

## The Secret of the Gospel God's Mysteries and Secrets

### Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup>“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

### Deuteronomy 29:29 (NCV)

<sup>29</sup>There are some things the LORD our God has kept secret, but there are some things he has let us know. These things belong to us and our children forever so that we will do everything in these teachings.

### Deuteronomy 29:29 (The Message)

<sup>29</sup>GOD, our God, will take care of the hidden things but the revealed things are our business. It's up to us and our children to attend to all the terms in this Revelation.

- *There are a number of truths we can learn from Deuteronomy 29:29.*
- *There are secret things or mysteries that God does not reveal to us. Those mysteries belong to God and He is the One who deals with them and takes care of them. They are for Him alone.*
- *There are secrets God reveals to us that are for us and to pass on to our children. God has given us these treasures of revelation to enable us to live in the protection and blessings of God's Word. We are to obey and be accountable for what God has shown us.*
- *Deuteronomy 29:29 takes the form of a warning as well as a word of exhortation and encouragement.*
- *We are warned not to spend our time and energy trying to understand the mysteries that belong to God while neglecting the secret things He wants to reveal to us. “GOD, our God, will take care of the hidden things but the revealed things are our business.”*
- *The exhortation is that we need to learn to discern between the secret things that belong to God and the revealed things that belong to us and our children. “There are some things the LORD our God has kept secret, but there are some things he has let us know.”*
- *The encouragement is that the revealed things enable us to live fruitful, victorious, and godly lives because they empower us to walk in the light of God's Word. “but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*

### Ephesians 6:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup>and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

- *The Greek word that is translated as “mystery” in Ephesians 6:19 is μυστήριον (mystērion). The English word mystery is a poor translation for the Greek word “mysterion” because the English word for mystery has the underlying meaning of “a secret which people have tried to uncover but which they have failed to understand.” The Greek word μυστήριον (mystērion) means “‘that which was not known before,’ with the implication of its being revealed at least to some persons.”*
- *The idea of “mysterion” is not something that people have tried to understand but no matter how hard they have tried they have failed to figure it out but it is a secret that God reveals to some. “Mysterion” would be better translated using the word “secret” because it is not a mystery that no one is able to discover but it is a secret that God desires to reveal to those who respond to Him. “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you.” (Matthew 13:11, TNIV).*
- *Mysterion is a “sacred secret,” that is, a secret in the sacred or spiritual realm that must be made known by God.*
- *It was Apostle Paul’s ministry and mission to make known the secret of the Gospel and the revelations that God gave him. Paul’s ministry of revealing the secret of the Gospel continues today through the Word of God written in Paul’s epistles.*

### Matthew 7:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup>“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

- *This great mystery of godliness is not something that God has hidden so that no one can find it. It is a secret that God desires to reveal to those who respond to the wooing of the Holy Spirit and begin to ask, seek, and knock. God initiates but we must respond.*

### 1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup>And without controversy 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, Received up in glory.

- *What is this secret of the Gospel and the secret to godliness? The revelation of Jesus Christ!*
- *“without controversy” – There is no question and it is uncontestable that the great secret of godliness is Jesus Christ and His redemptive work.*
- *“Great is the secret of godliness” – The Greek word for godliness refers to*

