

(Note: The following e-mail study-commentary by C J McKnight on the subject of **MYSTERY** covers the time it was begun about the first part of May 7, 2007 to August 31, 2007.)

MYSTERY. 1

My purpose in these daily e-mail lessons was to leave a testimony of the truth of the Word to the present and future generation of the redeemed. Some of the most “precious” things from the living Word. Mysteries of the Word which are of far greater value than the wealth of the world. The current subject “mystery” is the most mysterious and yet most wonderful of them all. **This series is born from a question, which is one of the great mysteries of the Bible. “Who is the man child?”** Rev. 12:5 He is a part of the revelation which the Lord has given to His church. His place in the prophetic utterance of the Book of Revelation is of prime importance. He is a key to the final plan and objective of the Lord.

“This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” Eph. 5:32 There are many mysteries in life. There are many mysteries to be found in the Word of the Lord. As a matter of fact, we are always looking for a more comprehensive, a fuller understanding of the Word of the Lord. The Word is the communication of the Lord with mankind. Particularly those who love Him and want to know Him better. Jesus spoke in parables due to the lack of spiritual insight among the people. He has also made it necessary to fit together the truths of the Word like the pieces of a jig saw puzzle. “Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts. It is precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little.” Isaiah 28:10-12 It is a monumental undertaking to write concerning such a mysterious topic. One which is so openly revealed by fact and figure, type and shadow throughout the Word of the Lord, yet remains hidden from so many in the church.

Let us first of all put to rest a myth which has been accepted for too long, that is, that the woman is Mary and the man child Jesus. Sorry, but it does not fit into the plan of the Lord. In the first place, the Book of Revelation is just that, a revelation, an insight into the future. It is a prophetic book, not a history book. Consider what the book says about itself. A Revelation, “which must shortly come to pass” Rev. 1:1 “The time is at hand.” Rev. 1:3

Write the things which thou has seen, and the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter.” Rev. 1:19 “Things which must be hereafter.” Rev. 4:1 “The things which must shortly be done.” Rev. 22:5 “For the time is at hand.” Rev. 22:10 The references made to the “time at hand” are to those things which were to be fulfilled in the seven churches in Asia. Otherwise the whole of the book projects the completion of its revelations out into the future. The events which transpire at the birth of the man child cannot be compared to any experience that Mary or Jesus had after His birth. Other than there being the birth of a male child, there is absolutely no connection which may be made to Mary and Jesus.

MYSTERY. 2

The first man, was Adam. First the natural, then the spiritual. The natural has its spiritual counterpart. A divine principal which is carried out throughout the Word of the Lord. The natural has its beginning and ending. The spiritual likewise has its beginning but never ends. The spiritual is eternal. The first man made of the dust of the earth, in whom the Lord breathed the breath of life, and he became a living soul. Gen. 2:7 The Lord formed, shaped, molded man by the work of His loving hands. It was a “hands on” personal project. The first Adam possessed natural life. The last Adam (Christ) was made a quickening spirit., dispensing eternal life to all who will call on Him. 1 Cor. 15:45

The man Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 2:5 While the Deity of the Lord Jesus is plainly seen in the Word of the Lord. His manhood, His human nature is just as openly displayed. As a man, He is the only one commissioned to mediate between God and man. There are none other who could possibly feel the compassion for the sinner as the man Christ Jesus. No other could possibly have the power and authority to approach a just and merciful God for our forgiveness. He is greatly moved by the “feeling of our infirmities”

Inasmuch as He was tempted in every point such as we are. Yet He was without sin. Heb. 4:15 He is compassion personified. The perfect man. The man of perfection. He represents both aspects of life. Mortal and immortal. He stripped aside His high and holy status in the presence of His Father with whom He was of equal standing. Taking upon Himself the form of a man, the nature of a servant. Furthermore, He committed Himself to the

most degrading death of that day. The death of a habitual criminal. A shameful and ignominious death. No greater sacrifice could be made under any circumstances.

We must see Jesus, not only in His Godly nature, but as a man. He completely fulfilled every requirement to be both God and man. "And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone." Gen. 2:18 I will create a helper for him. A companion, a wife who was to share His life with him. Male and female created He them. Gen.1:27 As with the type, so with the antitype. Some types are fulfilled in just a measure. This one is to be complete. The blessing of the Lord upon them was that they be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth with their kind, that is their descendants.

MYSTERY. 3

This type of the last Adam and His bride, and the blessing of the Lord pronounced upon them is a key to what will take place in the end of the age. The life of the last Adam follows the pattern that is established in the creation and life of the first Adam and his Eve. Only the sin question is reversed, instead of sinning and losing our place in Eden, the Bride and her Christ will occupy Eden, having become victorious over sin. Her wilderness, while it is located in a desert place, will not be like the surrounding territory, a dry wilderness. In the midst of a world filled with chaos, she will be in the wilderness but in a place prepared by the Lord. (Rev. 12:6,14), which is comparable to Eden of old. Isa. 51:3 The Bride is a living entity comprised of those living in the last days who have reached the standard measure of Christ. A people of perfection. New Testament Christians who are totally committed and filled with His presence. Eph. 4:13 Christ will not marry a bride inferior to Himself.

About Isaiah 51:3 Who is this Zion/Sion? It is the city of the Lord occupied by the redeemed. It is a city of great gladness and everlasting joy. Of singing and rejoicing. Isa. 51:11 It is proclaimed to be the city of the living God. The CHURCH, made up of those who have been born of the Spirit. Their names are recorded in heaven, in the Lamb's book of life. ONLY the righteous, the just, who have reached the perfection found in the Lord can enter into that place. Heb. 12:22-23 All these proclaim Jesus as the one mediator and His blood as the only means of salvation. Heb. 12:24 In Sion

is to be found that stone, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is a stone of salvation and a sure foundation to all who will accept Him as Lord and savior. That same stone is a stumbling stone to those who reject Him as their Messiah. Therefore they will not be in Sion. Rom. 9:33

Isaiah said that, "the Lord would comfort her." Isa. 51:3 The Lord Jesus promised that He would send another (one like the one who was departing) comforter. Sent in the name of the Lord Jesus. Sent from the Father and stated to be the Holy Spirit. John 14:16 He has come teaching, revealing the things of the Lord Jesus to the church, John 14:26 He makes Jesus real. He does not speak or boast of Himself but will exalt the Lord Jesus. He is the Spirit of truth. John 15:26 As the Lord delivered Israel from Egypt on eagles wings (a type of the Holy Spirit) so He will take the church into His wilderness by eagle wing power. Rev. 12:14

MYSTERY. 4

The three main feasts of Israel are of importance in determining, at least the time of the year when the marriage of Christ and His church will take place. These feasts are spiritual experiences which take place in the life of the church and also in the life of each individual member of the true church. The Passover is a living factor of the Christian experience. Christ is our Passover. Our experience of redemption and liberty from sin. 1 Cor. 5:7 His death occurred simultaneously with the slaying of the Passover lamb. The blood of the lamb is our victory. Rev. 12:11

It is not circumstantial that there was a gathering in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Their purpose was two fold. It was a day of worship and they were being obedient to the command of the Lord Jesus. They were to wait in Jerusalem for the visitation of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4 As a fulfillment of that day of festivities, they were filled with the Spirit of the Lord. What was but religious days and ceremonies became life changing, spiritual experiences in the church. On the day of Pentecost the anointing of the Lord became a living reality in their lives. Acts 2:1-4

The Day of Atonement was a great day in Israel. It is a fast which as yet does not have a counter part in the church. Fasting was mandatory for the day. It was to be celebrated on the tenth day of the seventh month. Lev.

16:29 Ten being the number of Law and order. Seven is the number of perfection and is significant of the Day of Atonement as the day of the perfection of the church. Eph. 5:25-27 Following the pattern established by the introduction of these feasts in the church it will fulfilled in the church during the months of August-September. In what year, the Lord only knows. However, according to the conditions of the earth and humanity today we are quickly approaching that day. Incidentally, this is a must prior to the second coming of the Lord Jesus.

This was that very special day when the High Priest was commanded to enter into the Most Holy Place. Here he would stand in the awesome presence of the living God. Lev. 16:2-4 His clothing was fine linen, which is symbolic of the righteousness of the Lord manifest in the saints. It is also significant of the holiness of the wedding gown to be worn by the Bride of Christ. Rev. 19:7-8 This was that glorious day when Israel stood before the Lord perfectly cleansed from their sin. It was a day of great importance to them. Its implementation in the church in the end of the age is of the utmost importance.

