

7 June 2015

## Two opposite mysteries: Iniquity & God manifest in the flesh. (The mysteries of God Pt 4)

### Introduction.

This is our fourth study on the topic of the mysteries of God.

### Previous study.

1. Fourth mystery: Paul's gospel was a mystery that was kept secret since the world began.
2. The fifth mystery: is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

### Two points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

1. The sixth mystery: The mystery of iniquity.
2. The seventh mystery: The mystery of godliness: God manifest in the flesh.

### Our two points in more detail.

1. The sixth mystery: The mystery of iniquity.

#### Supporting Verse.

2Thes.2: 7 "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way."

#### Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Verse 1 "coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (see also 1Cor..1: 7, 1Thes.3: 13, 1Thes.4: 15 – the rapture). Verse 2 "the day of Christ" (see also 1Cor.1: 8, Phil.1: 6, 10, & 2: 16 a day of rejoicing, c.p. the Old Testament day of the Lord – Is.13: 6 – a day of "destruction from the Almighty"). Verse 3 before "that day" the day of Christ from verse 2, "there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (son of perdition – see Jn.17: 12, identified as Judas Iscariot). Verse 4 that man of sin "opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God...showing himself that he is God." Verse 6 "ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time" Something is withholding the revealing of the son of perdition (the son of perdition, a type of Judas, an Antichrist).

\* Now, we have our Verse 7 "For the mystery of iniquity doeth already work" Even while Paul was writing the mystery of iniquity (that was preventing the son of perdition from being revealed) was working. Only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." Therefore, what is referred to as the mystery of iniquity is what is preventing the son of perdition from being revealed, and it was working in Paul's day.

#### Application of our verse today.

\* Paul is writing this second letter to the Gentile church in Thessalonica and so this verse is doctrinally applicable to the church today.

#### Illustration.

\* The Star wars series (Part 1, 2, & 3) has Palpatine who is actually the evil Sith Lord mysteriously acting out the role of Supreme Chancellor of the Republic. He had seduced the Jedi knights, and those that were supposed to have discernment. His power of deception was strong enough to deceive one of the Jedi Knight's apprentices (Anakin Skywalker) who became an apprentice to the evil Darth Sidious and was then known as Darth Vader.

\* The mysterious working of evil in cinema is similar to the actions of Satan in our spiritual battle, where the traditional churches have ministers teaching that Satan doesn't exist, but he is rather a metaphor for evil. Those who believe and teach this are likely ministers that have been transformed by Satan into ministers "of righteousness" (2Cor.11: 15).

#### Learning from our Illustration.

\* The mystery of iniquity that is holding back the son of perdition from being revealed has today deceived many in the traditional church by claiming that Satan is a metaphor. But when reality strikes and they understand their folly, it will be like Darth Vader when, after his operation to save

his life, he stood up with the black suit on, and it was revealed to him that Padme Amidala his wife had died, that he cried out in anger at being deceived.

\* The workings of Satan and his ministers is a mystery and we do not know specifically (beyond the example of the Popes who are today Antichrists) who is, or will be the son of perdition foretold in 2Thes.2: 7. If there is no Satan, there is no sin, then what is the need for the sword of the spirit in the battle, because there is no battle. But to the contrary, if the deceived ministers of the traditional churches (that teach there is no Satan), had a copy of the Scriptures, and believed God (**it is a sin** not to believe God) then this mystery of iniquity would be revealed to them and their congregations. But instead the blind is leading the blind and they will all fall into the ditch (Matt. 15: 14).

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* A consequence of having no authority, is that the minister of God is the authority not God! A minister can teach that a woman laying with a woman is no sin, that you can believe parts of the bible that talk about God being love, and ignore the rest or not believe it. But if when you get a copy of the Holy Scriptures, and read them, then you have an authority, and there is sin, and Satan is real, we are in a battle, and Satan is our enemy who seeks to devour us at his will. Let us all pray for those churches around us, in our neighbourhood that believe God is love but nothing else, and to whom this mystery of sin is still a secret. Because if our teachers, overseers, and those who are responsible before God as stewards of the mysteries of God taught this mystery then Christians in our local churches would know what is iniquity.

## 2. The seventh mystery: The mystery of godliness: God manifest in the flesh.

Supporting Verse.

1Tim.3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Verse 1 Paul begins by pointing out that what he is about to say is a true saying. And it concerns the office of a bishop (an overseer of the flock), which if a man desires, then he desires a good work. Verse 2–8 identifies "must be" attributes of a bishop: blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach, not given to wine, no striker, not greedy, not filthy lucre, patient, not a brawler, not covetous, rules well his own house, not a novice. Then in verse 7 he repeats the word "must" have a good report of them which are without.

\* Verse 8–13 identifies the "must" requirements for a deacon: he must be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, found blameless, their wives must be grave, not slanderous, sober, faithful in all things, the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their houses well.

\* In verse 15 Paul identifies the purpose for his writing to Timothy, "how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Then we have our verse 16: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh". The traditional churches call this the incarnation, where that which was conceived in Mary "is of the Holy Ghost" (Matt.1: 20). Even though it was prophesied in Is.7, it was nevertheless a great mystery, that is without controversy, there is not debate, it is truth. This has nothing to do with the godliness of a believer, but rather how a sinful man is made godly when he believes that Christ died for his sin on the cross, the gospel that is "preached unto the Gentiles" (verse 16).

Application of our verse today.

\* As part of a letter from Paul to Timothy which outlines doctrine and behaviour in "the church of the living God" our point is applicable to us today.

### Illustration.

\* In Babylonian times it was believed that a goddess bore a child by one of the gods, and those today like Acharya S/D.M. Murdock would say that the story of Jesus' virgin birth is no different to the stories of gods being conceived in Babylonian times. Hence they would look to the Christmas

event, and say that the traditional teaching around Christmas is born from Babylon. And they would be quite right, Rome got much of their doctrine of devils from Babylon.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* The link DM Murdock and other atheists make is one made in darkness, as blind scholars, who see the church of Rome as the true church, and that is what the devil does with the word of God. He subtly changes or twists a little of it, so that there is still some truth, as he did to Eve in Gen. 3.1-5. And just because Rome believes in the virgin birth of Christ and the incarnation, doesn't mean she has the truth, because "God was manifest in the flesh" is only part of the verse, there is also the gospel that was "preached unto the Gentiles".

\* Be not deceived by those that speak in half truths, and remember there is still leaven in their doctrine, and a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump (Gal.5: 9). Hence, DM Murdock is as blind to this mystery as the church of Rome is ignorant of it. They do not have a knowledge of the mystery of godliness: "God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles".

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Imagine for a moment if the traditional church taught the mystery of godliness: God manifest in the flesh. Because if the church taught the virgin birth, the perfect life of the Saviour, they would continue to see that He was "preached unto the Gentiles" and it is belief in that gospel, that message of Good News that Paul preached to the Gentiles, that saves a man today. And this message is only possible by the mystery of His virgin birth. This mystery would not be a secret like it is today, but rather it would be known. But instead, those who have the task of being stewards of the mysteries have neglected to teach this mystery of godliness. God manifest in the flesh, is still a mystery. Let us pray for those who are stewards to make known the mystery of God: God manifest in the flesh, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles.

Summary of our two points.

1. The sixth mystery: The mystery of iniquity.
2. The seventh mystery: The mystery of godliness: God manifest in the flesh.