

## Mystery According to His Purpose

*“making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ” (Ephesians 1:9, ESV)*

1. When we talk about the “mystery of His will” we are talking about **“God’s secret purpose.”**

2. This mystery was hidden for ages and generations but now **has been revealed to us in Christ.**

*“the mystery hidden for ages and generations **but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known** how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:26–27, ESV)*

3. Moses and the Prophets **wrote about Jesus** yet it was in types and shadows.

*“For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.” (John 5:46, ESV)*

*“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.” (1 Peter 1:10–12, ESV)*

4. The full understanding for God’s covenant people was not realized until **after the giving of the Spirit.**

*“which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as **it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.**” (Ephesians 3:5, ESV)*

*“But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— these things **God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:7–10, ESV)*

5. This mystery is that **gentiles are fellow heirs** in the Covenant of Grace.

*“This mystery is that **the Gentiles are fellow heirs**, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” (Ephesians 3:6, ESV)*

6. **Gentile and Jewish Christians** are now united in God’s covenant family and are equal heirs with one another and with Christ.

*“**and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” (Romans 8:17, ESV)*

*“**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.” (Galatians 3:28–29, ESV)*

7. Only those **who are in Christ** by faith are members of the Covenant family.

*“But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, **and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring**, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” This means that **it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.**” (Romans 9:6–8, ESV)*

*“Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. **It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.**”* (Galatians 3:16, ESV)

8. The Mystery according to His purpose was that He would have for Himself a people from every **tribe**, every **tongue**, every **nation**, every **language** and He would have them for **His glory**.

*“After this I looked, and behold, **a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”**”* (Revelation 7:9–10, ESV)

*“And they sang a new song, saying, **“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,**”* (Revelation 5:9, ESV)

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9. God’s purpose of redemption that was hidden and now is revealed to His saints is that:

We are justified by **faith alone**, through **grace alone** and in **Christ alone**.

*“For what does the Scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”** Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. **And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,**”*

(Romans 4:3–5, ESV)