MYSTERY. 5

Every fiftieth year was to be a year of Jubilee. They were to count out seven times seven years or weeks of years with the next year being the fiftieth which would be the year of Jubilee. They were to be alerted to this special month by a Sabbath, a day of rest, on the first day of the month. It was a memorial of the blowing of the trumpets. An signal and reminder that this was that very special month. Lev. 23:24 This first day was celebrated as the New Years day of the civil year. A time of new beginnings. The seventh month and its feasts depict a last day revival.

Every seventh year was to be a sabbatical year. Nothing was to be sown nor crops reaped in that seventh year. It was a year of rest for the land. Lev. 25:4 This would seem to be a difficult action for a farmer to take, until we consider the blessing of the Lord which He had pronounced upon it. They were promised a spectacular crop, triple the usual yield. In the sixth year the land would yield a crop which would last them into the ninth year. Lev. 25:22

Inasmuch as fifty speaks to us of Pentecost and the anointing of the Spirit. This feast has significance for the church of today. The Lord will once again visit His people with the blessings of Pentecost. Accompanying this move of the Spirit is a last day harvest, not merely a double portion but actually a triple portion. A full and complete measure of the glory and power of the Lord bringing the church of the last days to a maturity and a completeness which will make Her to be like Him in every sense of the word. The church, as His body, is destined to be filled with all of His fullness. Eph. 1:23 A church possessing love equal to His, filled with all the power and glory of the Lord. Eph. 3:19

The harvest supplied for a portion of three years. From the time of the wedding until the birth of the man child in Revelation twelve there must be a period of time. This seems to portray that period. During which the church will harvest the earth and the man child is brought forth. The Lord Jesus will only marry a sanctified, glorious church. Eph. 5:26-27 There is a Divine principal found throughout the Word of the Lord showing us that the Lord always visits with mercy and love before a season of punishment and judgment. While the book of Revelation speaks of the judgments which will take place in the end of the age it also shows us the precious victories which take place among His people.

MYSTERY. 6

The feasts of the seventh month, The month of Tishri, as yet dose not have its counterpart, its implementation in the church. The Lord commanded that Aaron, the priesthood, not enter the Most Holy Place without having washed, clothed themselves with the appropriate garments and made sacrifice. Lev. 16:2-5 Aarons sons had been slain by the Lord because they had offered incense and strange fire, that which was of their own choosing and not from the fire on the altar which the Lord had kindled. Lev. 10:1-2 The Lord hates an imitation and will take appropriate action. We have an example of the seriousness of toying with the Holy Spirit, in Ananias and Sapphira. They could have given any amount, or portion of that which they had received but instead chose to lie to the Holy Ghost. Consequently they died on the scene. Acts 5:1-10 This is an example of the cleansing of the Sanctuary. The Lord will sanctify His church and cleanse her from all that is contrary to His standard of holiness. Eph. 5:27

The Day of Atonement required a priest who was anointed. In the anointed ministry of the church of the last days the anointing of the Spirit will be a priority. Without that precious anointing oil, the oil of the Apothecary, which is the Holy Spirit, the church cannot function. Ex. 30:25-30 The last day church will know an anointing greater than that of the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former. Hag. 2:9 The man who ministered has to be clothed with garments of holiness. A through, complete atonement was to be made. For the high priest and his family. For the holy sanctuary, the tabernacle, the altar and the people. Lev. 16:33 The Atonement (the blood) was also applied to the mercy seat. Lev. 16:14

That which is foreshadowed in the Day of Atonement will become a living reality in the day when the Lord separates His true church from that which comes short of His high standards. His true people will bear His image. As Christ was in the image and likeness of God the Father, so the church will be like Christ. She will bear not only His likeness but His anointing and power as well. She will be changed from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord. Not in theory but in all actuality. His Bride is sanctified, purified and fully glorified with the fullness of His glory. 2 Cor. 3:18

MYSTERY. 7

The Day of Atonement was also the introduction of the year of Jubilee. The trumpet was to be sounded throughout the land. It introduced a year of restoration, of liberty and freedom. To keep the requirements of this time of jubilation would require a spirit and attitude of all participants of a God like nature. There are three major requirements which would be difficult for men to make. All property was to be returned to the original owner. Lev. 25:13 What would be the feelings of an individual who had accumulated the land of his neighbors? To follow this commandment they would have to be a person totally dedicated to the Lord. The poor, who had surrendered themselves to be a servant were to be released. Lev. 25:10

There is no record in the scriptures of this act of fulfillment and restitution having been done. It would appear that they considered the price to be too dear. Contrariwise, there is evidence that Israel went into captivity in

Babylon for seventy years in order for the land to receive its Sabbaths. 2 Chron. 36:21 What a price to pay for disobeying the Word of the Lord. Had they been obedient they would have prospered in every way and would not have gone into captivity. To obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken better than the fat of rams. 1 Sam. 15:22 To follow the pattern established by the Lord assures one of blessing and success. Incidentally, the Lord exhibited patience toward them waiting for three hundred and fifty years to pass before He judged Israel. Fifty times seventy is three hundred and fifty years.

In exchange for doing the statutes and keeping the judgments of the Lord, they were assured of food and safety. Their crops would not fail nor could any enemy overcome them. Simple obedience to the Word of the Lord has great reward. Lev. 25:18-19 As in the weekly Sabbath, the sixth day they did not work. So in the yearly Sabbath the sixth year they were to make it a Sabbath. In the order of the year of jubilee they were to commemorate a double Sabbath, the 49th and the 50th years were to be years of rest. This is a type of the double portion which foreshadows revival in the last days. The 48th year the crops were to be so huge that there would be sufficient to last until the 51st year. Just prior to the gathering of the Bride and the marriage of Christ and His church the world will know a spiritual revival such as has never been known.

MYSTERY. 8

Associated with the practices of the Sabbatical year there was a privilege extended which could be taken by those who had become servants. They could return to their home and be free, or they could become a love servant. He could choose to leave or stay. If he stayed, the cause was love. Love for his master. Love for his family. Ex. 21:1-5 Love for his masters family. Deut. 15:17 Having chosen servitude rather than freedom the servant would then receive a life long mark and sign of his consecration and love.

Do you suppose the saying, "pinned to the wall." came from this practice? This servant and his commitment is a type of Christ and also of the church becoming a love slave unto the Lord. Bringing him before the judges (literally, before the Lord) would make this decision a legal and binding

contract. The door post makes us think of the doors of blood in Egypt at the institution of Passover. Jesus is the door. The awl, a carpenter's tool, how fitting. The hearing ear (created by the Lord. Prov. 20:12) pinned and pierced. Always bearing about in the body the markings of the master.

In relationship to the subject there is a Messianic prophecy which relates to the ear and its capability of hearing. Jesus heard perfectly the Words of the Father and was in full accord with them saying that the Lord GOD had opened, carved or plowed His ear. He did not resist, nor cringe from the will of the Father. Isa. 50:5 Because Jesus heard with an awakened ear He was able to be in daily and constant contact with His Father. John 12:50 Because Jesus possessed a consecrated, listening ear He was also granted the tongue of the learned. Isa. 50:4 Words of wisdom, words of life poured forth from His lips. The Jews marveled at the learning which He displayed, knowing that He was unschooled. John 7:15 The last day church will have a leadership whose ears have been pinned to the door. They serve because of their love for the Lord Jesus and for that purpose alone. They have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the body of Christ. Their communication with the church will be in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord and not that of man. There is a hue and cry, almost a wailing, today from the body of believers for an anointed ministry. Learning, education is good but it should never be substituted for an ear which is able to hear the voice of the Lord and communicate His will to His people.

MYSTERY. 9

His wife has made herself ready. Rev. 19:7c Being ready, prepared for the most glorious marriage of time and eternity is vital. The attitudes displayed in the parable of the kingdom of heaven and the marriage prepared by the king for his son, illustrate for us attitudes found in the church of today. Mt. 22:2 A parable is a story told to demonstrate a fact. This is a kingdom parable and it is apparent that the people involved are citizens belonging to that kingdom. It is also obvious that the Lord Jesus is referring to Himself as the Bridegroom.

