

The Mystery of Christ Revealed

On the very day that the Pharisees accused Jesus of working His miraculous signs through the power of Satan, Jesus began speaking to the crowds of Jerusalem in parables. This was a change in His method of teaching. In what we have come to know as the Matthew 13 Parables, we find a string of seven parables, which Jesus spoke to the crowds after *leaving the house and going to the seaside*. After the first of the seven was given (the parable of the Sower and the Seed), the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him why He was now speaking to them in parables.

Matthew 13:11 And He answered and said to them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. 12 For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; 15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM.’ [Then speaking to the Jews who asked the question] 16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear; 18 Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom...” And Jesus went on to explain to His disciples the parable of the Sower and the seed.

While we have studied the Matthew 13 parables in great detail in the past, I'd like for us to focus our attention today on the phrase *the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens*. Notice that when asked by His disciples why He was speaking to the crowds in parables now, He said: *To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted*. This reveals a couple of things to which we want to bring attention today.

- First, the *mysteries* have to do specifically with *the kingdom of the heavens*. And
- Second, the *mysteries* have been given to some to understand, but not given to others to understand. (Jesus gave the reason for this: The ones who do not understand the mysteries do not understand them because their hearts have become dull, and they themselves have closed their eyes and ears and apparently have no desire to know the mysteries. **And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE.** On the other hand, the ones who do understand the mysteries understand them because they want to see and hear and understand. And because of their desire, even more understanding will be given to them, until they have an abundance of understanding!)

Of course we have come to know that the term *the kingdom of the heavens* refers to the rulership which emanates from the heavens over the earth. We have come to understand what is involved in God's eternal plan for this rulership. So for now, suffice it to say that the term *the kingdom of the heavens* simply refers to *this* location of rulership over the earth.

Through the promises God gave to Abraham and to his descendants, the administration on and over the earth was offered. The first Covenant (which we now call the Old Covenant), which God made with Abraham's descendants at Mt Sinai during Moses' day, had mainly to do with the *earthly* land and rulership over the earth emanating from there. But when Jesus came in His first advent, He came with the offer of the *heavenly* land and rulership over the earth emanating from there. And coinciding with this offer, He came for the purpose of inaugurating and establishing the New Covenant with Israel spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah. However, these two events — the establishment of a new order of rulers from the heavenly realm over the earth, *and* the establishment of the New Covenant — would only come about in conjunction with Israel's national repentance from the sin of unbelief and the centuries of disobedience, which accompanied that unbelief.

Since the promises were given only to Abraham and his descendants (remember at Christ's first advent, Abraham only had physical descendants), Jesus could only offer the heavenly realm of the kingdom to the Jews. (The spiritual descendants of Abraham through his Seed, Jesus Christ, would come later, which as we will see in a moment, is part and parcel of the mystery revealed.) So, after a period of time during His public ministry and after innumerable miraculous signs presented to them, which were given to Israel to prove His identity and validate His offer, the Nation of Israel refused to repent, ultimately rejecting the offer, as well as rejecting the One Who made the offer. As a result of continual rejection, further knowledge or understanding of the heavenly realm of the kingdom would be presented in parables, so that those who desired to see, hear and understand the mysteries, it would be unveiled to them; but for those who would *not* desire to see, hear and understand the mysteries, the veil would remain in place. And it was in the Matthew 13 parables that Jesus began unveiling the mysteries to those who desired to understand.

When referring to a *mystery* in the Scriptures we will remember that *a mystery has to do with something that was laid out in the Old Testament, but not brought into light until the New Testament*. As part of the unveiling of the mysteries to His disciples, Jesus said: **Matthew 13:17 For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it** — Apart from the types laid out even at the very beginning of Scripture and in various places in the OT (implicit references to the mystery), the first place that the *explicit* idea of a mystery being revealed is found in the Book of Daniel. Here, God *explicitly* reveals that His *mystery* has to do with world-wide kingdoms, and that He will bring the mystery to full light in *the last days*.