- living a life devoted to God that is victorious and pleasing to Him in every way.*
- *Many religions and people have tried to find the secret to living a godly life that is pleasing to God.*
  - *Some have tried to please God and deal with their sins through good works, religious rituals, and self-sacrifice. However, victory over sin is not found in our human ability. In themselves all these things fail to deal with the true root issue—their hearts are thoroughly contaminated by sin.*
  - *No matter how hard a person tries to live a godly life, hidden deep in their hearts are sinful, lustful, selfish desires, and thoughts that he is unable to expunge.*
  - *However, in the gospel is “hidden” the secret of godliness that will transform us into the righteousness of God.*
  - *Understanding the secret for living a godly life begins with “God was manifested in the flesh,” His miraculous birth, and concludes with “received up in glory,” His redemptive death and His glorious resurrection and ascension into Heaven.*
  - *If one neglects the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God they have failed to understand the secret of the Gospel. Without this central truth of Jesus Christ the entire Gospel falls apart and becomes totally powerless and ineffective. It is devoid of the secret and it is devoid of power to either save or change people’s lives.*
  - *Often the questions people ask when they come into a church for the first time are: Is there a God? Can I know Him? Can He change my life? The secret of the Gospel answers those questions with a resounding “YES” as it points to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. (John 14:6). Jesus is the great secret!*
  - *In the last fifty to one hundred years some denominations have tried to become socially relevant and inclusive by cutting out the heart of the Gospel. They replaced the clear teaching of salvation received exclusively through faith in Jesus Christ with a social gospel of philosophy and social programs. These denominations are the very ones that have suffered a great decline in attendance. When they made Jesus Christ irrelevant, they became irrelevant.*
  - *Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” This Scripture begs this question: How do we differentiate between the secret things that belong to God and the things He wants to reveal to us?*
  - *A secondary question is this: How do we discern if we are striving to know the mysteries that belong to God or the secret things that He desires to reveal to us?*
  - *The mysteries that belong to God are things that involve God’s part while the revealed things involve the things that we need to know and do.*

- *One of the great secrets essential for us to live fruitful lives is by knowing His will. “having made known to us the secret of His will, according to His good pleasure, that He purposed in Himself.” (Ephesians 1:9, YLT). Through reading, studying, and meditating on God’s Word, the Holy Spirit will reveal to us how to live lives that are not only godly and fruitful but filled with joy, peace, and contentment. We can know God’s will!*

#### **1 Corinthians 15:51–54 (NCV)**

<sup>51</sup>**But look! I tell you this secret: We will not all sleep in death, but we will all be changed.**

<sup>52</sup>**It will take only a second—as quickly as an eye blinks—when the last trumpet sounds. The trumpet will sound, and those who have died will be raised to live forever, and we will all be changed.**

<sup>53</sup>**This body that can be destroyed must clothe itself with something that can never be destroyed. And this body that dies must clothe itself with something that can never die.**

- *The resurrection contains both a mystery that is hidden from us and a secret that God has revealed to us. The mystery of the resurrection is how God is going to actually do it and what our resurrected physical bodies will be like. However, the resurrection is also a secret that God has revealed to us that should give us unspeakable joy. It gives us a glorious hope and expectation to contemplate the time we will stand before Jesus in our resurrected immortal physical bodies to be with Him forever in unbroken fellowship.*

#### **Romans 11:25 (NCV)**

<sup>25</sup>**I want you to understand this secret, brothers and sisters, so you will understand that you do not know everything: Part of Israel has been made stubborn, but that will change when many who are not Jews have come to God.**

- *God’s dealings with Israel are both a mystery and a revealed secret. The secret that Paul wanted his listeners to understand was that although the nation of Israel was in unbelief, God had not rejected Israel as His nation and He intended to fulfil all the promises He gave to Abraham regarding his natural descendants.*
- *God stated numerous times in the Old Testament that He would first scatter Israel to different nations because of their sins and unfaithfulness. But then He would later re-gather them into the Land and reestablish them because of His covenant with Abraham. “Behold, I will bring them from the north country, And gather them from the ends of the earth.” (Jeremiah 31:8a).*
- *The secret that God revealed through His Word is that Israel would be restored to their Land but the mystery was how and when He would accomplish it. God*

*revealed the secret of His faithfulness to Israel to those who understood and believed God's Word. Through the centuries those who understood this revelation co-laboured with God by praying for the Jewish people and God's plan for them.*

