

BASIC DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN PROPHECY AND THE MYSTERY

PROPHECY

Concerns a *kingdom*: a political organization (Dan. 2:44, Matt. 6:10).

The kingdom to be established (Matt. 6:10) *on earth* Christ to be its *King* (Jer.23:5, Isa. (9:6,7).

The kingdom *prophesied* "since the world began" (Luke 1:68-70, Acts3:21).

Israel to be given *supremacy* over the nations (Isa. 60:10-12, 61:6).

The Gentiles to be blessed through Israel's *instrumentality* (Gen. 22:17,18, Zech. 8:13).

The Gentiles to be blessed through Israel's *rise* (Isa. 60:1-3, Zech. 8:22,23).

Prophecy mainly concerns *nations* as such (Isa. 2:4, Ezek. 37:21,22).

Prophecy concerns blessings, both material and spiritual, *on earth* (Isa. 2:3,4, 11:1-9, etc.).

Prophecy concerns Christ's *coming to earth* (Isa. 59:20, Zech. 14:4).

In prophecy salvation by grace through faith *alone* is not contemplated.

The proclamation of the prophetic program committed particularly to *the twelve* (Matt. 10:5-7, Acts. 1:6-8, 3:19-26).

The prophetic program revealed through *many* of God's servants (Luke 1:70, II Pet. 1:21).

Old Testament writers frequently did not understand the prophecies made known through them (Dan. 12:8-10, I Pet. 1:10-12).

THE MYSTERY

Concerns a *body*; a living *organism* (I Cor. 12:12,27, Eph. 4:12-16).

The body given a position in *heaven* (Eph. 1:3, 2:5-6, Col. 3:1-3). Christ its living *Head* (Eph. 1:4-11, 3:5-9).

The body chosen in Christ before the world began, but "*kept secret since the world began*" (Rom. 16:25, Eph. 1:4-11, 3:5-9).

Jew and Gentile placed on the *same level* before God (Rom. 10:12, 11:32, Eph. 2:16,17).

The Gentiles blessed through Israel's *obstinacy* (Acts 13:44-46, Rom. 11:28-32).

The Gentiles blessed through Israel's *fall* (Acts 28:27,28, Rom. 11:11,12,15).

The mystery concerns *individuals* (Rom. 10:12,13 II Cor. 5:14-17).

The mystery concerns "all spiritual blessing *in the heavenlies*" (Eph. 1:3, Col. 3:1-3).

The mystery explains Christ's present *absence from the earth* (Eph. 1:3, Col. 3:1-3).

Salvation by **grace** through faith alone lies at the very heart of the mystery (Rom.3:21-26, 4:5, Eph. 2:8,9).

The proclamation of the mystery committed particularly to *Paul* (Eph. 3:1-3,8,9, Col. 1:24-27).

The mystery revealed through *one* man: Paul (Gal. 1:1,11,12, 2:2,7,9, Eph. 3:2,3). *

Paul both understood and longed that **others might understand the mystery** revealed through him. (Eph.1:15-23, 3:14-21, Col. 1:9-10, 2:1-3).

*Those who question whether the items listed under this heading are associated with the mystery have but to search and see whether they can find them in prophecy.