

The purpose of this study is to draw a parallel between the blindness of Israel to the mystery of Christ and the blindness of Judeo-Christianity to the mystery of the Body of Christ.

Charles Welch once said that the Bible is the story of two kinds of mysteries. These two mysteries are the mystery of godliness and the mystery of iniquity.

The mystery of godliness concerns righteousness, and the mystery of iniquity concerns unrighteousness.

The mystery of godliness concerns well worship, and the mystery of iniquity concerns false worship.

The mystery of godliness proclaims the truth, and the mystery of iniquity proclaims untruth.

One is manifested in Christ and the other is manifested in the Antichrist.

The present creation was made by Christ and for Christ.

All mankind are descendants from Adam who was made a mortal soul. And that soul was the combination of flesh and spirit.

Mankind is divided into two groups called "seeds". One seed remains in the sin of Adam, while the other seed obtains sanctity in Christ.

One is of the spirit of anti-Christ, and the other is of the spirit of Christ.

One seed are those who die in Adam and are said to perish and have no more life. The other seed are those who die in Christ and are changed and put on immortality and continue life elsewhere.

In the Bible we see that, over time, to accomplish His overall plan for the ages, God deals with different groups of people in different ways. That is why we are told to rightly divide.

The attributes of God and the economies of God are progressively revealed to mankind over a period of time in the Bible. And it has taken mankind a long time to understand the attributes of God and the economies of God after they are revealed by Him in the Bible.

For example, it took almost 4,000 years for God to incarnate His Son as the promised Messiah and Saviour for Israel and reveal the mystery of Christ. After another 2,000 years Israel has refused to see and acknowledge the Chosen One of their own as The Christ.

For another example, it took God almost 4,000 years to reveal the Mystery of the Body of Christ to the Apostle Paul. It has taken just a few of His saints almost 2,000 years to understand and acknowledge the Mystery of the Body of Christ after it was revealed.

Additionally, after 4,000 years, God made a great change in His economy with Israel, and it has taken those in Christ almost 2,000 years to understand and acknowledge that great change in God's economy since the end of The Book of The Acts in the Bible.

To this day in the 6,000-year history of man, the glorious, good news of the Body of Christ goes unheard and unknown by most of God's people. This is what I call a mystery!

Oscar Baker wrote in Vol 13 of Truth for Today page 42 "what the dispensation of the mystery might be is still a mystery to many good folks."

The records in the Bible prove that given enough time man will degrade and fail. Man will manage to get it wrong. Man will manage to mess things up to satisfy his own fleshly needs and desires.

After all the figures, types, and shadows given to Israel and the miracles performed by God and Christ and many others, except for an elect remnant, Israel still could not see Jesus as the Christ. They had the witness of Moses and the prophets and the psalms and the apostles, but the religious leaders became a barrier to the truth. Only a few were chosen to overcome these obstacles before the end of The Acts. The mystery of Christ remains a mystery to most of all the nations of the earth today.

The mystery of the Body of Christ is the pinnacle of the mystery of Christ. The mystery of the Body of Christ is the pinnacle of Biblical doctrine for today. No human being has ever written anything as exalting and glorious as Paul's Prison Epistles to the Ephesians and to the Colossians. Yet these glorious epistles get little attention in church preaching because of human blindness to God's truth.

The dispensation of the mystery of the Body of Christ is only for faithful people chosen by God for a heavenly purpose. Only God knows who has the qualities that He requires for this purpose.

In his Epistle to Titus Paul wrote *he was a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth, which is after godliness. (Titus 1:1)*

The Apostle Paul wrote in **1 Timothy 2:3-4** *For it is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, Who desires all men to be saved and to come unto the acknowledgement of the truth.* The Apostle Paul was *ordained a preacher, and an apostle, a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (1 Tim 2:7)*

As Paul wrote in 2 Timothy to *teach those that oppose themselves, if God perhaps will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. (1:25)* For there are those who are *ever learning and are never able to come to the acknowledgement of the truth. (2:7)* For they *shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables. (4:4)*

Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men that turn from the truth. (Titus 1:13-14).

In my past experiences with religion and going to church these verses written by Paul seem to exactly describe what is happening today. How many called “Christians” can see themselves as the subject of these verses? Paul is not talking about the Jews or the unsaved Gentiles. He is talking to and about the saints.

