in verse 16, I have not found the antecedent noun for any of those pronouns in any of the versions I looked at. My understanding of English grammar is that that violates the rules of English grammar. I do not read or write Greek, but it is my understanding that the Greek grammar rules for pronouns are the same as the English grammar rules. Pronouns must have an antecedent! If that is the case, and it is, then is there an antecedent Greek noun or English noun for the falsely claimed Greek, or English, pronouns for he”, “who”, and “which” in *1 Timothy 3:16*? I know that it is claimed by the Satanic Greek scholars that a single line was added to a Greek letter that led to it be translated “God”. I do not buy that for even a microsecond. If there is no Greek noun antecedent to the supposed Greek pronoun in that context, that fact alone would mitigate against the possibility of Greek pronouns being used in that context. That same conclusion would apply to any English translation of that Greek text. The context of verse 16 is not just any “he”, or any “which”, or any “who”: **it is God** [manifest in the flesh]. All that is being described in that verse speaks of God. The English and Greek grammar rules convict and condemn the false doctrine of the willfully deceived and/or Satanic Greek scholars . “But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken” *Isaiah 28:13*. Another issue of major importance is that most of these English perversions change the tense of the verb “manifest” to “manifested”. That also radically alters the meaning of the text. “Manifest” means he is still in his flesh. “Manifested” contradicts the Bible because it gives the impression that he has vacated his body. That is the heresy that some teach. Some heretics teach that the LORD Jesus Christ assumed a body at his incarnation and vacated it when he was crucified. Again, The LORD Jesus Christ did not become, or morph into, flesh. He was made flesh. The LORD Jesus Christ did not just take up a body and then drop it off when he ascended to heaven. He was made flesh. The LORD Jesus Christ did not put on a robe of flesh. He was made flesh. A robe can be put on and taken off at will. The LORD Jesus Christ is at the right hand of the Father in heaven in his crucified flesh with the open crucifixion wounds in his hands so that the Jews may look upon him at the Second Coming whom they have pierced (*Zechariah 12:6*, *John 19:37*, and *Revelation 1:7*). Add to that *Hebrews 10:4-5* where it states that the body of the LORD Jesus Christ was a prepared body:

⁴ For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. ⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: *Hebrews 10:4–5*

It was not an assumed or vacated body. It was a prepared body that he is still in at the right hand of God the Father. In closing this topic on the MYSTERY OF GODLINESS For you English grammar experts, I have a serious question for you: “Am I right, or wrong on the English grammar concerning *1 Timothy 3:16*?”. Think about it! The next mystery we will discuss is the:

THE MYSTERY OF “CHRIST IN YOU”

The “MYSTERY OF CHRIST IN YOU” refers to the permanent indwelling of Christ in the life of the believer through the Person of the Holy Ghost. Let us take a look at *John 14:16-23* and *Colossians 1:26-27*:

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 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. ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. ²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. ²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ²² Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 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. *John 14:16–23*

²⁶ **Even the mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is 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: *Colossians 1:26-27*

John 14:16-23 is the prophecy of the future permanent indwelling of the Holy Ghost in every believer. The prophecy’s first fulfillment took place in *John 20:22* where Jesus said to the eleven (Thomas was not with them), “Receive ye the Holy Ghost”. The prophecy’s next stated fulfillment was in *Acts 2:1-4* where the Bible says the following:

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. *Acts 2:1–4*

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

The Holy Ghost records that indwelling as an accomplished fact in *Acts 2:33*:

