The Mystery Revealed

Ken Chapman · Ephesians 3:1–12

INTRODUCTION

- In our text in Ephesians chapter 3, we're going to talk about the mystery of God.
- The mystery of Jesus and how God had this mystery before the foundation of the world. And how it was slowly revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ.
- It's no longer a mystery to us, Paul says, because it's been revealed.

1 God Had a Plan, His Eternal Purpose

Ephesians 3:11

- This plan was referred to by Paul here as the eternal purpose of God.
- His plan was to send his only begotten Son to live and to die upon that cross that through him we might have forgiveness of our sins.
- God not only had a plan, God not only brought out this plan, gave us this gift that the New Testament refers to as grace, but God purposed this gift.

2 The Plan Had Us in Mind

Ephesians 1:4

- Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.
- But our inability to fully comprehend the wisdom of God does not prevent us from appreciating the wisdom of God and the plan of God.
- This plan involved us that he had us in mind before the foundation of the world.

3 The Plan Was Slowly Revealed Piece by Piece

Ephesians 3:5; Ephesians 3:9; 1 Peter 1:10–12

- God gave this plan piece by piece throughout the scriptures.
- Which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets.
- Recognize the privilege of living in the time that we live.
- We have the perfect revealed will of God.
- And throughout the Old Testament, throughout the patriarchal and the mosaic pieces, God laid piece after piece on the table of that puzzle.
- Of this salvation, the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you.

4 God's Plan Was Christ

Ephesians 3:6; Ephesians 3:11–12; 1 Timothy 3:16

- That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of his promise in Christ through the gospel.
- In one word, God's eternal purpose, God's plan was Christ.
- Every piece of that puzzle that was laid on the table by prophets in the Old Testament, every piece of that puzzle was painting a portrait of Jesus Christ.
- Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up in glory.

5 The Plan Culminated in the Church

Ephesians 3:10; Ephesians 1:22–23

- But that plan culminated in the body of Christ, the church.
- To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.
- What he's saying here is that the church, in a passive sense, makes known the manifold wisdom of God.
- We see the wisdom of God when we look at his plan that culminated in his church.
- Gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

MY NOTES