I understand that everyone claims to have or to know “the truth”. But the truth of God must come from God and be given by His Holy Spirit through wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

As soon as the Mystery of the Body of Christ was revealed to Paul. Satan knew of it. Satan wasted no time in perverting the truth and deceiving the saints. Satan is a religious being and traffics his lies and deceit through religions. The religion of Christianity is his masterpiece. There is no evidence that in the second century anyone understood or acknowledged the mystery except a few who were close to Paul.

Satan is extremely confident that rarely will someone ever pick up a Bible and do the work that it takes to discover the truth and challenge the traditions of men and the doctrines of demons and the deception of Satan. In those days it was easy because only few could read anything. The workers of iniquity, under the authority of darkness, will propagate a lie and repeat it so often and for so long that it becomes accepted as the truth...but it is still a lie.

The mystery of the Body of Christ is one of those truths that has been turned into a fable, or a myth. This is the work of iniquity. After Paul and Timothy left the scene, the mystery of the Body of Christ became obscured and misunderstood. The Jewish fable is that the kingdom hope and ordinances were still in force and only had to be modified for the believers. The Jewish fable is that the Body of Christ is the body of all believers in Christ. As defined by the religion of Christianity, this body even claims to be the “bride of Christ” and something called the “New Israel”.

This is the obvious result of the failure to rightly divide the word of truth.

Whereas, in truth, Paul clearly tells us in Eph 2 that after the end of The Acts, God created in Christ “one new man” which is neither Gentile nor Jew. Out of that one new man in Christ are being called the members of the chosen Body of Christ. As I understand Paul’s writings

in Ephesians and Colossians, out of the saints are being called the faithful saints: those who are faithful to the acknowledgement of the truth.

This revelation of the mystery of the Body of Christ given to Paul after the end of The Acts is the glorious, good news **to the saints** and most saints have never been taught that.

This glorious, good news is found wanting in the teachings of the many sects of the religion of Christianity. But we must accept this fact as God's plan and purpose.

The definitions of "mystery" and "mysterious" are similar and are threefold.

1. Anything in the character or attributes of God, or in the economy of divine Providence, **which is not revealed to man.**
2. A profound secret: **something wholly unknown or something kept cautiously sealed, until it is revealed to mankind;**
3. That which is revealed but **is beyond human comprehension until explained.** In this sense, mystery often conveys the idea of something highly exalted or important.

Concerning No. 1, are there any attributes of God or any mysteries of His will that have not been revealed to mankind?

During the course of the time covered by the Scriptures, the attributes of God and His Divine economies were unfolding, as some were not known to mankind until revealed.

If you are a member of the Body of Christ, you will embrace the following verses:

Eph 1:8-9

Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; having made know to us the mystery of His will.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Col 1:9

That ye may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Col 2:2

...unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, the Father of Christ, in Which are hid the secret treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Concerning No. 2, the mystery of the Body of Christ was always in the Divine Providence of God and was always part of His overall plan. It was kept secret, hid in God, hid from (Satan for) ages and generations, until the time fitting for God to reveal it to mankind.

Christ chose Paul for this very reason. Jesus already chose twelve disciples to become apostles to Israel. God knew that He would set aside Israel and all things pertaining to Israel, including the twelve apostles to Israel. Therefore, it was necessary to choose someone of Paul's character and commitment to carry on with all nations after Israel was set aside for their continued disobedience. He didn't set aside Christ, but He postponed Christ's return for Israel. When He continues with Israel in the future, the twelve apostles and the Acts Epistles will resume in their application to Israel.

The post-Acts writings of Paul will become historical records of the called-out Body of Christ.

Concerning No. 3, this is where we find ourselves at present. The great mystery of the Body of Christ has been revealed to Paul and Paul explains it in writing as best he can in those most precious Prison Epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians. This very important and highly exalted mystery has been sitting there in the Scriptures for almost 2,000 years, beyond man's comprehension, until someone's eyes were opened so he could explain it to others. Why it has taken so long for man to understand what Paul wrote, is left to the Divine Providence of God.

The mystery of the mystery of the Body of Christ is that it has been revealed but seems to be incomprehensible to man until it is explained. Christians today are blinded to the mystery of the Body of Christ.

Peter Redmon gave a lesson recently on the 'Mystery of a Silent Heaven'. I recommend you go to thebibleforum.podbean.com and look it up and listen to it.

Is there a connection between blindness and mysteries?