- *However, those who failed to understand the secret that God was revealing about Israel assumed God was finished with Israel because they had been scattered to the four corners of the earth. Because they did not understand the secret of God's plan for Israel, they developed a theology called Replacement Theology to justify their position that the Church had replaced Israel and Israel as a nation was no longer part of God's plan.*
- *There are still many prophecies and promises that God has given to Israel that are yet to be fulfilled. We may not know the mysteries of how and when He is going to do it but we can be assured He will fulfill His word to Israel.*
- *There are many examples in the Bible where we see mysteries that are only for God and secrets that are revealed to people.*
- *Even Christ's return contains both mysteries and secrets.*
- *The mystery regarding Christ's return is that no one knows the exact time because that knowledge belongs solely to God. "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." (Matthew 24:36). People who have tried to predict the date of Christ's return have not only been wrong, but have led many into error and disillusionment. In fact a common characteristic of cults is that they are date setters.*

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:1–4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

<sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

<sup>3</sup>For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

<sup>4</sup>But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

- *However, the secrets God does reveal to us are the signs that indicate the return of Christ and the approaching end times and that we should be ready. "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief."*
- *Another secret about the season of Christ's return is that even though things will get worse and worse, the world will be lulled into a false sense of security. "For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman."*

- *When someone tries to discover and understand the mysteries that belong to God alone, it results in distraction at best and falling into confusion, error, and wrong doctrine at worst.*
- *God revealed a secret to Abraham that although Sarah was barren she would bear Abraham a son. Abraham tried to solve the mystery of how and when God was going to bring him a son. But Abraham failed to understand that the timing of Isaac's birth was a mystery that belonged to God. No longer content to wait for God, in self-effort Abraham fathered a son through Sarah's slave, Hagar. Abraham may have felt he was "helping God out," but in reality his intervention produced only conflict and problems.*
- *The mystery was God's timing when Sarah would bear a son, but the revealed thing was that Sarah would bear a son for Abraham. Abraham's part was to believe God. God's part was the miracle of a barren woman conceiving and bearing a child in old age.*
- *For Abraham to truly become that man of faith, it was essential that he didn't know the mystery of God's timing. As the years passed and Sarah remained barren the possibility in the natural of Sarah conceiving a child grew dimmer but at the same time Abraham's faith grew stronger. "And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb." (Romans 4:19).*

#### Colossians 2:16–19 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup>So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

<sup>17</sup>which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

- *All the Old Testament ordinances were not meant to become the focus but were simply shadows meant to reveal the secret of Jesus Christ.*

#### 2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- *The Greek word translated as "simplicity" means "singleness of purpose or motivation." The revealed things point us to Jesus but when one seeks to understand mysteries it distracts us from the centrality of Jesus Christ and results in the corruption of our minds leading to confusion.*

#### Colossians 2:18–19 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup>Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

<sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

#### Colossians 2:18–19 (The Message)

<sup>18</sup>Don't tolerate people who try to run your life, ordering you to bow and scrape, insisting that you join their obsession with angels and that you seek out visions. They're a lot of hot air, that's all they are.

<sup>19</sup>They're completely out of touch with the source of life, Christ, who puts us together in one piece, whose very breath and blood flow through us. He is the Head and we are the body. We can grow up healthy in God only as he nourishes us.

- *When Christians are dissatisfied with the revelations that are contained in the Bible and seek “new revelations” and “mysteries” from other sources outside the Word of God that either contradict what the Bible teaches or reveal things not found in the Bible, this leads to error and confusion. “ their obsession with angels and that you seek out visions. They're a lot of hot air, that's all they are. They're completely out of touch with the source of life, Christ.”*

#### 1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

- *What are these deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons that Paul warns will try to deceive believers in the end times? I believe it speaks in part about people developing doctrines apart from the Bible about the mysteries of how the demonic realm works and how to combat them. This causes Christians to become both superstitious and demon conscious. The Bible provides us with all we need to know both about Satan and the authority that Christ has given us to deal with him.*
- *Paul tells us how to deal with these deceiving spirits and doctrine of demons that would try to confuse us and cause us to “depart from the faith.” (depart from sound doctrine) – Don't give heed to them, in other words don't spend time listening to these things and stick to the Bible for our source of truth and doctrine. The preceding verse, 1 Timothy 3:16, gives us the secret we really need to know and be grounded in—Jesus Christ.*

#### Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John

- *If one is studying the Book of Revelation and the end times properly it should result in a greater joy and love for Jesus and an increased desire to pray, read*

*the Word, and share the Gospel because the Book of Revelation is “the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

- *When Christians start developing a survival mentality as they study the end times it is an indication that they are missing the secret of seeing and knowing Jesus more.*

#### **Luke 1:5–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup>There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

<sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

<sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

- *In these verses we see both a mystery and a revealed secret.*
- *The mystery that belonged to God was why Elizabeth was barren. This would have led to much speculation and even gossip from those around Elizabeth and Zacharias. It could even have led Elizabeth and Zacharias to become disheartened with God and stop seeking Him. But Elizabeth and Zacharias had received a secret that sustained them.*
- *The secret that was revealed to both Elizabeth and Zacharias through His Word, was that God was good and faithful even when things happened that they couldn't understand. We see that Elizabeth and Zacharias had this revelation because even though they had suffered many years of disappointments because of Elizabeth's barrenness they continued to serve God faithfully. “And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.”*
- *As the story in Luke, Chapter one continues, we see that on a certain day Zacharias went into the Holy Place in the temple to burn incense before God. An angel appeared before him and announced that Elizabeth would bear a son in her old age and their son would prepare the way for the Messiah. “The angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.” “He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”” (Luke 1:13, 17).*
- *After so many years of heart break and disappointment Elizabeth, who had trusted in God, had her prayers answered and the shame of her barrenness was removed. God vindicated her faith and righteousness before all the people. “Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five*



months, saying, “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”” (Luke 1:24-25).

- *Although Zacharias and Elizabeth’s prayers were answered in such a miraculous way in their old age it still didn’t reveal the mystery of why they had to experience many years of disappointment before God gave them a child.*
- *Jesus described John the Baptist as the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. (Luke 7:26-28). All of Israel acknowledged that John the Baptist was a prophet as they flocked to the wilderness to hear his message of repentance. The reason His ministry was the greatest was because all the other Old Testament prophets pointed to the One who was to come, but John was the one who declared “He is here” as he pointed to Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. John’s ministry was the culmination of all the Old Testament prophets.*

**Malachi 3:1(NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Behold, I send My messenger (John the Baptist),  
And he will prepare the way before Me.  
And the Lord, whom you seek,  
Will suddenly come to His temple,  
Even the Messenger (Jesus Christ) of the covenant,  
In whom you delight.

- *John the Baptist was the messenger who introduced the Messenger of the New Covenant—Jesus Christ.*
- *Surprisingly, John’s ministry did not include any miracles or signs. Moses divided the Red Sea but John didn’t even dry up a puddle. Elisha raised the dead but John didn’t even heal a person with a common cold. How was it that all Israel knew that John was a prophet with a special message? Because of the circumstances of his miraculous birth. “And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him. (Luke 1:66).*
- *Elizabeth and Zacharias suffered many years of reproaches and disappointments but because of their faithfulness to serve God and continued prayers, God brought forth a man who would be the greatest of the Old Testament prophets and the one who would usher in the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of God!*
- *If we are dwelling on mysteries that just raise questions of “why” or “when” then our hearts will be filled with discontentment and anxiety. However, if we are abiding in the revealed secrets that God has given to us, then our hearts will be filled with love, joy, and peace.*

**1 Peter 1:6-8 NKJV**

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

<sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

<sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

- *As we turn to God when we go through times of testing and trials, God reveals His secrets to us and we receive a greater revelation of Jesus Christ and it produces within us a greater level of faith and we “rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”*
- *We can spend time daily just sitting before Him as we read His Word and pray and meditate on the secrets He has revealed to us about His faithfulness and love and as we do our love, joy, and peace will grow deeper. “Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.” (Psalm 73:17).*
- *The greatest secret that God wants to reveal to us is His character and nature so we can learn to fully trust and love Him no matter what situations we may face in this life.*