

***REVEALED:***

***The Display of God's Plan***

***PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 3:1-13***





**Encompass World Partners Staff**



**Ruins in Ephesus**



**Bathhouses**



**City Dwellings**



**Library Shrine**



**Agora**



**Amphitheater**





**Way to the Sea**



**Amphitheater**



**Artemis Statue**

*For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles —*

*Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,*

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

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

*which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.*



*This mystery is that through the Gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

*I became a servant of this Gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power.*

**Ephesians 3:7**

*Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people,  
this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the  
boundless riches of Christ,*

*and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.*

*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,*

*according to His eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

**Ephesians 3:12**

*I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.*



# **The Mystery's Nature**



God unites Jew and  
Gentile in Christ. (3:1–6)



**What neither the Old Testament nor Jesus revealed was the radical nature of God's plan, which was that the theocracy (the Jewish nation under God's rule)**

would be terminated, and replaced by a new international community, the church. It was this complete union of Jews, Gentiles, and Christ which was radically new.

*Now to Him who is able to establish you in accordance with my Gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,*

**Romans 16:25**

*but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith —*

**Romans 16:26**

*to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

*I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the Word of God in its fullness —*



*the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.*

*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

# **The Mystery's Purpose**



God highlights His wisdom  
through the Church. (3:7-11)



**Once we are sure that the Gospel is both truth from God and riches for mankind, nobody will be able to silence us.**

**John Stott**

**Paul's ministry, and ours, is not to try to make men more sensitive to the message. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our work is to bring enough light to record a clear image.**

**Tom Julian**

**The Church is like a prism displaying the rich colors of God's manifold wisdom.**

**Tony Evans**

**History is the theatre, the world is the stage, and church members in every land are the actors. God Himself has written the play, and He directs and produces it.**

**John Stott**



Who are the audience? They are the cosmic intelligences, *the principalities and powers in the heavenly places...* spectators of the drama of salvation.

**Secular history concentrates on wars, battles and peace-treaties, followed by yet more wars, battles and peace-treaties.**

**The Bible concentrates rather on the war between good and evil, on the decisive victory won by Jesus Christ over the powers of darkness...and on the sovereign proclamation of an amnesty for all rebels who will repent and believe.**

**John Stott**

**The good news of the unsearchable riches of Christ which Paul preached is that He died and rose again not only to save sinners like me (though He did), but also to create a single new humanity;**

**John Stott**

**not only to redeem us from sin but also to adopt us into God's family; not only to reconcile us to God but also to reconcile us to one another.**

**Thus the Church is an integral part of the Gospel. The Gospel is good news of a new society as well as of a new life.**

**John Stott**

# **The Mystery's Blessing**



God invites our bold  
access to Him. (3:12,13)





**Boldness is the internal attitude. Access is the external reality. Because we have boldness, we act upon that by taking advantage of our access to God.**

**God's mystery is now no mystery  
at all. It's revealed to us for all  
to see, both seen and unseen.**