There can be another study done about all the failures and subsequent mysteries that have occurred from the fall of Satan to the end of Satan. Mysteries, or hidden secrets, have been necessary solely because God has an enemy.

Mysteries are introduced to us in the OT through the book of Daniel. This Book was written during the Babylonian captivity of Israel (496 B.C.-426 B.C.) This book was written during a period of Gentile rule and Israel was Lo-Ammi. The Hebrew Bible places Daniel with the

books of Psalms and not with the Prophets because Daniel was writing about “Gentiles”. Chapters 2-7 are historic and are written in the Gentile language of Aramaic, while 8-12 are prophetic and written in Hebrew. The word for ‘mystery’ is the word “secret”, which in the Aramaic or Chaldean is Strong’s 7328 **rawz** : hide, mystery, secret.

God is revealing **secrets**, which are **mysteries** of His unfolding plan to the end, to Daniel through the life of Nebuchadnezzar. These mysteries are being revealed during a time when Israel is Lo-Ammi which is after Isaiah pronounced their blindness in Isaiah Chapter 6 which was written in the year king Uzziah died (649 B. C.) some 200 years earlier.

Isaiah 6:9-10

⁹And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. ¹⁰Make 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.

How long?

¹¹Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, ¹²And the Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

And keep in mind the Israel does not pay much attention to the Book of Daniel and the prophecies in his book. Israel is not only blind, but they are stupid! But this pattern holds true in the NT as well.

Moses prophesied this way back in Deuteronomy 29:29

The revealed things, and the things not yet revealed, but that will be revealed, pertain to us and our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

How has this been working out for Israel? This will not be fulfilled until the very end and in the Millennial Kingdom. (The mystery of the Body of Christ is not for Israel and is the exception to this statement).

In the Gospels there are mysteries.

[Matthew 13:11](#)

*¹⁰And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? ¹¹He 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.*

This is the beginning of parables (and mysteries) in Matt 13 when Jesus pronounced the blindness of Israel.

¹⁴And 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: ¹⁵For 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.

Mark 4:11

*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: ¹²That 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.*

Luke 8:10

*And he said, Unto you it is given to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.*

John

John does not contain the word “mystery” because John was written after the final rejection of the Messiah at the end of The Acts. John’s Gospel is to the present age while the kingdom has been temporarily set aside. But John confirms the blindness of the religious leaders of Israel;

John 12:39-40

³⁹Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

⁴⁰He 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.

How many preachers and Christians read these verses about blindness and don’t see (no pun intended) this might apply to themselves.

John 9:39

*And Jesus said, for judgement I am come into this world, that they which **see not** might see; and they which “**see**” might be made blind.*

Look at the result of so-called Christians who fail to rightly divide the word of truth and who cannot seem to understand what happened at the end of the Acts. They may have received the salvation of God and eternal life through Christ Jesus, but their priorities in life are far from coming to the knowledge of the truth. They have been told that religion and going to church are on the right path. That seems to me to be the broad gate and the broad path, and not the harrow gate and the narrow path.

What I continue to hear every day is that people, especially Christians, are too busy with kids and grandkids to study the Bible or attend faithfully a weekly Bible study. Or they go to a church where there is a family or social connection. Some worship their church social life more than they worship in truth. IT IS ALL ABOUT HOW THEY FEEL AND WHAT THEY FEEL ABOUT THE TEACHINGS OF THE MINISTER.

After Christ, the Head, is manifest in glory and the Body of Christ is manifest with Him, Churches and religions will continue as before. Instead of coming to the unity of the faith, they are splitting at lightning pace and churches are becoming social clubs and business networking opportunities. Degradation is always the path of man on earth. In the latter days people will be grasping for the pant legs and shirttails of Jews to get into the kingdom.

But for the grace of God, there go I !!

We find ourselves just as Paul, who had just a great passion for his brethren, the Jews, to believe in Christ and for all saints to see the dispensation of the Mystery.

I know we all want it for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, but it is not for us to give or to judge.

So we might ask (and many of us have) “why is the mystery of the Body of Christ so hard for people to understand?”

And the answer might be “Because it is given unto you to know the **mystery of the Body of Christ**, but to them it is not given.

This ought to make us extremely grateful for the grace that is showered upon us from the Father above. We have been given, without any merit, a seat with Christ at the right hand of the Father with every blessing that is spiritual in the heaven above all.

All we can do is make some see by witnessing to many and not be discouraged.