At the time of the wedding the King sent forth His servants (an anointed ministry) calling those who had already been invited, for they had been 'bidden.' They were well aware of the impending wedding. To further alert

them, the servants made personal contact with them as representatives of the King. Mt. 22:3 Their response was complete rejection and refusal to attend the wedding. They were neither concerned nor interested in the actions of the ruling family. They were not interested. Rather a dangerous attitude when dealing with a king. A second call is then issued with a considerably urgent call for the animals had been slain and the dinner was prepared. Everything is ready, all is prepared. This is a story of Israel rejecting the prophets whom the Lord had sent to them. Most unfortunately, the same is repeated in the modern day church. They verbally ridiculed the wedding and its participants. At the same time, they went their own ways, doing their own thing, self centered, while seeking the riches of this world. Others, mistreated the servants even to a point of death. Mt. 22:3-4

Such uncouth and evil actions against a king can only produce a strong retribution. Because of their actions they were visited by an army controlled by the king. The sentence of death was pronounced upon them in response to their having killed the king's servants. Their city was destroyed by fire. This does not sound unlike the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 AD. Even though we live in a different time and a different age, the attitudes of mankind, even in the church have not changed. Many disregard the voice of the Spirit and the Word by continuing to go their own way. Too often the Lord is treated as a fire escape to whom we turn in times of dire need. He is made to be simply a help in times of great need.

MYSTERY. 10

The command of the gospel, GO. Mt 22:8 Go into the highways, the streets, the country side with the invitation to come to the marriage. Go into all the world. The invitation is for the whosoever will. A motley crew was gathered by the servants. Noticeably, there seems to be no refusal among them. The good and the bad, without discrimination were gathered together and the wedding was furnished with guests. Mt. 22:10 One found who did not meet the requirements of a guest. He was not wearing a wedding garment. We should take notice here that these are guests and not the wedding party. Nevertheless, it was imperative that all guests be properly clothed. It is my understanding that the wedding garment of a guest was something furnished by the master of ceremonies. In this case the king. He surely would have been extended the privilege of a wedding garment when

entering the king's palace. For whatever reason, he was not properly clothed. Could have been that he thought his four button suit was good enough for any occasion. Mt. 22:11

When the king came to see the wedding guests he took note of this man and his improper clothing. The king was not antagonistic for he called him 'friend.' In the same breath he inquired as how he had gained entrance without the wedding garment. The poor man had no answer. If such a high standard of proper clothing was necessary for the guests, how about the bride? She must have put on Christ and be fully clothed with His glory.

This man is then bound, hand and foot and cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Mt. 22:13 The wedding of Christ and the church will take place prior to the tribulation period. This area of darkness is that time known as the great tribulation period. This man, because of his spiritual death will partake of the darkness of that era. It is worthwhile to note that Jesus said that the 'children of the kingdom' would be cast into the same outer darkness. When He made this statement He was addressing the centurion but aiming at the people of Israel who had rejected Him. Mt. 8:11 Again He warned them and in so doing gave us a glimpse into the future. For they would see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob plus all the prophets in the kingdom of the Lord. But, they, themselves not included in that vast multitude of believers who will inherit the kingdom of God. Luke 13:28

MYSTERY. 11

A parable illustrating the coming marriage of the Lamb. It is given that the church might understand the working and will of the Lord for His church in the last days. They are virgins such as Paul mentioned in 2 Cor. 11:2 Members of the body of Christ who are waiting for the day of the marriage of Christ and His church. They are all in the same class, virgins, unmarried. Their number is not limited to ten, which in this case is a number of leadership and government. They are divided into two identical groups, yet there is a great difference between them. Mt. 25:1

In their similarities, they are all virgins. They have all heard the call and responded to the bridegroom and the marriage which is about to take

place. They will be well aware of the times and the seasons. Inasmuch as they are all named virgins we know that they have responded to the preparations of holiness which are so vital for this marriage. They all had lamps prepared to lighten their way as they went forth to greet the bridegroom. Mt. 25:1 There the similarity, which had been so evident ceases.

They are subsequently divide into two groups and named as being wise of foolish. Mt. 25:5-6 Neither education nor intelligence defined which group the individual was to be placed. It was a good supply of oil. A preparation that would assure them of a continual burning of their lamps, regardless of how long it took the bridegroom to arrive. Oil is a type of the anointing of the Spirit. The wise are a people who maintain, very carefully, the presence of the Spirit in their lives. A fresh experience in the Lord is of great necessity in order to be included among the wise.

Among the foolish are to be found those who have a knowledge of future events and anticipate the coming of the bridegroom. They have known and enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They are now contented with the experiences of the past and feel no need of an 'update'. In the vital hour of the greatest need for a reserve of oil they had run dry. If the actual fulfillment numerically follows the parable that would divide the virgins (members of the church) right down the middle. In other words fifty percent would be classified as being in the unwise class And needful of a new and fresh anointing of the Spirit of the Lord. It is time for some self inspection and a renewing of the presence of the Lord within our Spiritual nature.

MYSTERY. 12

We live in a world which has become totally dependent on oil. How strange that dependency on oil for both natural life and spiritual life would coincide at one and the same time. It is mind boggling to think of all the consequences which would happen, were the world supply of oil suddenly cut off. It is a far greater tragedy for the church or any individual to lose the anointing of the Holy Spirit in their life. The wise made certain that they had an abundant supply of oil. More than sufficient to last them through any emergency which might arise. Mt. 25:4 All ten were knowledgeable of the

approaching wedding and were filled with great expectation but not all were prepared.

In the letters to the seven churches the Lord Jesus indicated certain characteristics which were peculiar to each individual church. All of these are evident in today's church membership. No single church or church organization today is by any means identical with any of these seven churches. However, in each organization, each church, moreover in each individual may be found a smattering, a mixture of the nature and character found in the original seven.

An example, and a message to the church of today may be found in the letter to the church at Sardis. They were a church with a good reputation as a living church, but one which they did not deserve, for they were spiritually dead. A pathetic condition for any church. Rev. 3:1 All hope was not lost, for there were spiritual elements which had not yet died and would spring back into life, providing they strengthened their faith and spiritual life. Rev. 3:1

The key word to this church fits the last day church. Remember your roots, your beginnings. Be steadfast and repent. It is necessary to hear very well this message. Generally we call on the sinner to repent. He is calling for the church to repent. Be vigilant, be strong, strengthen the spirituality yet remaining, of yesteryear, of the forefathers. Watch, be alert, be awake, recognize the time. The wedding is soon to take place. Preparation for that day is vital to participating in the grand and glorious event. The opportunity to repent is now. Rev. 3:3 The time to prepare is now. The class of the five foolish virgins will find that indeed the bridegroom will come as a thief in the night, to them. Because they were not aware of the hour they went off to purchase oil for their lamps.

MYSTERY. 13

While the bridegroom tarried. Mt. 25:5a The timing of the bridegroom is in His hands. He does not deliberately delay His appearing, nor will He come to the wedding before His time. The Lord is punctual and fulfills all of His schedule on time. He will not prolong His marriage beyond the set time. Heb. 10:37 The vision of His Word is right on time, for He has an appointed time for each and every prophetic utterance pertaining to the last days.

Angelic messengers, Prophets and Apostles spoke of the truth that the Lord has predetermined time and all of its events, particularly so, in the end of the age. Habakkuk spoke of an appointed time which should be accomplished in the end. This too, though it seemed to tarry or be delayed, would come to pass in His time. Hab. 2:3 The Word of the Lord by way of Gabriel (an archangel, the Holy Spirit in angelic manifestation) declared that the visions given to Daniel would be accomplished at the appointed time, in the end of the age. Dan. 8:19 Such terminology is not unusual in the revelation that came to Daniel. Dan. 10:1, 14, 11:27, 11:25. Time and the dwelling place of mankind He has also established. Acts 17:26

Not until the cry of His approaching was there an evident difference between the five wise and the five foolish. They all slumbered and slept. A state of affairs which would be expected of the foolish. It is rather astonishing to find the wise also nodding and dropping off to sleep. However, the division at this stage has not yet been made. Also, the condition which will determine the difference between the two is oil or a lack thereof.