In Daniel's day, King Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream, for which he desired understanding. The long story short is that while all the wise men of Babylon could not tell the king his dream nor give its interpretation, God allowed Daniel to know the dream (without the king telling it to him) as well as its interpretation. And this dream is the explicit foundation for

the mystery to be revealed *in the last days*. **Daniel 2:27 Daniel answered before the king and said, “As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. 28 However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. 29 As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.** We see here that the dream had to do with *the mystery* of what will take place *in the future* ó in the *latter days*. Then Daniel went on to explain what the dream was and then gave the king its interpretation.

The dream had to do with a large statue resembling a man, which stood in Babylon. The head of the statue was made from gold, the arms and breast from silver, the belly and thighs from bronze, and the legs were made from iron with the feet being iron mixed with clay. The God-given interpretation was that all four parts of the statue represented four Gentile world-wide kingdoms, which began with Nebuchadnezzar himself being represented by the golden head, and his kingdom was to be followed by three other world-wide kingdoms, and then finally a 5th kingdom described in **Daniel 2:34 “You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth...** Then Daniel specifically summarized the mystery in **Daniel 2:45 “Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy.” ... 47 The king answered Daniel and said, “Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery.”**

Note this: It would **not** be a mystery that an earthly kingdom would subdue a previous earthly kingdom, rising to world domination, only to be subdued by another earthly kingdom! On and on that has happened since the creation of man. No, *the mystery would have to do with the stone that was cut from a mountain without hands* (meaning that this kingdom would come about apart from human agency), *and this stone itself will become the world-wide kingdom that would not be taken over by another*.

Of course, in subsequent revelation to Daniel, God revealed *many* more details concerning this mystery, all of which had to do with kingdoms and rulership. It was revealed that the silver portion of the statue represented the kingdom of Medes and the Persians (Dan. 5:28; 10:13, 20), the bronze portion of the statue represented the kingdom of Greece (Dan. 10:20), and finally the iron and iron and clay portion of the statue represented a Gentile world-wide kingdom which would be like none other, one that would bring unspeakable fear and dread. Comparing Scripture with Scripture, it becomes very obvious that this fourth kingdom will be the kingdom

of the Antichrist, which will come into existence toward the end of the period known as the Times of Gentile world power, just prior to the 5th kingdom coming into power the kingdom represented by *the stone cut without hands from the mountain, and which filled the whole earth.*

It is the Kingdom of Christ, Whose kingdom was represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream by the stone, and which will bring to a full end to all the previous kingdoms represented by the statue, to such a degree that there was no trace of them left. This of course, represents the *end* of the Times of Gentile world power, which began in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, and is still in existence today. We are living during the Times of Gentile world power as opposed to Israel world power, this itself being part of the mystery. By God's decree, Israel was to be the head of the nations, not the tail!

Deuteronomy 28:1 “Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth... ...9 The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and walk in His ways. 10 So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of you... ...13 And the LORD shall make you the head and not the tail, and you only shall be above, and you shall not be underneath, if you will listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, 14 and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. 15 But it shall come about, if you will not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Moses wrote these things nearly 850 years before Daniel's time. And between Moses's time and Daniel's time, during the days of the United Kingdom of Israel and the succession of the kings Saul, David and Solomon, the Nation of Israel had become increasingly the foremost world power. But due to Solomon's half-heartedness and the continued disobedience on the part of the Nation of Israel as a whole, the kingdom was divided with ten tribes making up the Northern Kingdom and two tribes making up the Southern Kingdom, and Israel declined in world power as a nation, until they found themselves under Gentile dominion as told in: **Deuteronomy 28:43** “**The alien [i.e., a Gentile] who is among you shall rise above you higher and higher, but you shall go down lower and lower.** 44 **He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail...** The remainder of this chapter goes on to tell of the *dire* consequences of continual disobedience on the part of Israel. Through continual disobedience, they would be brought to such a level of absolute abject behavior as the Gentile-dominated world powers come to its apex during the time of the 4th world-wide kingdom of the of Antichrist, the details of which are so horrific (that honestly I cannot bring myself to read it aloud today). So horrific are these potential actions on the part of Israel that I don't believe the world has seen anything like it before! And I will leave it at that.

Back to Daniel's day! It was due to Israel's continual disobedience that the Lord allowed the Nation of Israel to be divided, and eventually to be uprooted from their land, both in the North

and now in the South as well. And if we think about it from Daniel's perspective, or from the Jewish perspective as a whole, the thought of the world being dominated by Gentile world power would be unthinkable, as God had explicitly told them that He would establish them as the head of the nations and not the tail. So perhaps now we can begin to see why, at least in part, this would have been such a mystery to them. But that is just part of it!

