

MYSTERY

- I. DEFINITION: The Greek word is *musterion* (μυστήριον), which means “secret teaching” and comes from the Attic Greek noun *mustes* (μυστές), referring to a person being initiated into a Greek fraternity (Matt. 13:11; Mark 4:10-11).
- II. The word in the New Testament always refers to Church Age information (Eph. 3:2-6) beginning with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- III. On the day of Pentecost all believers were entered into union with the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament (OT) you have information about the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ but all this occurred in the Age of Israel; it was a mystery. The Tribulation is also well described in the OT and not a mystery because it too belongs to the Age of Israel. The Second Advent and the Millennium are also described in the OT. This was not Church Age (CA) information.
- IV. The Mystery concept of the Church Age was never revealed in the OT, and the Church is the fraternity with the ability to understand it (Rom. 16:25,26; Col. 1:26,27).
- V. Jesus was the first Person to reveal CA information in the Age of Israel. Jesus, the prophet presented this concept, which had not been presented in the OT. Union with Christ, the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (HS), and the Indwelling of Christ were not found in the OT.
- VI. The Church began with the Baptism of the HS. This had not happened in all history before. Jesus announced to His disciples just a few days before the Church Age began: “I IN YOU, AND YOU IN ME” (John 17:23); this was the first declaration of the Mystery. The Epistles are the Biblical concepts of the Mystery.
- VII. A person with the Gift of the ministry is responsible for communicating Church Age concepts to his flock (I Cor. 4:1,2).
- VIII. The Rapture does not belong to the age of Israel, therefore the Rapture is not found in the book of Matthew (“two in the fields, one taken; one left” refers to the 2nd Advent) At the 2nd Advent the unbeliever under the Baptism of Fire will be cast off the earth and into fire.
- IX. The Mystery concept is always related to the dispensation of the Church (Eph. 1:9; 3:2).
- X. Our understanding of this subject is gained by the utilization of the Grace System of Comprehension (perception, filling, application – Col. 2:2; I Tim. 3:9).