At midnight, a dark and foreboding hour of the night. In Bible times, an hour when most were sleeping soundly. This hour can portray instances of good or of evil. Take for instance the institution of the first Passover in Egypt. The Lord scheduled it to take place at the midnight hour. Ex. 11:4 To those who were the obedient, the wise who followed the instructions of the Lord it was an hour of deliverance, that is, to the children of Israel. To the Egyptians it became an hour of death and great sorrow. The most prized, the firstborn from man and beast died at the visitation of the death angel. Ex. 11:5 What was a great blessing to Israel was a terrific judgment to the ungodly, unbelieving Egyptians. Faith in the promises of the Lord determine the eternal status of each and every individual.

MYSTERY. 14

The midnight hour represents the end of the age. Where a last day revival was at one time exceedingly unpopular as a prophetic word, it is now being proclaimed by almost all in ministry. It's end result will be our current subject. The ultimate work of the Lord, a Bride for His Son.

Thus far in the parable we have ten virgins acting in unison. No difference is yet evidence among them. They all awaken together. They all trim their lamps, enabling them to shine brighter and without smoking. Mt. 25:7

The trimming of the wick is necessary for the continued burning of the lamp. The church of today is comprised of a mixture of ideas and doctrines. From a natural standpoint it looks impossible to achieve the purity of life and doctrine essential for the blending together that is necessary for the composition of the bride. Nevertheless, the Bride of Christ will prepare herself for that glorious wedding day. Rev. 19:7 This is the moment of division. The chaff will be separated from the wheat. The chaff is vital to the kernel of grain until harvest time. Then it is separated and cast aside. "What is the chaff to the wheat." Jer. 23:28

To the church at Laodicea, the trimming of the wick was an act of love. A love that many would reject because of its nature. Let it be known, that if the Lord sees fit to work in our lives in such a manner it is an assurance of His love for us. His act of love is a rebuke, an admonishment from the Lord which most assuredly will bring conviction. To be reproved is not at all pleasant. It is not always received graciously. His act of love will contain chastening, punishment of some sort. Discipline, training, teaching all with the purpose of a change in the actions of the person being corrected. The range of correction will depend on the personality of the person being corrected. It can be mild or stern and seemingly almost excessive. Some will respond quicker than others. Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. 1 Sam. 15:23 Let us not forget, when we are being punished by the Lord it is for our betterment and is evidence of His love for us. Rev. 3:19 It is the call of the Spirit and the Word to repentance. It is His goodness, His mercy that brings pressure to bear on us until we come in repentance. Rom. 2:4 Chastening is a very important segment of the Christian experience. It is a sign of assurance that the person being corrected is still fully accepted as a son. Heb. 12:5-7

MYSTERY. 15

The church at Ephesus was not without need of correction. Even though the book of Ephesians portrays the church as that of which the bride will be chosen, there is still a serious shortcoming recorded against them. They

had forsaken their first love. Rev. 2:4 This was a serious offence before the Lord. He called them to remembrance from where they had fallen or had failed to maintain that all necessary first love. They too are called upon to repent or pay the consequences which was a removal of the candlestick or source of light from their midst. Rev. 2:5

A deep and strong love for the Lord is an imperative for inclusion in the Bride of Christ. The Lord Jesus, Who is the very essence, nature and character of love, can only accept those who are totally in love with Him. A people whose love is full and mature. True agape love, identical with the love which characterizes Him. 1 John 4:16

The condition which separated the two groups, A reserve of oil. Oil is that which typifies the anointing of the Holy Spirit. More so than any other time in the history of the church the precious, fresh oil of the Lord must be upon the lives of the church. Those whose lamps were extinguished for lack of oil are termed as the foolish virgins. Mt. 25:8 Consider Strong's definition of the word foolish. It is self explanatory and very enlightening. "moros, dull or stupid, i.e. heedless, blockhead, absurd." They then had the audacity to ask the wise to give them of their supply, which of course was refused.

The virgins themselves determine which group they would be included in by the measure of oil which they had with them. The extreme difference between them is like darkness compared to light. Eccl. 2:13 When we consider the percentages of this division it is a most awesome moment of time. Fifty percent are wise and the other fifty percent are the foolish. That is one half of the church which will be separated and culled out of, and separated from the group who will be married to the Lamb of God. There is no middle ground to be found here. It is a clear cut case of either or, be filled with the Spirit and be blest. No oil and dead lamps will lead to separation from all that is good and holy. Go, seek for yourself from those merchants who sell oil. There is a dire warning to be found here to keep our spiritual experience and anointing up to date. Maintain a fresh, and up to date life filled with the Spirit of the Most High.

MYSTERY. 16

The reluctance of the wise to share their oil resulted in complete refusal lest they themselves would have insufficient oil. The unwise were commanded to go seek for themselves. Our standing before the Lord is an individual matter. Likewise the depth of our spiritual experience. Too often we compare ourselves with others and feel that we are sufficiently spiritual, even more spiritual than they are. Such comparison is most unwise and extremely dangerous. 2 Cor. 10:12 The odds of finding oil at midnight were not great for them. Most any merchant being awakened at that time of night would charge them an exorbitant price. Buy for yourselves was the admonition of the wise. Mt. 25:9

Their quest for the oil which was so vital and that which they should have possessed all the time caused them to miss the arrival of the Bridegroom. The very event for which they had been waiting, and was so important to them, was missed. Just imagine the heartache, the depression, the sorrow of not being there for the moment of His appearance. Those who were ready went in with Him, into the marriage. How important and vital it is to be prepared for this most wonderful event. It is the climax of great joy and extreme happiness of the ages. One of every two Christians who are living in that day will miss the marriage of the Lamb, because they did not have a sufficient reserve of oil, {the Spirit}. Mt. 25:10

And the door was shut. What a final and unwelcome sound that statement has to it. The scriptures are so wonderful and expressive of the workings of the Lord. Jesus compared the end of the age to the days of Noah. In His statement He also referred to marriage, certainly not without purpose.

Luke 17:26-27 In Noah's day it was the Lord who shut the door when the full complement of man and beast had entered. Gen. 7:16 The five wise, filled to full capacity, with the Holy Spirit had already found rest in the Spirit. They experienced the prophecy of Isaiah of that rest granted by the presence of the Spirit. Isa. 28:11-12 The wise, behind the closed door will find themselves in the rest of the Lord. While the time of God's judgment just prior and during the great tribulation rages around them, they will be in perfect and complete peace. They will have entered into perfect union with the Lord Jesus. This is a rest well worth striving for. The wise will consider these things and being wise will take appropriate action.

MYSTERY. 17

Afterward, later, how much later we are not told but what is very apparent is that it was too late! The dilatory, the procrastinator, the indifferent, the lukewarm will find themselves outside the banqueting hall. Mt. 25:11 If we have a problem with the two different categories we find here, we might take a look at the people who receive the seed, the Word, into good ground. They are divided into three groups, thirty, sixty and one hundredfold. Their spiritual lives would be of an entirely different appearance and measure. Only the one hundredfold could be counted among the wise virgins. Mt. 13:23 Solomon, in his proverbs made a great gulf of existence between the wise and the foolish. The wise inherit the glory of the Lord. When we look at the woman of Revelation twelve we have to agree. She is wondrously clothed. In the mean time, the foolish are just that, foolish and are put to shame. Prov. 3:35 What a different story it would be had the foolish but prepared for this wonderful moment.

Lord, Lord., open to us. One can imagine that every type of plea will be made here. Some with tears, others demanding, some pleading, others begging all very seriously seeking entrance into the marriage, but it is too late. This introduces us to a very serious issue. In spite of the fact that they are capable of calling on the name of the Lord, not all who appear or sound to be spiritual will be accepted into the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom is made up of those who DO the will of the Father. It is an astonishing thing when we consider the works of those whom He excludes. They have acted in His name and have prophesied, cast out devils and done many wonderful works, but they are rejected because they also committed works of iniquity. Mt. 7:21-23

There is yet another lesson to be learned here. The Lord always answers our prayers but not always the way we want. We have to know that He can answer in the negative as well as the positive. Too often we feel that He can only respond according to our will. Whatever answer He gives us, it is always for the best and for our own good. Knowing His will (as revealed in the Word) and praying accordingly will bring far better results than miscellaneous prayers. Seeking those things which are from above, from the Lord will bring good results. To seek something because of a desire of

the flesh is to ask amiss and will result in correction from the Lord. James 4:3

MYSTERY. 18

The response of the Bridegroom from within the house and behind the closed door is of extreme importance. "I know you not." Mt. 25:12 It is not a case of knowing or not knowing who or what they were. The meaning of His words are of far deeper intent. There are times when that which is not committed to the spoken word will speak much louder and reveal the mystery. The occasion is a wedding. They have entered within the bridal chambers and are not about to take kindly to interruptions. Jesus used the allegory to illustrate the truth.

