

God's Sovereignty and Purpose

The Mystery Revealed

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

A. made known to us the mystery of His will – This mystery is spoken of 7 times in Ephesians. The mystery is that “which has been kept secret for long ages past” (Rom 16:25) and has now been disclosed to the church. Namely that God was in Christ reconciling even the Gentiles to Himself. The mystery is the entire plan of salvation which has now unfolded in Christ and the gospel.

Colossians 1:26 - 26 that is, the mystery which **has been hidden from the past ages and generations**; but has now been manifested to His saints, NASB

Romans 16:25-27 - 25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past**, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; NASB

B. according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him – God has done these things without the aid of anyone but, purposed in Himself to accomplish these things, even keeping them hidden for ages until He was ready to reveal them. The plan of salvation, even the entire creation, was and is happening all according the sovereign and eternal plan of God as verse 11 states. God has purposed in His own sovereign will to bless us, to choose us, to adopt, redeem and forgive us, and then to reveal it all to us.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 - 10 **For to us God revealed them through the Spirit**; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God**, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. NASB

Ephesians 1:10 - 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him NASB

A. suitable to the fullness of the times - Here we see how God in His divine plan, has purposed to bring all things to pass according to His timing. Christ came and redeemed His people at just the right time. We were called out of darkness exactly when God was ready. The *mystery of the gospel* was “hidden for long ages” until time had reached its fulfillment, and then it was revealed. In His providence God works all things after the purpose for which He made them. He is sovereignly and providentially in control of His universe and will bring His eternal purposes to fulfillment at just the right time.

Galatians 4:4-5 - 4 But **when the fulness of the time came**, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. NASB

B. the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him - What a profound and glorious purpose God has accomplished in Christ. Not only that the great war in heaven will be brought to a close, but even here on the earth, God will put all rebel forces under His feet, and bring all faithful ones to live in peace

under His direct rule in a kingdom of Peace, world without end! All things whether, angels or demons, men or women, mountains and animals and stars and planets, each will find its rightful place when all is summed up in Christ. What a glorious day that will be!

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 - 24 **then comes the end**, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, **when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.** 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. NASB

Colossians 1:20 - 20 and **through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross;** through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Ephesians 1:11-12 - 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. NASB
A. we have obtained an inheritance – Here the point that we have been “*adopted as sons*” is further clarified explaining that we have been given an inheritance. The full rights as sons is ours who are found in Christ, and in Him we possess the full riches of the grace of God which have been lavished on us! We shall “inherit” portion with the great, even the possession of all that Christ possesses. (Rev21:1-7)

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 - 21 So then let no one boast in men. For **all things belong to you**, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or **the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you**, 23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God. NASB

Ephesians 1:18 - 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are **the riches of the glory of His inheritance** in the saints,

B. who works all things after the counsel of His will – This is the definitive statement in the bible on the PROVIDENCE of God. Here God is seen to be “*effectually working*” the outcome of all circumstances of History. Further, it is all coming about

ACCORDING to the divine PLAN. Here the entire creation and history are seen as the outworking of the eternal purposes of God. In other words, GOD IS IN CONTROL!

What encouragement that we have as Christians to know that all of the circumstances of our lives are under the direct supervision of a loving and sovereign God who intends to give us eternal life and an inheritance of wealth beyond our comprehension! (**Psalms 33:11, Ecc 7:13, Isaiah 23:9, 25:1, 46:11, Job 12:7-25, Lam 3:37, Pr 19:21, Acts 4:27-28, Romans 8:29-30, 9:22, Exodus 9:16, Isaiah 43:7, 21, 54:16, Acts 17:24-31, Romans 11:33-36, Rev 4:11**)

Proverbs 16:4 - 4 The **LORD has made everything for its own purpose**. Even the wicked for the day of evil. NASB