

## Doctrine of the Mystery

1. Definition and Concept: The Greek word **Musterion** is that primarily known to the **Mustes**, "the initiated."

1.1 In the New Testament **Musterion** denotes not the mysterious but that which is outside the range of unassisted apprehension.

1.2 Comprehension and thus apprehension is made possible only by Divine revelation in a manner and in a time appointed by God and to those only who are illumined by His Spirit.

Col 1:26 the *mystery* that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.

2. There was an inkling of the concept to come in the Kingdom Age.

Mar 4:10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.

Mar 4:11 He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables.

3. The *mystery*, as used in the Epistles, refers to Church Age doctrine not provided in other dispensations.

Eph 3:2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,

Eph 3:3 that is, the *mystery* made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

Eph 3:4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the *mystery* of Christ,

Eph 3:5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

4. Both the prophets of old and even angels desired to know Church Age doctrine; it is also a mystery to them.

1Pe 1:11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

1Pe 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

1Pe 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

5. The mystery doctrines were not revealed in the Old Testament.

Rom 16:25 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the *mystery* hidden for long ages past, Rom 16:26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him--

6. Israel (true Israel) will learn the mystery later in the Tribulation and Millennium.

Rom 11:25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this *mystery*, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

7. The mystery was known in eternity past and is part of God's Divine Decrees.

1Co 2:7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

1Co 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1Co 2:9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--

1Co 2:10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

1Co 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

1Co 2:13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

1Co 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

8. Every pastor-teacher is a steward of the mystery.

1Co 4:1 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

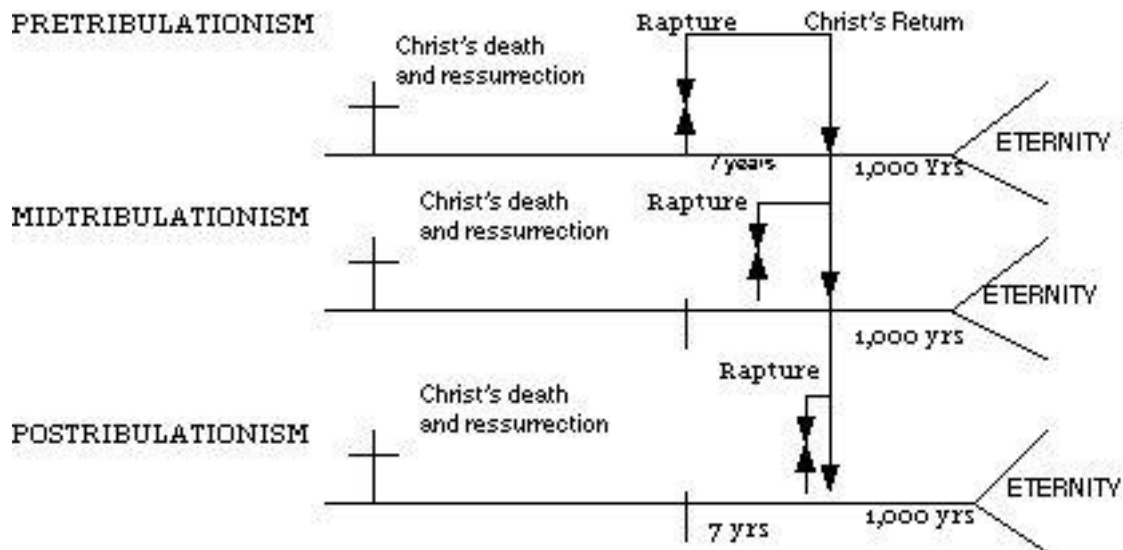
1Co 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

9. The Rapture is part of the mystery.

1Co 15:51 Listen, I tell you a *mystery*: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--  
 1Co 15:52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

9.1 The book of the Revelation makes a significant distinction as to the timing of the Rapture and the Second Advent. They are two separates events, the Second Advent occurring seven years after the Rapture.

9.1.1 Paul's dissertation, in 2Th 2:1-10 concerning the timing of the events of the Tribulation and Second Advent helps, establishes the Pre-Trib view.



9.1.2 The Thessalonian Christians were concerned for fear that the Rapture had already taken place and they were in the day of the Lord.

9.2 The persecutions endured in Thessalonica motivated the embracing of this erroneous postulation.

9.2.1 Let me give you a couple of Scriptures:

1Th 1:6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

1Th 1:7 And so you became a model to all the believers . . .

2Th 1:4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

2Th 1:5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

2Th 1:6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you

2Th 1:7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed (**Apokalupsis**) from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

9.3 Paul writes to show them that their error of thinking they were in the Tribulation show they were in stark denial of what they had been taught.

9.3.1 First he shows them in verse three that the day of the Lord could not take place until there was a departure of the saints from the earth.

9.3.2 Second he reveals there was to be a clear manifestation of the man of sin, the Antichrist, as a major player in the Tribulation and therefore the question “where is he if in fact you think you are in the Tribulation?”

9.3.3 Paul's argument in verse seven is that although the mystery of iniquity was at work, the lawless system which would culminate in the person of the lawless one—the Antichrist, could not be manifested until the Restrainer—the Holy Spirit was taken out of the way.

9.3.4 The Restrainer is the Holy Spirit Who resides in us and at the Rapture He is removed.

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

9.3.5 The word Christ in the KJV is in error. The Greek text has Lord and the better translation of "at hand" is "present." The "day of Christ" refers to the Rapture and it is in fact near, whereas the day of the Lord cannot take place until the end of the Tribulation.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there ... come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the *mystery* of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then that Wicked One shall be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

9.4 The fact that the rapture has always been imminent even at the time of the writing of the New Testament and the fact that the timing is known only to the Father provides further reason for our being Pre-Trib. See 1Th 4:1-16

9.4.1 The eschatological timing was not known even to the Incarnate Jesus. Mark records Jesus' answer to the question, "when will the end come?"

Mar 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Mar 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

9.5 The mystery had to await the Church Age and God's perfect timing.

Eph 1:9 And he made known to us the *mystery* of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

Eph 1:10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

10. In conclusion let me stress: knowing about the mystery is a requirement for both the pastor-teacher and the deacon.

1Ti 3:9 Holding the *mystery* of the faith in a pure conscience.

1Ti 3:10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

11. Accordingly a knowledge of dispensations is also necessary, not only for pastor-teachers and deacons, but every believer should know the dispensation chart both backwards and forwards.