We are no longer dealing with the parable but with the illustrated truth. We begin with the attitude and vision of Paul. He looked upon the church of the Lord Jesus as a chaste virgin. His full intent was that she be worthy of being the Bride of Christ. 2 Cor. 11:2 A qualification that the church of his day did not achieve. It is a standard of spirituality and holiness belonging to the last day church and will be fully accomplished prior to the marriage. There is a time established for this joyous occasion and the Bride will have fully prepared herself for the wedding. Rev. 19:7 Her wedding gown will be the crowning dress of the ages, the only one of its kind. She is clothed with the purest and finest of linen. The Greek word for white used here is lampros, meaning, radiant, bright, clear, goodly, gorgeous, white. It is derived from (Gr) lampas, a light, a lamp or a torch. Rev. 19:8

The woman of Revelation twelve is most gorgeously arrayed with the luminous light bodies of creation. She is shining brilliantly with the glory of the Sun, the Lord, the Father, for He is a Sun. Ps. 84:11 Her foundation, the moon, the light which shines in the darkness, the night. It is the sign of the resurrection of Christ. Every month it goes through the process of entering darkness (death) and then coming to full light (resurrection). Before the great and terrible day of the Lord will come it will be turned into blood. Joel 2:31 A sign and witness to the world of the blood of redemption. She is crowned. She is by all rights a Queen. Twelve stars adorn her head. They are Apostolic authority, shining forth, glistening in their office and service before the Lord. They are an integral part of all that she is to be throughout

eternity. Rev. 12:1 How is the hearing of our ears today? Jesus said that the righteous should shine as the SUN in the kingdom of the Father. Mt. 13:43

MYSTERY. 19

There has never been the solution to a mystery more openly displayed than this one of the relationship of Christ with His church. While calling it a great mystery he plainly referred to its secret by stating that it was the impending marriage of Christ with His church. Eph. 5:32 The full comprehension of this marriage is of extreme importance to the prospective bride. How can she be a bride if she is not aware of the proposal of marriage and all that is involved? This is a kingdom mystery and Jesus said that knowledge of kingdom mysteries is imparted to those belonging to the kingdom. Mark 4:11 What is stated to be a mystery should be a revelation to the Lord's people. Rom. 16:25 The wisdom of the Lord is hidden from the eyes of the unsaved but made known and imparted to those who seek and find the wisdom of the Lord.

Prior to creation the intent of the Lord was to find a people whom He could glorify with Himself. His eternal purposes cannot be thwarted nor defeated. 1 Cor. 2:7 He will have a glorious bride. Eph. 5:32 Too many Christians are living below their privilege in being a partaker of those things prepared for them. Many have not seen, nor heard, nor has it even come into their thoughts all the wonderful spiritual blessings which have been prepared for them. 1Cor. 2:9 This scripture is frequently quoted to cover our ignorance of the mighty workings of the Lord in His church. The very next verse bursts wide open the desire of the Lord to make all of His mysteries, the deep spiritual awareness of His will, completely revealed to His very own. 1 Cor. 2:10

The secrets of the ages pertaining to the purposes of the Lord have been hidden and were a complete mystery. Now, that which is His perfect will is made manifest to His saints. No longer is it a matter of being of a certain race, but now all nations of every continent and island are called to enter into His mysteries. None need be excluded from the very innermost secrets and manifestation of the Lord. It is now Christ in you. Dwelling within the spirit nature of man. Changing his attitudes and his manner of life. Creating

within the essence of that mighty and glorious love which emanates from the Lord. Col. 1:26-27 The grand finale of all His efforts will be the bringing forth of a Bride who will love as He loves. The body of Christ, His Bride which will reach all the purity and perfection which is to be found in Him. He will have a people bearing His exact being and nature of perfection. Col. 1:28

MYSTERY. 20

The statement of the Bridegroom, "I know you not" is the language of that which constitutes marriage. Marriage is not a ceremony, it is an act. Eve was taken out of Adam and in marriage the two were to become one flesh. Gen. 2:24 Jesus verified the validity of the marital act by declaring that the two would be one. Mt. 19:5 The Apostle Paul was to repeat these words in Eph. 5:31 and with them revealed the great mystery. He was speaking of Christ and His church. Remember the words of the angel to Mary, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37

Mary experienced a meeting with the Lord in the person of the Holy Spirit. She was to be enveloped, captivated in, and by, the presence of the Spirit of the Lord. Anyone who has ever had the Spirit of the Lord come upon them will strongly verify the glory and joy of such an occasion. The word overshadowed is self explanatory. Strong gives us this explanation, "to cast a shade upon, i.e.(by analogy) to envelope in a blaze of brilliancy, figuratively to invest with preternatural influence." What a glorious and most sacred moment as the seed, the Word that was becoming flesh was implanted within her body.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, responded to the annunciation of the angel with the words, " I know not a man." How could it possibly happen? Luke 1:34 The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream informing him of the virginity of Mary. He accepted it as the will of the Lord. Not only was he a just man but he was a man of faith. Though Joseph lived with her as her husband for the term of her pregnancy "he knew her not." Mt. 1:25 Thus we see from the language of the Word of the Lord that when the Bridegroom said, "I know you not" it conveyed a deeper thought than just a rejection of recognition. They would not be allowed to enter into the consummation of the marriage. The term is found to be used in the Old Testament with the

same meaning. Judah, in failing to keep his promise and in a moment of indiscretion impregnated his daughter-in-law. Tamar, was certainly not without complicity in the matter. Gen. 38:11-26 "And he knew her no more." The Scriptures have a discreet way of handling delicate matters, while at the same time, not hiding the misdeeds of humanity. The virgin birth of the Lord Jesus is one of the very vital and fundamental teachings of the Word of the Lord. It needs to be fully embraced and declared to all men, everywhere.

MYSTERY. 21

We find a special group of individuals singled out for particular attention. They are noted as being one hundred and forty four thousand. Rev. 14:1 They are a part of the Bride of Christ and have a close affinity with Him. They are sealed with a very special seal, the most wonderful in all of the Word. They have, His name, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (NIV) and His Fathers name written on their foreheads. In order for this to take place they had to be a triumphant, victorious group. Jesus called them over comers. They will have the name of God written upon them. Thus we see that our God does have a name which identifies Him and separate s Him from any and every thing which might be called god. Furthermore, they will bear the name of the New Jerusalem, so they are an integral part of that eternal, and only holy city. Then, He who had been the Logos until His birth when He was given the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will place His name upon them. Rev. 3:12

Their purity and holiness is that of a virgin. The Greek word parthenos is used in relationship to them. The word carries the meaning of a maiden daughter living apart in and under the protection of her fathers house. The best scriptural connotation is the fact that Mary was a virgin. Parthenos is the word that was used in relationship to Mary. Mt 1:23 There is no difference in the word between Mathew and Revelation. Mary was a virgin, the one hundred and forty four thousand are female virgins. Parthenos is not the Greek word used in reference to a male virgin. It is used in relationship to a female virgin.

They have a message, a new song given them which is exclusively theirs. No one else could sing their song. The fulfillment of their place in the

kingdom of God and in the body of Christ is absolutely unique. Paul speaks of those who have been freed, who have died to the law in order to be married to another. The redeemed are the various members of the body of Christ. Each member has its own function even as our natural bodies cooperate and work together. They are to bear fruit. Rom. 7:4 As members of the body of Christ each member will contribute to the whole body. Not all members have the same office by any means, there are differences but accomplish perfect coordination. 1 Cor. 12:27-30 The one hundred forty four thousand are a most vital organ in the glorified body of Christ, which is His Church, His Bride.