So from Daniel's time until now we have seen the Nation of Israel *not* fulfilling the purpose for which God brought them into existence in the first place. However, we know that God's purposes *will be fulfilled* for He said in **Isaiah 46:9b-10 I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'**... And yet the mystery concerning *how all of this will be established* is not brought into the full light until the New Testament. And so we read at the end of the Book of Daniel ó **Daniel 12:4 "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time...** Then Daniel speaks of himself **...8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?" 9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time...** And in the way of what must have been a great encouragement to Daniel, the last verse in his writings is this **...13 "But as for you (God speaking to Daniel here), go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age."**

Succinctly stated, that seen in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and revealed to/through Daniel (the path that world domination would take) is the foundation of the mystery that would be given more and more details *through the use of types and antitypes*. Therefore, the Book of Daniel is not the *only* place in the OT wherein we can glimpse the mystery being laid out. The God-ordained system of Scriptural types and antitypes (all of which began in the Garden with the part of Adam's body being removed and built into a woman to be made his wife) would allow us to glimpse the whole-of-the-mystery being revealed line upon line, precept upon precept. The innumerable OT types fill in details of the mystery, so that by the end of the OT, the multi-faceted mystery of Christ is complete, and only has yet to come to light, which is done mostly through the writings of Paul. But before we glimpse some of these OT types along with their corresponding NT antitypes, I'd like for us to look at some of the interesting things the New Testament has to say about this mystery, just so that we can feel the anticipation of it!

Even though Jesus referenced the mysteries being related to the kingdom of the heavens in the Matthew 13 parables, it was not until *after* the establishment of the Church and *after* Paul had his encounter with the brilliantly-glorified Jesus on the road to Damascus, that the mystery began to be fully revealed. So what was revealed to Paul that would help us understand the mystery? Let's read several passages wherein Paul makes reference to this mystery. Paul writes in **Ephesians 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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; 6 to be**

specific, [here we go now!] that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 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; 10 in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. We see several things about the mystery of Christ here. We see:

- That the understanding of the mystery *came by revelation* (v. 3).
- That the mystery was **not** made know to men in previous generations (v. 5).
- That Paul was made a minister of this mystery *ó to preach to the Gentiles, and to bring to light* what is the *administration* of the mystery.
- That God would make known the mystery *through the Church* to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

We have seen that the mystery has to do with a kingdom that would come about without human agency, and that this kingdom would fill the whole earth and would not be taken over by another, but the question is: Who would make up the *administration* of this kingdom? Verse 6 spells it out quite specifically! Even though the promise concerning the inheritance of the earth (i.e., rulership on and over the earth, even from the heavens) was given to Abraham and to his descendants, now we can begin to see what was so mysterious about this kingdom's administration! The administration of this kingdom would be made up of Gentiles who would be:

- *Fellow-heirs, and*
- *Fellow-members of the body, and*
- *Fellow-partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*

What promise? The promise about which Paul learned from Jesus while with Him in the wilderness as laid out in **Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU."** 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer... ..14 **in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith...** ...29 **And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.**

Yes, *the mystery of Christ* is that Gentiles would be fellow-heirs and fellow-members of the body, and fellow-partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (And this is not speaking of the Gospel of the Grace of God through faith! It is dealing with the Gospel of the Glory of Christ, which has to do with the promises given to Abraham.) It is through Christ, the Seed of Abraham, that the promises are realized. It is through Christ, the Seed of Abraham that Gentiles are grafted in to the promises given to Abraham, becoming his descendants through

faith! And these promises have to do with the administration of the world-wide kingdom that will be in place represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream by the stone that was made without hands.