³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. *Acts 2:33*

That permanent indwelling is a promise of the LORD Jesus Christ to every New Testament believer. It is the hope of Christ in you. If you have been taught that the Spirit was never in anyone in the Old Testament you have been misled. *Numbers 27:18*, *Deuteronomy 34:9*, *Nehemiah 9:30*, *Isaiah 63:11-12*, *Ezekiel 2:1-2*, *Ezekiel 3:22-24*, and *Ezekiel 37:14* all indicate the presence of the Spirit **IN** someone. The more frequent phrase in the Old Testament was that **“the spirit came UPON”** individuals because Old Testament believers were not permanently indwelt by God the Holy Ghost. Note that my emphasis is on **“not permanently”**. It is stated at least 30 times in the Old Testament that **“the spirit came UPON”** someone. We see the **SPIRIT IN** Joseph in *Genesis 41:38*, in those who worked on Aaron’s priestly garments in *Exodus 28:3*, in Bezaleel in *Exodus 31:3* and *Exodus 35:31* for construction of the tabernacle, in Joshua in *Numbers 27:18* and *Deuteronomy 34:9*, in the prophets in *Nehemiah 9:30*, in Job’s nostrils in *Job 27:3*, and in Moses in *Isaiah 63:11-12*. *Ezekiel 2:1-2* taken with *Ezekiel 3:22-24* indicate that the spirit entered into and left from Ezekiel as God saw fit to empower him, and hence, he was not permanently indwelt with the Spirit. *Ezekiel 36:27* and *Ezekiel 37:14* prophesy of the time when Israel and the Jewish people will finally have the Spirit dwelling in them. Following the resurrection you will find but one case where it is said the Spirit of God is upon someone and that is in *1 Peter 4:14* where it indicates a permanent presence of the Spirit of God. This continued to be the pattern even during the earthly ministry of the LORD Jesus Christ until after the resurrection of the LORD Jesus Christ. While it is Scripturally correct to say that the Holy Ghost was UPON the LORD Jesus Christ, it is also Scripturally correct to say that the Holy Ghost was IN the LORD Jesus Christ since *Colossians 2:9* says: “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”. Next up, we will talk about the:

THE MYSTERY OF THE RAPTURE

The Old Testament prophets saw the return of Christ to the earth with His saints in power and glory, but not His coming in the air for the saints. The term “*rapture*” is not in the King James Bible. The term “*rapture*” is rooted in the Latin words “*rapio*”, “*rapiemur*”, or “*rapturo*”. They came to us out of the Latin Bibles. The term “*rapture*” is best defined as a “catching up”. Let us take a look at *1 Corinthians 15:51-58* and *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*:

⁵¹ **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. *1 Corinthians 15:51–58*

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words. *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

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 stated in *1 Corinthians 15* that the fact of the 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*. That is also true of *Mark 13*, *Luke 17*, and *Luke 21*. By definition, the Rapture is an event that must be accompanied by a resurrection since the Rapture is the redemption of the body as stated in *Romans 8:23* and *Philippians 3:20-21*:

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. *Romans 8:23*

²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. *Philippians 3:20–21*

The fact that there was going to be a resurrection of the dead was not a mystery because it had been revealed several times in the Old Testament. At a minimum, we see that fact in *Job 19:25-27*, *Job 33:24-25*, *Isaiah 26:19*, and *Daniel 12:1-2*:

²⁵ For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, And *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: ²⁶ And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, Yet in my flesh shall

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

I see God: ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, And mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *Though my reins be consumed within me. Job 19:25–27*

²⁴ Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom. ²⁵ His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: He shall return to the days of his youth: *Job 33:24–25*

¹⁹ Thy dead *men* shall live, *Together with my dead body shall they arise.* Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: For thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. *Isaiah 26:19*

¹ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. *Daniel 12:1–2*

So what was the mystery? The mystery was the fact that all those who were alive at the moment of the resurrection related to the rapture would be caught up in the air into heaven alive. What a meeting in the air! We need to make a distinction before we move on. There is a difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming. The Rapture and the Second Coming are approximately seven years apart. The Rapture is the LORD Jesus Christ coming in the air to take his saints up in the air. He does not touch the earth at the Rapture. The Second Coming is the Lord Jesus Christ coming back to the earth by setting his feet upon the earth with his saints at the Mount of Olives. The next mystery that we will discuss is:

THE MYSTERY OF THE SEVEN STARS AND THE SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS

This mystery is plainly stated and plainly explained in *Revelation 1:20* where the LORD Jesus Christ said:

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. *Revelation 1:20*

If we interpret the word “angel” in each of the places it appears in each letter to the seven churches, we know that the angel in each church represents the pastor of each of the seven churches. Many times in our Bibles the word “angel” is used in the sense of being a messenger. A messenger is a sent one. He is sent from God to each church. So, the seven stars equals the seven angels and the seven angels equal the seven pastors. The seven churches are represented by one candlestick for each

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

church.