MYSTERY. 22

The body of Christ, the church, His Bride will have to come to perfect unity and harmony in order to be what He has called her to be, that is perfect. While it is a group of many members it has to function as one. In perfect coordination and simultaneously. As long as its members are divided into segments it cannot be the body of Christ. The adherents to the body cannot operate as one as long as there is anything creating disagreement among them. The Bride must be one with Christ in every aspect. 1 Cor. 1:12 This shows us the impossibility of the church of today becoming one and even being considered as the Bride of Christ. The Bride will be gathered from among them and will come together in perfect agreement.

There is no racial preference to be found in the true body of Christ. They are gathered from the Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, bond and free. Their status in life is not of material value. Their Spiritual life and attitude is that which counts. They are blessed to have been included among the Spirit filled. Membership in the body of Christ is by baptism in the Spirit, into perfect accord and belief. The Lord has established His standards and human elements will never alter them. The flow of the Spirit in this body of many members is necessary to cause them to adhere and to continue to flow in the Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:13 There will be none in the body of Christ who have not been filled with the Spirit and continue to be motivated by the Spirit, only the Holy Spirit can cause the many members to coordinate and to move as one.

Paul emphasized the fact of the individuality of the various members of the human body. Each one having a specific duty and purpose and in a healthy body not conflicting one with the other in their precise role. In the true body of Christ there can be no conflict of interest or dissatisfaction with the place allotted them. The work of each part of the body is of equal value with all contributing to the whole. There may be no displeasure with the place designated to one in the body of Christ. All parts, however seemingly unlovely are of equal importance. The Lord is the creator of the body and is building it according to His own plans and objectives. The one hundred forty four thousand are an extremely important organ in the body of Christ. Without them the ultimate, the apex of the plan of salvation could not be accomplished. Their importance to the body cannot be over emphasized. 1 Cor. 15:15-21

MYSTERY. 23

The Lord will build the Spiritual body of Christ. It is a spiritual entity, showing forth the reality of that which is mystical in the sight of the Lord.. We must always remember, that with the Lord, spiritual is that which is real, eternal and everlasting. All things pertaining to this world, which we call real, are but transitory. They are here today and gone tomorrow. The unifying of the body of Christ is the result of the workings of the Spirit and the Word in the lives of those who are new creatures in Christ. Its is the good pleasure of the Lord to establish each and every one of them in the body, at His own pleasure. 1 Cor. 12:18 Without diversity of operation and responsibility in the body, there would be no body. Most certainly, all would want to be incorporated into the most glamorous parts. Such is not to be the case. Regardless of the particular part or organ, whether considered by some to be beautiful or ugly, all will share and share alike in the glory of the Lord that is manifest in the bride. There will be many members, but still one body.

1 Cor. 12:20 Actually, those parts which are considered to be of less importance are to receive the greater attention. Because of their responsibilities and contributions to the body, the whole of the body will heap more abundant honor upon them. The assembly and structure of the body is an act of God. He alone has the ability to combine such a diversified group into a perfectly synchronized team. This body, His body

will have the ability to exercise spiritually every role assigned to the natural body. Out of Adam, the Lord created an Eve, from Christ the Lord will create His Bride. For, it is the Lord who will blend and adhere the church into a perfect unit. 1 Cor. 12:24

Just imagine, a church without a dissenting voice. That is a miracle. Jesus prayed for His disciples, surely that would include His prospective Bride, that they might be one, with the same unity that exists between the Father and the Son. An affinity which is perfect and absolute. How could any prayer that He prayed ever go unanswered. Not only did he pray that they might be as He and the Father, but He prayed that He and the Father might dwell within His people, binding them into the same Divine unity. Where the author and finisher of unity is dwelling there can be nothing less than full and complete unity. John 17:21-22 The body of Christ will demonstrate perfect unity and harmony as they are motivated by the Holy Spirit. The example. Acts 2:46

MYSTERY. 24

Twelve tribes and twelve thousand sealed from each of the twelve tribes. Rev. 14:4-8 Who are they? Most will immediately guess that they are Jews. Because their natural birth was into one of the twelve tribes does that make them a candidate for this very special group? Who is a Jew? We think of Paul's statement that a Jew, in the sight of the Lord, is not reckoned after the order of natural birth, and that circumcision is not of spiritual value. Rom. 2:28 "He is a Jew, which is one inwardly." Circumcision is a work of separation, and cleansing wrought in the heart, and not in the flesh. It is a spiritual work accomplished within the spirit of mankind. It is not a religious ritual of any spiritual value when it is consummated in the flesh. Rom. 2:29 When Paul wrote to the Galatians he evaluated circumcision to be of no spiritual value. That which counts with the Lord is a new creature. All this is a fair and illuminating assessment of the requirement of the Lord for a spiritual people.

We are reminded that the Lord does not respect person or nationality. Christ died for all. Rom. 2:9 Therefore all who are born of the Spirit are in Christ Jesus. The blessings of the Lord are distributed equally, to the Jew first and then also to the Gentile. Rom. 2:10 The same is true with the

rebuke and judgment of the Lord. All receive equal punishment and reward. The Lord reckons no difference between Jew and Gentile.

The kingdom of God in earth has been taken from a natural people and has been transferred to a spiritual people. A people who demonstrate and produce the fruits of righteousness. From this nation, no nationality on earth is excluded. Jew and Gentile are made one by the blood of Christ. As He has made all nations of one blood, so, He has made a great new nation by the blood of Christ. Addressing the Jews, Jesus said that the kingdom would be taken from them and given to the new nation, the spiritual people and nation. Mt. 21:43 He also spoke of the soon desolation that was to come upon them because they had not received the truth which had come to them. Their house was to be desolate. A people shorn of the power and presence of the Lord. A matter which is rectified by the individual, not the nation. All who receive Christ as Savior, and meet the Divine requirements are candidates to be a part of the one hundred forty four thousand. They are spiritual Israelites.

MYSTERY. 25

The chosen, the elect, Israel, the twelve tribes are they those who are of the Law or of grace? The scriptures very definitely give us two groups, dividing them into a natural nation, a people who are what they are because of their decadency. The other, a people of faith. Those born of and filled with the Spirit. Obviously the Spiritual nation. They are termed to be a foolish nation because they are a mixture of all the nations of the world. Rom. 10:19 They have been found and accepted into the family of the Lord even though they had not followed the Lord in the way of the Law and had not previously sought after Him. Rom. 10:20

But concerning Israel Paul called them a stubborn and disobedient people. Rom. 10:21 A further description is found in Isaiah 65:1-7 If one would want to adhere to the letter of the Law and insist that these all are members of the twelve tribes that would not be difficult. Israel of today is composed of a multitude of nations. From the fair skinned Nordic nations to the dark skinned people of Ethiopia. I doubt that the Lord would find it difficult to find twelve thousand descendents from each of the twelve tribes who now are in Christ and follow Him. To be a member of the one hundred forty four

thousand they must be the chosen of the Lord. Chosen in Christ Jesus, not according to religion or the Law. Eph. 1:4 A choice which the Lord, with His foreknowledge made before the foundation of the world. This is matter which was settled from eternity. It is obviously very important to the Lord. As used by Paul and Peter chosen is not a term which may be applied to the natural people but is definitely directed to those who are of the Spirit. They are the generation of the chosen. 1 Peter 2:9

The chosen, the elect are identified as being a people who are sanctified by the working of the Spirit in their lives, they therefore are a spiritual people. The Lord approved them because of His foreknowledge. They were not picked out while others were rejected. Because He is God, He knows the end from the beginning. The spiritual people are a people of complete obedience to His Word and will. They are in complete surrender and submission to all of His instruction and purposes. They are a people who have believed in the blood of the Lord Jesus as the only source of cleansing and forgiveness from sin. They believe the Word of the Lord with all of their hearts. 1 Peter 1:2

MYSTERY. 26

The Bride of Christ is to be a special people. She is the handy work of the Lord Himself. As he formed Eve and made her to be a mate for Adam, so, in the end of the age, He will once again form a people whom He will create for His Son. We are His workmanship. Created, formed, shaped in the likeness and model of the Lord Jesus. Abiding, dwelling in Him. Gaining strength and sustenance from the Word. A company, a body of people who are prone to good works. Works of righteousness and holiness as they follow the pattern established for them by the Lord Jesus. They fit perfectly into the eternal plan of the Lord. Living a life unto which He has called them and walking in His paths. Eph. 2:10