While there are several other places we could go to in Paul's writings that further explain the mystery being revealed, we will leave that to your own personal study. All said of the mystery which has been kept hidden in ages past, has now been made known (even to the angels) through the writings of Paul. The mystery has to do with Gentiles being made heirs to the promises through Christ, who is the Seed of Abraham. And we can see that this was first laid out at the beginning, as well. **Genesis 22:17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**"

So where would the types begin in OT that will be unfolded in the antitypes of the NT concerning this mystery? Well, we would have to begin at the beginning to lay the foundation for these things, wouldn't we? God created the man for the purpose of rulership, and along with this, He also said *it was not good for the man to be alone!* It was not good (would not be possible) for the man to fulfill his created purpose alone. And so God created the woman *within* the man, then later having taken out a part of the man's body, He built the woman of one who was taken out of the man in order to become his helper (helping him to fulfill their created position). Here is the *very* place wherein God begins to lay out this mystery. With respect to man and rulership over the earth, a husband/wife relationship will be required. And to see that this is in fact part of the mystery, we would only have to turn to a revelation given to Paul concerning the husband/wife relationship. (Now, as we read this very familiar passage on husbands and wives, please allow yourself to think in terms *beyond* the earthly relationship between a husband and a wife. Sure, we can learn much in the way of wonderful application to our present life here and now, but this passage doesn't only have to do with the present; it goes beyond the present to the future. So, as we read through this passage *this time*, please notice the significance of what took place in the Garden with Adam and his wife, and relate it to the future, understanding what the picture of the marriage relationship lays out for us.) **Ephesians 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. [Before we go on, we need to notice the distinction here between the Church and the body. Christ is the head of those who are *called out* of the Church; though He is the Savior of the whole body.] **24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body [again we can see the distinction between the *Church* and the *body*]. 31 FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL****

LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. In v. 31, Paul quotes the end of Genesis 2, bringing this picture right back to what took place in the Garden with respect to Adam and the Woman, and with that in mind, God actually reveals that this mystery has to do with Christ and the *Church* ó the part of the Body that will be taken out of the body and built into His wife.

But then of course this mystery of Christ and His Bride was further laid out in the OT through the use of a plethora of types. That the Bride of Christ would be mostly made up of Gentile can be seen in the types of Joseph and Asenath, Moses and Zipporah, Boaz and Ruth, all of whom represent Christ in various ways, and all of whom took Gentile brides. It is through the husband/wife relationship, instituted with purpose in the Garden that the fulfillment of man's created purpose can come to pass.

But now we must understand something else! In order for this mystery to come to fruition, there was something that needed to come to pass, that in itself was also part of the mystery. A major component of the mystery was that *Israel, as a nation, had to be set aside prior to Gentiles being grafted in.* And this part of the mystery was *also* prophesied through the types of the OT, and came to light through their antitypes in the New. We'll remember that in the sequence of events laid out in that beautiful panoramic picture found in Genesis chapters 21 through 25 that Sarah, the wife of Abraham, died (Gen. 23) just prior to Abraham sending his eldest servant back to his home ó to his own family ó in order for a wife to be found for his son, Isaac (Gen. 24). Sarah is a type of Israel as the wife of God, who was set aside just prior to the Holy Spirit being sent to the earth in order to find a wife for the Son of God. This is the foundational type, which begins to open up *this* part of the mystery ó the foundation of which reveals that Israel would have to be set aside in order for the Gentiles to be grafted in. Then, more detail is added to this picture through something that happened in Moses' day, but again not fully brought to light until Paul's day.

In Exodus chapter 34, Moses was called up to the mountain in order to stand before the Lord to receive the Law for the people, Israel. As a result of his being in the presence of God, when he came down from the mountain, the skin of his face shone: **Exodus 34:29 And it came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him. 30 So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him... ...32 And afterward all the sons of Israel came near, and he commanded them to do everything that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. 34 But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out; and whenever he came out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded, 35 the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone. So Moses would replace the veil over his face until he went in to speak with Him [God].**

The detail concerning these things has been given in God's Word for a reason! And, as always, God gives His Own commentary on this. Paul brings this bit to light in II Corinthians chapter three. Here, Paul explains that the glory of the Old Covenant is diminished with the coming of the glory of the New Covenant. For a relatively brief period of time at the beginning of this dispensation, Paul and his co-workers were made "ministers of the New Covenant" to Israel. This was during the time of the re-offer of the kingdom of the heavens to Israel. II Corinthians was written toward the end of this brief period. Herein, Paul begins to compare the glory of the first Covenant made at Mt. Sinai to the surpassing glory of the New: **II Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones [the Old Covenant], came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit [the New Covenant] fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses it.** [In other words, the glory of the New so far outshines the glory of the Old, that it appears that the glory of the Old were not even there!] **11 For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.** [Now in relating this back to Moses events in Ex.34, Paul goes on to say] **12 Having therefore such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, 13 and are not as Moses, who used to put a veil over his face that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away.**

