

Mystery Teachings in the Bible

by Pastor Art Sims

Mystery of the Cross

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:8

The mystery of the cross refers to the meaning of the cross.

During His ministry to Israel, Jesus told his disciples about what the prophets had said concerning Him - that He would be put to death and raised again the third day yet the apostles did not understand what the Lord meant: “And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken. (see Luke 18:31-34). The glorious, redeeming purpose of the cross was not yet known to the twelve apostles.

The apostle Peter spoke of the cross as a fulfillment of prophecy, and he also preached the cross as a “shame” to Israel, since they purposely killed the Prince of Life: “Him... ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:” – Acts 2:23 “But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.” – Acts 3:14-15

Yet, the Risen Lord revealed to the apostle Paul a mystery preaching of the cross that was not known before. This mystery is the “glorying” of that which was previously shameful: “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” - Galatians 6:14.

What was kept secret with God (a mystery) from the beginning of time was the preaching of the cross as the gospel that freely saves all mankind—by faith with no strings attached. Alleluia!! The cross of Jesus Christ according to the mystery is the channel of God’s unsearchable riches of grace.

“That in the dispensation of the fullness 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 1:10