As far as the world and the religious order of the age is concerned the people upon whom the Lord will bestow His great favor are a nondescript, rag-tag people who have no pedigree. They do not have the history and background of Israel. They are from every tribe and nation. The Lord said through Moses that they are not a people, or a known and admired nation. They are even called a foolish nation. These words were spoken to a

nation (Israel) which had greatly displeased the Lord, not once but repeatedly. Now He is calling and turning to those who were outcasts. Deut. 32:21 Rom. 10:19

This people who were once far from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenant of promise, completely without the Lord, have now been turned around. They are now included, they are the people of the commonwealth and heirs of the promises of the Lord. They are the people of the Lord. Where once acceptance and inclusion was by race, it is now by grace. No longer can one nation say that we are the people of the Lord. Now it is the people of every tongue tribe and nation who have been born of the Spirit. A people who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lord Jesus. Eph. 2:12-13

The fence, the division has been eliminated. There is no difference. There is no such thing in the body of Christ as a Messianic Jew or a convert from any other nation or religion. If we are in Christ we are all Christians, period... The Lord Jesus has made of Jew and Gentile one new creature. A new man. Showing partiality to no one. Eph. 2:14-15 Any differentiation is man made and not the working of the Spirit of the Lord. All are reconciled into one body by the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross. Gal. 2:16

MYSTERY. 27

The new people of the Lord. Previously they were not a nation or a people. That has been changed, they are now the people of God. Where they were without mercy, they have now received mercy from the Lord. His great love has been made manifest in their lives. 1 Peter 2:10 As the chosen of the Lord, they are the favored favorite of Him who loves them with His great everlasting love. Because of Spiritual birth, they are the offspring of God. 1 Peter 2:9 Remember, no one, Jew or Gentile, who will meet the criterion necessary to be identified with this people will be refused citizenship.

They are, the royal priesthood. In their dedication and consecration to the Lord these will have fulfilled the hearts desire of the Lord in having a very special people. They are the spiritual house, the priesthood of true holiness. A building, a temple constructed of lively stones, thus the whole structure is built of stones living in the day of its erection. Their presentation

of spiritual offerings is exactly according to the perfect will of the Lord. 1 Peter 2:5 A dual position, combined in one. They are themselves kingly and will be ministering to the King of kings. It is the good pleasure of the Lord to designate this people to be both kings and priests ministering before Him. Rev. 1:6 The dual ministry follows the example given by the prophet of the builder of the temple being both king and priest. Zec. 6:13 What great gratification it will give Him to have a people who are exactly like Him, in every aspect.

The children of Israel were called to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Thus we see the purpose of the Lord, not only a people but a certain type of people, a nation of holiness. Ex. 19:6 There is a beauty to holiness that is not to be found elsewhere. This is an important item when related to the Bride. She is the one who has been beautified by His holiness. A cosmetic unequalled in this world. We are to worship Him in the beauty of holiness. 1 Chr. 16:29 The man without the wedding garment was cast out. Mt. 22:11-13 The new creature is one in whom is demonstrated the cleansing effect of redemption by the blood of Christ. He is now made to be holy and righteous. Eph. 4:24 Holiness is that which is becoming to the redeemed. We are called to be unblameable in holiness. 1 Thes. 3:13 Holiness is not of our own making. We are invited to become partakers of His holiness. It is something that is imparted unto us of the Lord and not our own works. Heb. 12:10

MYSTERY. 28

A peculiar people. A word coined well before the vernacular of today which could connote them to be an odd, strange group of people. It is true, they are different but different only by an act of God which is available to everyone who will believe. They are that church which has been purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38 The word is used by Paul and reads "purchased possession" in Eph. 1:14 Generally a purchase is made of something which we anticipate will bring pleasure to us. How much more, the purchase, by the Lord Jesus of His church. She is the joy and delight of His heart and life.

The purchaser takes possession. Those purchased by the blood of redemption, the blood of Christ Jesus are completely His. Both physically

and spiritually, body and spirit. Sounds possessive, and it is. However, it is a joy to be possessed of the Lord. To be able to live His life is the greatest thing in this life. 1 Cor. 6:20 One evidence of these purchased people is that of being filled with the fruits of righteousness. Phil. 1:11 A response in the redeemed that is as natural as the rising of the sun. That new creature is a changed individual. His ultimate purpose in the giving of Himself was that He might gain a people who are living a life of purity. A nation which is willing to surrender their hearts and live to Him, dedicated to the working of His will in their lives. Titus 2:14

They are a called people who have responded to the voice of the Lord. They leave the darkness and sin of this world to walk in the glorious and wonderful light of the Word of the Lord. 1 Peter 2:9 The church of perfection, the Bride of Christ in the last days is the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:14 As we have already noted, the calling is not to one race of people but to all who inhabit the earth. Rom. 9:24 It is a beautiful calling for we find that we are called unto the fellowship of the Lord Jesus. A fellowship which takes us into the inner circle and the secret chambers of the most high. 1 Cor. 1:9 The calling of the Lord is unto holiness. Not a holiness according to our standards but His. He provides everything necessary for that holiness to become a part of the life of those who join to Him. 1 Thess. 2:12 2 Tim. 1:9 The glory of the Lord and the virtue found in the Lord Jesus are made available to those who are the called of the Lord. 2 Peter 1:3 In summing it all up, the full complement of all that He is, is freely bestowed upon all those who react to the glorious call of the Lord.

MYSTERY. 29

The great mystery is the association, more factually, the marriage of Christ and His church. An event which is scheduled for the end of the age. The Bride, the body of Christ, is constituted of those who are living at that time and have met all the divine requirements for a Bride of such high stature. She is the mystical body of Christ, which is scattered all over the face of the earth. She is unified in Christ. Her many members form one body. They are joined together into a unit, and will work with and contribute strength and ability to function one to another. While united into one, they do not all have the same duty. Rom. 12:4-5

Her ability to function as a unit is by the power of the Spirit. There is only one body. It is not an organization but an organism. A living, vital, Spirit led group of people, within the organized church of today which will heed the call of the Spirit and will follow His instructions. It hurts to say this because I detest a split, a swarm or a separation among the brethren, whether it be in a local church or an organization. However there is a moment of choice coming soon, where each and every member of the church must decide just whom and what they will follow. The call of the Word is to 'come out,' separate yourselves from the unclean and the impure and the Lord will receive you. 2 Cor. 6:17

Religious idols are spoiling true worship in today's church. There is a move to mix the church with old testament practices by bringing in articles and practices portraying those found in the tabernacle and temple. All those things were but shadows of the real which was to come. Now, by the Spirit we visit the true temple and tabernacle and worship in the Spirit the living Lord, not an idol, or a building or some other object. It is no longer a building which we visit in order to worship before Him, but now, we are the temple, He dwells with His Bride and is in her. He will walk in her and they shall be the people of the most high. 2 Cor. 6:16

What is the chaff to the wheat? Saith the LORD. Jer. 23:28c The chaff is vital to the wheat until winnowing time. Then there is a great separation made. The kernel of grain is gathered into the granary and a values is placed on it. The chaff is burned and destroyed. It has lost its value. There is a sifting time very near and there will be drastic changes made in the lives of those who serve the Lord. There will be no chaff to be found in the Bride.

MYSTERY. 30

The undefiled. Rev. 14:4 They are female, not male. The Lord gave Moses a statute whereby the name of a deceased man would be continued by his brother taking the deceased wife as his wife. The first born was then to receive the name of the deceased, that his posterity and name might be continued. Deut. 25:5-6 To refuse was to be taken to the gates of the city where the elders sat judging situations arising because of a violation of the statutes of the Lord. If he then continued to refuse, she was to loose a shoe

from his feet and spit in his face. Most definitely a degrading and embarrassing act. He then became known as the man who had his shoe loosed. Deut. 25:7-10

However, this law did not apply to the high priest. Because he had been crowned with the holy anointing oil (a type of the baptism of the Spirit) he was restricted to choosing a virgin to be his wife. A widow, even his brother's wife was defiled, only to him, by having been married to his brother. Also included were women who were divorced, profane (unholy or polluted by the standards of the law) or an harlot. Lev. 21:13-14 Jesus is our High Priest. Heb. 3:1 Thus we can comprehend the meaning when John wrote that the one hundred forty four thousand are not defiled after the manner of women. That which hindered the marriage of the High Priest to a woman was her lack of being a virgin.