The next mystery that we will discuss is:

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

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 only place we see the phrase “the mystery of God” used is in *Revelation 10:7* where we read this:

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.
Revelation 10:7

Our next mystery is:

THE MYSTERY OF CONSUMMATION

This may be described as the mystery of eternity. It is only spoken of once in the Bible and that is in *Ephesians 1:9,10* where it states this:

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: *Ephesians 1:9-10*

Our next mystery is:

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

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. In *2 Thessalonians 2:7-9*, the Bible says:

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 **And then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, *2 Thessalonians 2:7-9*

The mystery of iniquity has his ultimate manifestation of power in *Revelation 13* through the beast and the false prophet. *Revelation 13:1-18* states:

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

¹ And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. ⁴ And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? ⁵ And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. ⁷ And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. ⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ⁹ If any man have an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. ¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. ¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six. *Revelation 13:1-18*

Satan will meet his eventual destruction where the mystery of iniquity will be no more as prophesied in *Ezekiel 28:11-19* :

¹¹ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹² Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ Thou hast been in

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹ All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more. *Ezekiel 28:11-19*

Satan as a manifestation of the incarnation of the mystery of iniquity is seen in the ultimate king of Babylon in *Isaiah 14:4-27* where we see the following description of him:

⁴ That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! ⁵ The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, *and* the sceptre of the rulers. ⁶ He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, He that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, *and* none hindereth. ⁷ The whole earth is at rest, *and* is quiet: they break forth into singing. ⁸ Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, *and* the cedars of Lebanon, *saying*, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. ⁹ Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet *thee* at thy coming: It stirreth up the dead for thee, *even* all the chief ones of the earth; It hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. ¹⁰ All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? ¹¹ Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: The worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. ¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶ They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; ¹⁷ *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *That* opened

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

not the house of his prisoners? ¹⁸ All the kings of the nations, *even* all of them, Lie in glory, every one in his own house. ¹⁹ But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, *And as* the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, That go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. ²⁰ Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, Because thou hast destroyed thy land, *and* slain thy people: The seed of evildoers shall never be renowned. ²¹ Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; That they do not rise, nor possess the land, Nor fill the face of the world with cities. ²² For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, And cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, And son, and nephew, saith the LORD. ²³ I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: And I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts. ²⁴ The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; And as I have purposed, *so* shall it stand: ²⁵ That I will break the Assyrian in my land, And upon my mountains tread him under foot: Then shall his yoke depart from off them, And his burden depart from off their shoulders. ²⁶ *This is* the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: And *this is* the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. ²⁷ For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? And his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back? *Isaiah 14:4–27*

The ultimate fruit of the king of the mystery of iniquity is Satan himself in Revelation 17 and 18. That is the subject of our next mystery which is:

THE MYSTERY OF BABYLON THE GREAT

Before we proceed in our discussion on MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, it is necessary that we quote verbatim from an entry titled “SACRAMENT” in the Way Of Life Encyclopedia by David Cloud. Here is that quote:

SACRAMENT. Originally, the Latin word “sacramentum” referred to an oath, or to a ceremony producing an obligation. In present religious usage, sacrament refers to an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. The term *sacrament* is used by the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox, and certain Protestant denominations to describe their ordinances. Roman Catholicism has seven sacraments— baptism, eucharist, confirmation, marriage, holy orders, penance, and last rites. Those who describe baptism and the Lord’s Supper as sacraments usually believe these ordinances are more than symbolic ceremonies.

“The Reformed [Protestant] creeds did not get free from Rome as regards what they still called ‘sacraments’—a Babylonish term. For *sacramentum* was the Latin word for a mystery of the pagan religion. ‘The grand distinguishing feature of the ancient Babylonian system was the Chaldean mysteries, that formed so essential a part of that system’ (Hislop, p. 4). ‘Even in the prayer-book of the Church of England, the Lord’s Supper is called ‘these holy mysteries’! But such a term for it is unknown in the New

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

Testament, and was subsequently introduced merely because the initiates (of Babylonish idolatry) fixed upon the Memorial Supper as the one thing in Christianity which they could most easily metamorphose into a Mystery, or Sacrament. Then, associating Baptism with the bath which preceded (pagan) initiation, they called it, also, a Mystery, or Sacrament—though they often dropped all disguise, and spoke of it plainly as initiation” (William R. Newell, *Revelation: A Complete Commentary*). Baptists, as well as others who strive to maintain a New Testament pattern, reject the concept of sacraments. The Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles delivered to the churches two ordinances [observances]: *baptism* and *the Lord’s Supper*. These do not impart grace; they signify and memorialize grace and turn the believer’s thoughts to Christ.

