

Insight of the Mystery

Ephesians 1:8 Which He made abundant on us, in all wisdom and insight

Oh, my friends note the word *insight*, close to wisdom but emphasizes us to *think*; understanding, by this refers to understanding of a specific cause. Look at the word in

1 Kings 3:28 When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down or 'judged'; they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was on him to administer justice.

But it should not be simply the wisdom of God they saw but they saw that specific wisdom of God in the administration of justice.

Now look at the only second time this Greek word is used in the New Testament in

Luke 1:17 And it is he (John the Baptist) who will go as a forerunner before Him (Jesus Christ) in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

What does it mean the attitude of the righteous'? The understanding of the specific wisdom of the Lord that the people will be ready for His rule in Israel.

Now we come to our passage in

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

Ephesians 1:8 *In all wisdom and insight (or understanding of the new rule of Jesus in the Church Age.)*

This will introduce the opening of the mystery of the will of Jesus Christ.

I want to take you right into the sight or understanding from Jesus, by showing this in Luke 23:34 from Jesus on the cross:

Luke 23:34 **but Jesus was saying, ‘Father forgiven them; for they do not know what they are doing.’**

These things were not known until the Holy Spirit came and made these things understood to them.

Now we are ready for

Ephesians 1:9 **He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him.**

He made known. The correct reading is *having made known*.

The Greek word is a little different than what we might expect. We would have expected the Greek word *ginosko* which means *to know*, or to become aware or *to understand*. Our word is stronger, in that it means to make known, reveal or declare. I want you to appreciate what God is doing here in verses 8 and 9. The word before us *having made known* had most likely come from the combination of the word meaning *to know*, and meaning *determine, cause to happen or cause to make known*. It means *causing to know something that he previously did not know, or comprehend or even understand*.

So you can grasp this word, let's read:

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

Matthew 10:26 “Therefore, do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

So, I hope you grasp this meaning—causing to know something that you previously did not know.

This refers to a knowledge or revelation which previously was hidden, but now makes known new information or unknown understanding.

Now to help you in verses 8 and 9, the verb “*having made known*” is what we know in Greek as an Aorist Active Participle, and I make this known by you, for this tells us that the action of this verb precedes the action of the main verb. So the question is – what is the main verb? This was given in verse 8 *which He made abundant to us*. This means that by continually studying the Word of God, God will lavish on you information that was not known until this time in the Church Age. But, you have to give constant time in the study of the Word of God. In other words, God will lavish on us continually new knowledge of His Word. But, this requires daily going to the Word of God and have it continually revealed to you. You have to find a pastor teacher who devotes his time in the study of the Word of God. There is no substitute for the study of the Word of God. And the more you are lavished on biblical truth, the more you can pray, witness, and joy in your own soul.

Ephesians 1:9 having made known unto us the mystery,...

This is a rich word here. *To make known* is the issue that God is making known new truths to people in the Church age. This word will be used here and several times in Ephesians 3 where God desires to make known to us the mystery.

Insight of the Mystery **Ephesians 1:8-9**

This verb is used to emphasize that we must come, day in and day out in order to study the mystery. God considers believers in the Church Age ready to learn wonderful things about God in His plan. God has made this mystery known to believers that they would know, in no other way, than to study the Word of God. Few pastors and teachers want to spend time in the study of the mystery.

This is so important for the knowing of these truths but Satan and other humans have fought over and over to prevent believers from knowing these truths. For decades Satan has tried his best to stop these truths of the mystery to be known and studied by them.

For centuries believers have been martyred to stop them from the study the Word of God. And they are suffering today throughout the world, to stop them from learning the ‘mystery.’

Paul wrote the Mystery in several books of the Bible. But it was set away hidden until after the time of the 15th century. The history of this time in Germany, includes others like Martin Luther fought to make the Bible something people could read in their own language. There were men like John Wycliffe and William Tyndale were martyred in getting the Bible put out into English.

John Wycliffe, born in 1330; died in December 31, 1384; wrote the first Bible in English; he was buried by the Roman Catholic Church, and later exhumed and burned, in light of his English Bible. English originated in the mid 5th to 7th centuries AD. But it was not until around the 1300’s that the Bible in English was brought before people by John Wycliffe.

Jan Hus born 1369, of Bohemia; died July 1414 in Germany; he spoke the Czech language, which originated around 500 A.D., and translated the Bible into it. The Roman Catholic Church imprisoned Jan Hus for his beliefs. He soon was condemned as an Heretic. In 1415 he was burned at the stake by the Roman Catholic Church. What is interesting is that the

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

Roman Catholic Church used copies of the Wycliffe Bible as kindling for the fire to burn Jan Hus. By 1455 over 200 Bibles were printed out.

