

Message Two

Enlightened to See the Economy of the Mystery

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:3-5, 9

- I. Paul was commissioned “to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things”—Eph. 3:9; Acts 26:18; 13:47.
- II. The New Testament tells us that the church was a mystery in God; throughout all the generations before the New Testament time, the church was a mystery—Eph. 3:3-6, 9; 5:32:
 - A. In the Bible a mystery refers not only to things that are hidden and unknown to us but also to things that are hidden in God’s heart; this is the principle concerning the mysteries mentioned in the Bible—Mark 4:11; Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3; Eph. 1:9; 3:3-4, 9; 5:32; 6:19.
 - B. God’s mystery is His hidden purpose, which is to dispense Himself into His chosen people; hence, there is the economy of the mystery of God—3:9.
 - C. From the beginning of the world the purpose of creation was a mystery hidden in God; no one knew what the purpose of creation was—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16:
 1. Job was right in saying, “You have hidden these things in Your heart: / I know that this is with You”; what was hidden in God’s heart was the mystery of the ages—Job 10:13; Eph. 3:9.
 2. After creating man in His image and according to His likeness, God kept His intention hidden throughout the ages—Gen. 1:26; Rom. 16:25.
 3. Before the New Testament time God did not unveil to anyone what His purpose was; the mystery, God’s hidden purpose, was made known by revelation to the apostles and prophets—Eph. 3:3-5.
- III. The mystery hidden in God’s heart is God’s eternal economy (1:10; 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:4), which is God’s eternal intention with His heart’s desire to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity as the Father in the Son by the Spirit into His chosen people to be their life and nature so that they may be the same as He is as His duplication (Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2), to become an organism, the Body of Christ as the new man (Eph. 2:15-16), for God’s fullness, God’s expression (1:22-23; 3:19), which will become the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2—22:5).
- IV. In Ephesians 3:4 Paul uses the expression *the mystery of Christ* to explain the church as the Body of Christ in God’s eternal economy, indicating that the church is the mystery of Christ:
 - A. The economy of God’s mystery is to have the church for the manifestation of God—vv. 9-10.
 - B. Paul preached not only the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ; he also preached the gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God—vv. 8-9:
 1. The gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God is to produce the church for God’s expression and glorification according to God’s eternal purpose—vv. 10-11, 21.
 2. Today we must announce the gospel concerning the mystery hidden in God in order to enlighten all so that they may see what is the economy of the mystery hidden in God, who created all things for the fulfillment of His will, the desire of His heart, and His eternal purpose—1:5, 9, 11; 3:8-11.