We have just read the context of *when Moses' face shone glory* it was when he was receiving the OT Law. But what was *not* written in the account in Exodus, was that the glory associated with the first covenant (the Old Covenant) which shone in the face Moses *was fading!* But why was it fading? And why is it important to note that the veil veiled the fact that the glory was fading? This is an important bit of information in the revelation of the overall mystery. Paul continues to explain more as we continue in **II Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. 15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil [the same veil] lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.** OH! So the veil in Exodus has meaning beyond that context! We can understand now that the veil was in itself a type! Paul reveals that in the antitype of Moses' veil, there is a veil that lies over the heart of the Jewish people so that those who would not understand will not be able to understand. The veil is used for the same purpose that we had previously seen Jesus use the Parables, saying "and in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE.' Those who want to understand do, and those who don't care to understand don't! *The same veil* that covered the fact that the glory of the Old Covenant *was fading* is used here so that those who will not understand that the Old Covenant was to be replaced by the New will continue in unbelief.

But why? What would be the reason to keep hidden the fact that *the glory of the Old was fading?* Perhaps we can now understand that this has to be the case, in order for the Gentiles to be grafted in. This is part of the mystery, Israel *had to be set aside before the Gentiles could be*

grafted in! And the only reason for them to be set aside would be through their continual unbelief and disobedience. Therefore, while Jesus was still willing to teach them, they themselves had to be willing to learn, and willing to believe. But some were simply not willing to learn and so in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled! And because of this, as we will see in Romans, a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in!

We see this in **Romans 11:8** just as it is written, **“GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY.”****11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression** [succinctly stated ó their refusal to repent and believe as a Nation] **salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. 12 Now if their transgression** [their refusal to repent and believe] **be riches for the world and their failure be riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be** [pointing to the time when they will repent!]**... .. 25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and thus all Israel will be saved... .. 28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

In the antitype of Sarah dying, Israel was set aside 2,000 years ago; and here we are very close to the moment when the *fullness of the Gentiles will have come in*. All the types come together, alongside of Paul’s revelation of the mystery of Christ, in order to bring the mystery of Christ to full light. With Israel having been set aside due to centuries of unbelief and disobedience, through which Gentiles having been grafted in, those who will become the wife of Jesus in the antitype of Adam in the Garden (a portion of the Body of Christ being taken out of the Body and built into His wife), as well as in the antitype of Abraham’s eldest servant bringing Rebekah to Isaac and chosen from among her maids to be the wife of Isaac, the administration of the 5th and final kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream can come to fruition. Because of Israel’s continual rejection, unbelief, and refusal to repent, the offer of the kingdom of the heavens had been taken away from Israel as a nation, and was given to the new nation, the one new man in Christ ó the Church. *This* is the mystery revealed! *This* is the stone cut out of the mountain without hands (without the use of human agency), which filled the whole earth. We’ll remember Peter tells us in **I Peter 2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."** 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, **"THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," 8 and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE";** for **they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.** 9 But you are **A CHOSEN RACE, A royal**

PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION...

Perhaps we could see here the stone cut from the mountain without hands.

Of course, once the Bride of Christ is established, the Deliverer of Israel will come from Zion, will bring the Nation of Israel to repentance, finally establishing the New Covenant which had been inaugurated with Christ's blood at His crucifixion, but not able to be established until this point *so that the Gentiles could be grafted in*. At this point, God will reestablish Israel as His wife for the sake of the Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the antitype of Abraham marrying Keturah in Genesis 25, all of which will allow for that stated in **Revelation 10:7** to come to pass: **But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.**

It is at this point that Israel will be the *head of the nations not the tail!* It is at this point that the New Covenant can be established with Israel on the earth, with the Church established in the heavens. It is at this point that God's purpose will have been established; that He will have accomplished all His good pleasure. And *this* kingdom will not be overtaken by another!
Amen!