William Tyndale born 1496; died October 1536. He believed, from the Bible, that people have the right to study the Bible. He also believed that the only source for Christian doctrine was the Bible. He also believed that the Bible did not support the papacy and Christians were called by God to study and teach the Bible; He was executed by the Roman Catholic Church because he translated the Bible into English. He was called ‘morning star’ at the beginning of the Reformation. The Tyndale Bible set down the foundation for the Bible in English that we study today.

Martin Luther born November 1483 in Germany; died Feb. 1546, in Germany; German language was originated in the first century. Luther originated the first German Bible for the common people.

All these men and others were responsible for the Reformation. They were responsible for the translations of the Bible for the people to read the Bible. The Roman Catholic Church sought to control the Word of God and make sure not many could read it. They wanted to keep the Bible in Latin. As you can see the learning of the mystery from God was kept a secret by Satan, by the Roman Catholic Church. Multitudes of people began to read in their own language so they could read the Bible. They believed that people had the right to read and study the Bible. They began the study of the Bible and the Mystery of the Bible. The Roman Catholic Church uses the Satan for fighting against the Bible and prevent Christians from learning the ‘mystery’ from God. These men early on proclaimed against the Roman Catholic Church from the Bible as the only truth:

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

1. Sola Scriptura—Scripture Alone;
2. Sola Gratia—Grace Alone;
3. Sola Fide—Faith alone;
4. Solus Christus—Christ Alone
5. Soli Deo Gloria—Glory to God Alone

These five declarations were the foundation of the teaching by Paul of the ‘mystery’ of the New Testament.

Then Satan used men and women to get the Bible stopped in Germany, then France, then England then throughout the world. The Roman Catholic Church did all that it could to stop the reading of the Bible. It is said in 1845 that the Popes and the Roman Catholic Church killed more than 50 million families who wanted to read and own the Bible.

I hope you understand that for some 15 centuries the study on the ‘Mystery’ from God remained basically unstudied by man. Today men and women suffer trying to read and study the Bible throughout the world. It is so sick that today in English, few students study the Bible and teach about the mystery of the Bible. I hope you see and now strongly value the study of the Word of God.

It is very important that the 6th chapter of Hebrews laid out the importance of studying the Word of God.

Hebrews 6:1 “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

Hebrews 6:2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and about the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

Hebrews 6:3 And this we will do, if God permits.

After the first one hundred years, the advanced teaching of the Word of God was slowly being put aside until the beginning of the 13th to 14th century. The elementary teaching became the primary teaching throughout the world. Then it slowly started being taught in advanced doctrine and then it will become dark again. Then by the middle of the 1800's the teaching became virtually empty of sound doctrine. Near the close of the 1800's they started a slow teaching on mature doctrines. Then by the growth of the evangelical movement there came advanced teaching of the Word of God with sound teaching on the Rapture and Second Advent. But today we are back to a small teaching of mature doctrine. Even today most churches are still in elementary teaching. Not many men are dedicated to learning and studying the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek of the Bible. The Christians of the world today are now dedicating themselves under adversity to read the Bible. Many countries are not allowed to own and read the Bible.

But dear people, as long as we have the freedom in this country, let us dedicate ourselves to the study of the Bible. Note in Hebrews 6:1-2 it is clear that we should move well beyond understanding of repentance, dead works, even faith toward God, and teaching beyond the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. It is so sad here in America that many pastors do not even teach these things and do not even understand eternal judgment.

But here we are trying to grasp the doctrines in Ephesians. And now we move to the declaration that God will declare to us the knowing of *the mystery of His will*.

Insight of the Mystery Ephesians 1:8-9

The word *mystery* was used to refer to secret teaching, mystery, anything hidden or unrevealed.

The word came to be used in the religious sphere in early B.C.—mystery cults in 7th century B.C. Basic features of the mystery cults included—guarding the secrets; also as a secret initiation process.

The Greek word here is *mysterion*. It is a technical word in the New Testament epistles. The noun was originally used to depict the dogmas and the secrets of the Greek fraternities of the ancient world.

In the Bible it refers to advanced teaching of Jesus Christ and truths of the Church Age. It refers to doctrines hidden. This is seen in:

Daniel 12:9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.

This was hidden from the Old Testament saints and communicators but is now revealed to the Church Age apostles. This brings us to the concept of the doctrine of the mystery.

