



The "Mystery" of God God's overarching plan

With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ [God] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:8b-10

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Ephesians 3:1

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

Gentiles [Latin, not an original Bible language]

non-Jewish people

ethnos [Greek, New Testament]

- Singular: people or nation (often Jewish)
- Plural: everyone else

goy [Hebrew, Old Testament]

- Singular: the Jewish people
- Plural: nations (usually non-Jewish people)

"Every nation, tribe, people, and language"

"all peoples of every nation"

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Ephesians 3:1

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you [peoples of every nation]—

Ephesians 2:19-22

foreigners and strangers but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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Ephesians 3

Because you peoples of every nation are no longer foreigners and strangers, but full and equal members in God's family, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you peoples of every nation—

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father...16 I pray...

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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

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⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

10 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, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. 13 I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

11

whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

13

"This mystery is that through the gospel all peoples of every nation are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

The Big Idea

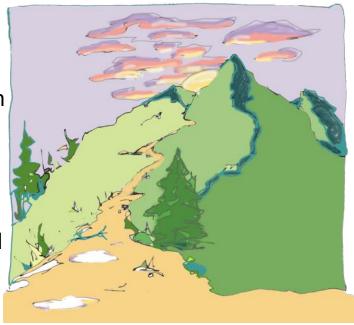
God's spectacular glory is displayed in His diverse and unified Church in Christ today and forever

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God's glorious vision for the church:

all peoples of every nation

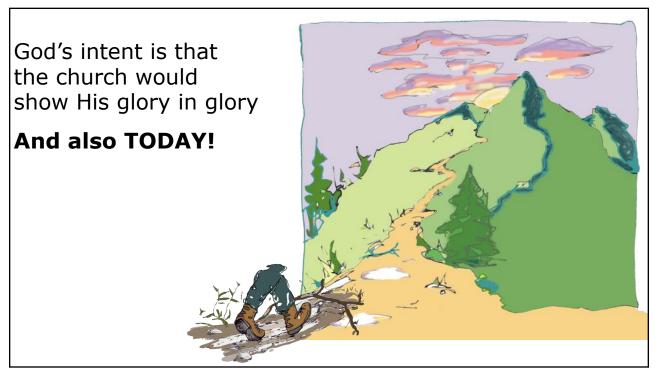
- heirs of the promises
- > members of one body
- sharers of the promise of the new heavens and the new earth

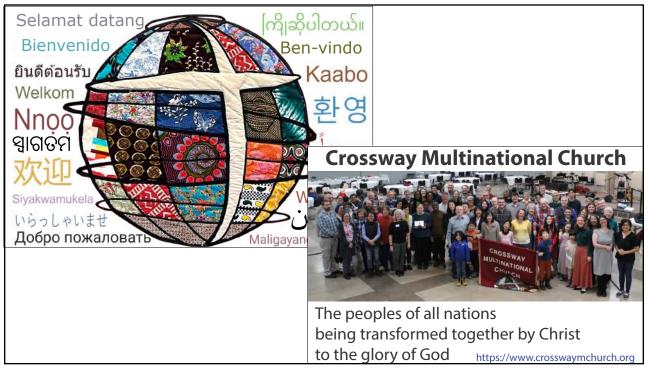


But we live...



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The Big Idea

God's spectacular glory is displayed in His diverse and unified Church in Christ today and forever

The radiant community!

What are we to do?

Rejoice

- We are fully included!
- What God is doing here is central to His vision for eternity and also for today

Pray

- "For this reason, I kneel before the Father and pray..."
 - Christ live in and among us
 - > We would grasp the vastness of God's love
 - > We would be filled with the fullness of God

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As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.





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 reamls, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephenians 3:10-11