Quoted from Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible and Christianity, Page 535; PDF Edition; Copyright 2008; David Cloud

The Babylonians and their kings are seen throughout the Old Testament narrative, but this final form of a one-world government with a one-world religion as a tool of the Antichrist (*Revelation 17:7*) is New Testament truth never revealed in the Old Testament. We see this mystery described as follows in *Revelation 17:1-11*:

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: ² With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. ³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 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 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. ⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. ⁹ And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. ¹⁰ And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. ¹¹ And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. *Revelation*

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

17:1–11

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT is the totally leavened church that was the subject of the parable of the leaven in *Matthew 13:33*. We can think of no better way to describe this **MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH** than the following 61 verses from *Jude 4-19*, *2 Peter 2:1-22*, *1 Timothy 4:1-3*, *2 Timothy 3:1-8*, *2 Timothy 3:13*, *2 Timothy 4:2-4*, *Titus 1:15-16*, *Isaiah 30:8-13* as quoted below:

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly *men*, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵ I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. ⁶ And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. ⁷ *Even* as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them, in like manner giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. ⁸ Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against *him* a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. ¹⁰ But these speak evil of those *things* which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those *things* they corrupt themselves. ¹¹ Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. ¹² These are spots in your feasts of charity when they feast with *you*, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; ¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. ¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all *that are* ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all *their hard speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. ¹⁶ These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having *men's* persons in admiration because of advantage. ¹⁷ But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; ¹⁸ how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. *Jude 4–19*

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.⁴ For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;⁶ And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;⁷ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)⁹ The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:¹⁰ But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.¹¹ Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.¹² But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;¹³ And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, *as* they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;¹⁴ Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:¹⁵ Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son* of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;¹⁶ But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.¹⁷ These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.¹⁸ For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.²⁰ For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.²¹ For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.²² But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. 2 Peter 2:1-22

¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³ Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. *1 Timothy 4:1–3*

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. *2 Timothy 3:1–8*

¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. *2 Timothy 3:13*

² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:2–4*

¹⁵ Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. ¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. *Titus 1:15–16*

⁸ Now go, write it before them in a table, And note it in a book, That it may be for the time to come For ever and ever: ⁹ That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, Children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD: ¹⁰ Which say to the seers, See not; And to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, Speak unto us smooth things, Prophecy deceits: ¹¹ Get you out of the way, Turn aside out of the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. ¹² Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, And trust in oppression and perverseness, And stay thereon: ¹³ Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, Swelling out in a high wall, Whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. *Isaiah 30:8–13*

All 61 of those verses need no commentary upon them because all he or she that hath spiritually

THE NEW TESTAMENT MYSTERIES

discerning ears in 2026 has to do is look at the overwhelming majority of churches in America and see them for the synagogues of Satan that they are where Satan seat is. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, there were but two churches that the LORD Jesus Christ had no problems with. In five of those churches we can hear him identify a total of at least 13 problems spread over those five churches. Their number one problem was that they had not repented. The list of problems includes losing their first love, holding to and practicing the doctrines of Balaam, allowing the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, allowing women preachers and teachers and allowing them to teach false doctrine and heresy, having a false reputation of being alive when they were spiritually dead, being a lukewarm church, being spiritually poor, being spiritually blind, being spiritually naked, being blinded and hindered by riches, being wretched, and being miserable. I submit to you that the church in America is much worse than any of those five churches described in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Not only are we guilty of all the wickedness described in the 61 verses that I just quoted, but we take much pleasure in those that do those wicked things **IN THE CHURCH** (*Romans 1:18-32*). It has gone beyond vile. In closing, note from *Revelation 17:11* that the final King of Babylon goes into perdition. Many say that he is the son of perdition which many see as a reference to Judas Iscariot.