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known to us the mystery!...

In the New Testament there are some 27 uses of *musterion*; 20 are used by Paul; three in the synoptic gospels in parallel texts while the remaining four are in the book of Revelation.

If we look at 1st Corinthians we find the introduction to the use of this term. It is first used in 1 Corinthians 2:7 where we find a general use referring to all the doctrines of the New Testament and it even refers to the manner these mysteries are learned.

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

1 Corinthians 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

Then we go to 1 Corinthians 4:1 where Paul emphasizes that this is the primary function of every Pastor Teacher. ...*the stewards of the mysteries of God.*

Now let's go through a list of topics under the specific term of mystery in New Testament.

We start with what Paul and every Pastor—Teacher's function is by the Word of God.

1. The Body of Christ—the calling of the Gentiles into the Christian Church, so designated, a mystery to the Jewish people (Ephesians 1:9, 10; 3:8–11).

Colossians 1:25 I was made a minister to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, (this is true of every man given the gift of pastor)

Colossians 1:26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, (New Testament)

Colossians 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

2. The Bride—the union between Christ and all believers of the Church Age, symbolized by the marriage union:

Ephesians 5:31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 6:19 and pray in my behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

3. The Local Church Revelation 1:20
4. The Indwelling of Jesus Christ in every believer Colossians 1:26-27.
5. The mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

6. Translation or Rapture of the Church: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. Which of course includes the resurrection of all believers.
7. Blindness of Israel Romans 11:25.

Insight of the Mystery **Ephesians 1:8-9**

8. Of the Kingdom of Heaven Matt.13:11 Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

Every time we have “mystery” in New Testament it pertains to some facet of Christ and the Church. Ephesians 5:32.

The Reason they are called ‘mystery’ is because they are not revealed in the Old Testament and they require the teaching of the Holy Spirit, which is why Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:16 speaks of the “mind of Christ” as the Holy Spirit.

Jesus as the Christ is a mystery revealed, 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 and 1 Timothy 3:9,16; Ephesians 6:19 The Promised Messiah is now identified as this Jesus.

Doctrine of the Mystery

I. Etymology:

1. The origin of this word refers to a person who was initiated into a Greek fraternity of the ancient world.
2. It is also derived from a Greek verb meaning *to initiate*, that is to instruct in the secret teachings of a fraternity.
3. Paul transferred this noun away from its reference to the secrets of ancient mystery cults, and uses it in a technical theological reference to indicate that the Church Age was totally unknown in Old Testament times, from Adam to Jesus Christ.
4. This should describe your entire life as a believer in Jesus Christ, consistently growing in the Knowledge of the Word of God.
5. Those involved in this fraternity were known only to those initiated into the fraternity.

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

6. The word mystery refers to information hidden or not manifested before.
7. And very important to your understanding of this Greek word: the word mystery in the New Testament does not refer to teaching or doctrines that are to be withheld, kept a secret, but it refers to information, not previously revealed to man, but is now to be proclaimed to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior. And the Bible is clear on who is appointed by God to proclaim these mysteries, every male with the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher.

1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Stewards, here refers to those appointed to administer or teach the mysteries of God that is the Pastor-Teacher.

8. So, this New Testament word refers to revelation previously hidden, but one that is now proclaimed but also refers to a revelation that contains a supernatural revelation.
- II. The primary use of this Greek word in the New Testament epistles is referred to as the Church Age and Church-Age doctrines.
1. The mystery of the Church as the body of Christ. Of course, since the Church was a mystery (hidden) in all the Old Testament, it is not spoken of nor described. Since Jesus Christ was not yet identified, of course the Body of Christ would be a mystery throughout all the Old Testament. And therefore, the Church as the body of Christ would have been a complete hidden truth. It was hidden but always part of the Plan of God. (doctrine

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

of Dispensations). The body of Christ is made up of all believers, Gentiles and Jews.

Ephesians 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

Ephesians 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

Ephesians 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

Ephesians 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Ephesians 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Ephesians 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Ephesians 3:7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was

Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9

given to me according to the working of His power. (Holy Spirit)

Ephesians 3:8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

Ephesians 3:9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; (the Church-Age has always been part of God's plan)

Ephesians 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. (Angels)

Ephesians 3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Ephesians 6:19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Colossians 4:3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the

**Insight of the Mystery
Ephesians 1:8-9**

mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

So far we have:

- (1) simply the mystery
- (2) the mystery of Christ
- (3) the administration of the mystery
- (4) the mystery of the Gospel

Where each of these are in reference to the Church as the body of Christ.