



## CELL GUIDE

<b>TOPIC</b>	Part 1: God's Dealings with Israel Suspended and The Church = Jews & Gentiles	<b>SPEAKER</b>	SP Daniel Foo
<b>THEME</b>	Mysteries Revealed to the Apostle Paul and the Church	<b>DATE</b>	3 & 4 July 2021

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

SP emphasized that we need to study the Word of God. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 records that we are servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. These mysteries are truths previously unrevealed and unknown, but are now revealed and proclaimed. The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

## TWO MYSTERIES REVEALED TO PAUL AND THE CHURCH

### 1. MYSTERY #1 - God's dealings with Israel suspended

The evidence for this is supported by Romans 11:25. Paul states, "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part (partial and temporary) has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." Israel's hardening will end when the "fullness" of the Gentiles has come to God through faith in Christ. The fullness of the Gentiles is to be distinguished from the times of the Gentiles when Israel recovers Jerusalem (Luke 21) and is related to the Abraham Accords that was signed in 2020.

The mercy and grace of God's salvation plan is seen from the time when man sinned, leading to God's covenant with Israel. Subsequently, Israel fell due to their rebellion and disobedience. God then called the church (i.e., all Gentiles and Jews who believe in Jesus Christ). However, God promised to save Israel. The same mercy that overtook Gentiles once disobedient to God will finally overtake Israel and lead to Israel's restoration. God defines this as the "mystery".

God's dealings with Israel was suspended sometime between the early church (during Peter & Stephen's ministry) to the time Apostle Paul started preaching about the Gospel of Grace. Israel has been held accountable for not receiving the Messiah sent from God due to the hardening of their hearts. The Elders, Pharisees and Sadducees, who taught the Torah to the masses,

represented Israel. While they knew the Torah well and read many prophecies proclaiming the first coming of Jesus Christ, they completely missed identifying the Messiah Jesus Christ when He was on earth.

Israel earlier rejected John the Baptist sent by God, and then rejected and crucified the Lord Jesus. Three days later, He rose again fulfilling the sign of Jonah to prove His authenticity as the Son of God. Israel had 40 days after Jesus' resurrection to recognize the sign of His resurrection and to receive Him as their Messiah, which they did not. He ascended to heaven, fulfilling yet another prophecy. Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed the Jewish Council in Acts 6-7, tracing God's Covenant with Abraham, Moses and David. But they still rejected Stephen's message from God. This was the last straw and God's dealings with Israel from this point was "suspended".

The Kingdom of God (KOG) began with Israel, but because of their disobedience and rejection of the revelation of God, the KOG was taken from Israel and given to the Church. God then revealed the Gospel of Grace to Paul for all mankind in church age. This is understood clearly by the Council of the Church in Jerusalem in Acts 15. After the Church is raptured, the Kingdom will be restored to Israel. The Lord will first take from among the Gentiles a people (the Church) for Himself and after that, would return to rebuild Israel.

## 2. MYSTERY #2 - The Church = Jews & Gentiles in Christ

The Gospel of Grace that is available today for all during the Church Age was a mystery to the Jewish elders, but it is now so clear to the church. (Ephesians 2:14-16, 18 and Ephesians 3:2-6). The Gospel of Grace was revealed and entrusted to the Apostle Paul.

Paul said that the Gospel he preached was not devised by human wisdom, nor had he received it from the other apostles; rather, he was taught it directly by Jesus Christ Himself. He continued by reminding them that he had been trained in the erroneous traditions of Judaism. When God called Paul on the Damascus road, he was commissioned to preach the Gospel of Christ. The Holy Spirit is his coach and tutor. Similarly, we must be familiar with the Holy Spirit who will teach us the will and Word of God, and how we can navigate through life.

The Gospel of the Grace of God is spelt out in the bodily death and resurrection of Christ. It is completely dependent on the grace and mercy of God which is made possible by the blood atonement by Christ that imputes God's righteousness to sinners who believe and receive Jesus. This divine exchange is made possible only through Jesus Christ.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we are encouraged to remember that the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Do not let disappointments affect our walk with God. Recall His promises and faithfulness of God over our lifetime and do not let one instance affect our relationship with God. The Lord is not slack in fulfilling His promises. We need to change our belief system (i.e., metanoia) which affects our responses and decisions so that it results in life transformation and the glory of God.

# QUESTIONS

1. The sermon mentioned two mysteries that were revealed to the Apostle Paul and the Church. What are they? What questions do you have about them?

2. As the Church, we received the Gospel of the Grace of God, which is completely dependent on the grace and mercy of God. How have you experienced the grace and mercy of God in your life?

3. The Gospel of Grace is very precious as it cost Jesus His life on the cross. Share how we can continually align our belief system with the Gospel, access the Grace of God to give us wisdom, direction, and peace. Also, consider how we can share this Gospel with our oikos.