With this in view, supposing we gave a slight variation to the word 'with' and changed it to, 'after the manner of women.' In other words, because they had been involved with a man and were no longer virgins they were excluded from being a member of the one hundred forty four thousand. This special group are members of the body of Christ. It is imperative that there be absolutely no defilement, of any sort, even what might be considered just a small or minor defect. The very fact that they are singled out as they are in the vision given to John speaks of their importance. Their experiences in the Lord will be felt by the entire body of Christ, His pure and holy Bride. Their very close and consistent relationship with the Lord Jesus is another strong evidence of their importance to the plan of the Lord for the ages to come. To man, the standards of the Lord are unachievable, but with the Lord, all things are possible. The only High Priest who is holy, harmless, undefiled and without sin, the perfect sacrifice is able to accomplish His perfect will in our lives. And He will do it. Note. Heb. 7:26

MYSTERY. 31

"For they are virgins." Rev. 14:4 A statement of fact which is simple, plain and to the point. They are just that, virgins. The puzzle as to the who, why and what, ends when we accept the word just as it has been written. Bible scholars in general agree that the Greek word parthenos, virgin, is used here, and that it means a true virgin. One who has never experienced sex

of any kind. I have done considerable research and find that Bible scholars (?) evaluate the word parthenos to be either masculine, feminine or neutral, as used in our scripture. There seems to be some disagreement and confusion over the word, virgin. Using the Word to interpret the Word, Mary, the mother of Jesus was a virgin (parthenos). Luke 1:27 That is itself should illuminate us as to the status of these who are also virgins in Rev. 14:4 Pure and simple, a virgin is just that a virgin and nothing else.

The New Testament does not use parthenos in reference to a male as a virgin. In Hebrew a betula is a virgin. As was Rebekah. Gen. 24:16 An almah is a young unmarried female, a virgin. Isa. 7:14 In Greek a parthenos, is a virgin, living under the protection of her family until betrothed or married. In English the word is virgin. Mt. 1:23 There is a word for a male who is in similar circumstances. One who is chaste and was without having had intercourse, they are called eunuchs. If these in Rev. 14:4 were meant to be male then surely the word eunuch would have been used. In Hebrew the word cariyc is translated eunuch. Isa. 56:3 In Greek, the word is eunouchos, or a eunuch. Acts 8:27 In English the word is eunuch.

If this group were men, then why were they not called eunuchs? If our languages were so poor as to not differentiate between male and female then we could possibly squeeze in the thought of these being men. However, when we have words with positive meanings and showing definite differences between the two, how can we do an injustice to the Word by making parthenos to be eunouchos? If the body of Christ is a complete body and every organ found in the human body is duplicated in the body of Christ, then there must be a segment of that body which requires that the nature of those involved be exactly what the Scriptures say they are, virgins. The body of Christ will not be an abstract organism but will be constructed, molded and created according to His will and purpose.

MYSTERY. 32

The Lord delights in new things. Especially that which pertains to the body of Christ. There is no question but what we are on the verge of a new thing, a new, a fresh move of the Spirit of the Lord such as the world has never

seen or experienced before. The new thing is the creation of the Lord and involves a woman surrounding a man. Jer. 31:22 There is most certainly a reference here to the birth of the Christ child. But then, Jeremiah said it would be a new thing something fresh and wondrous. The woman in Revelation twelve is seen about to give birth and when she delivers it is a man child, or a male who is brought forth. Thus far in the history of mankind only the woman has been able to give birth and the Lord is not about to change that.

With the Lord, new things begin with a new creature. A new, a different, a spiritual person is the one who emerges from a face to face meeting with the Lord. The man who is in Christ has the possibility of becoming new in every facet of his personality. The past life, the life once lived is gone, it is deserted and evaluated as unworthy, unbecoming of one who would follow Christ Jesus. Religious orders and practices are totally unfruitful. That which counts with the Lord is what He makes us to be, and that is a new man, a new creature, a new being. The foundation of the eternity before us is in the new thing which the Lord will accomplish. He will have all things to be new for He is the Lord of the new heavens and the new earth, which He will populate with a people like unto Himself. Rev. 21:5

The pleasure, His delight and the joy of the Lord is found in His creation. All of His creation He has brought forth for His eternal purposes. In particular that which will become His Bride. Rev. 4:11 It was not a good thing that Adam was alone. He needed a companion, one like himself, yet different. Gen. 2:18 Therefore the Lord opened his side, shed blood, and of his rib made a wife for him. She was formed into a woman by the hands of the potter. His nail scarred hands are shaping the church into His Bride. She came out of his side, even as the Bride is redeemed by blood and water, that which flowed from the wounded side of the Lord Jesus. John 19:34 They both bore the image and the likeness of the Lord. His promise to them was that they were to have dominion over the earth and to be fruitful and multiply. Gen. 1:28 They were to fill the face of the earth with their descendants.

MYSTERY. 33

The procedures of the Lord are to be found in the prophetic utterances of His Word. While they are hidden and secret, it is His desire to reveal them. "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing but the honor of kings is to search out a matter." Prov. 25:2 The thing, be it a word, or a subject found in the Word of the Lord is often covered and hidden from the eyes of those who do not know the Lord. But to those, who are made of Him, to be kings and priests all matters pertaining to the Lord are to be made known. It is to their benefit and glory that they discover the hidden and secrets of the Word. Especially those which pertain to the end of the age and the mighty work which He will accomplish in His people.

The unseen, the invisible God. Not known after the human senses, for He is not to be seen, or felt. Rom. 1:20 Nevertheless He is made quite visible by the creation which surrounds each and every person on the face of the earth. Moreover He has given to His people the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whose responsibility is to take the things of Christ and show them unto us. He is the Divine teacher making known the plans and works of the Lord Jesus. John 14:26 Be it a mystery, a secret, or hidden matter the Lord will not leave His very own in darkness concerning the plan which He has for His church in the end of the age. She is to be a Bride and is to be married to Christ. Paul called it a great mystery. Eph. 5:32 Unfortunately, there are those who look upon this as some abstract, impersonal matter without much substance. With rather a ho-hum attitude, as if it were not the climax of His mighty working in His church.

The marriage of the Lamb to His counterpart, a Bride bearing His glorious likeness and purity. Conformed jointly (if you please) to the image, the similarity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Two beings, sharing and sharing alike the same spiritual status and fully equal in all things. It may seem difficult to the natural mind but those who are in possession of a spiritual mind will recognize that the Lord is calling today for a people of deep and full consecration. Rom. 8:29 The carnal mind, whether ignorant or intelligent, can never comprehend or receive the things manifest by the Spirit pertaining to the Word of the Lord. Reputation, intelligence, learning do not supersede the revelation of the Spirit given to the body of Christ when He illuminates the truths of the Word to our hearts. 1 Cor. 2:14 The Spirit and

the Bride are sending out their invitation. God grant us ears to hear. Rev. 22:17

MYSTERY. 34

All things new. That literally means all things. Rev. 21:5 The former (current) earth and universe has become old and grossly contaminated by sin and iniquity. Spoiled and worn out by the works and efforts of human kind. Amazingly, this is something that even the unbelievers are talking about today. We have many movements arising now whose purpose is to save the earth for future generations. Change the actions of mankind and make new laws concerning the physical pollution of the earth, it's destiny is set. Catastrophic events are reserved for the end of the age in relationship to the heavens and the earth. The ultimate being that the heavens and the earth which are now will flee from the presence of the throne of the Lord. Rev. 20:11

After the thousand year Millennial reign of Christ and the subsequent battle of Gog and Magog the old will flee for ever. Never again will they be involved in anything. They are sucked into a black hole, an eternity of separation from all that is God like. Rev. 20:11 The new will be everlasting, eternal. It will never be contaminated by sin.

It's newness will never grow old. Ageing of all things, including people, will not be found there. The new is spiritual and not natural. It is holy and not carnal, therefore cannot corrupt. The following scriptures pertain to the new heavens and new earth. They are the creation of the Lord. Not a renovation or a restoration, not even a recreation of the old. In the new, the old will never be remembered. Isa. 65:17 We can all be thankful for that.

The throne of the Lord. The heart, the center, the core of that which is new will be the new Jerusalem. The true and only holy city. She is arrayed in all the splendor and glory of the Lord, for she is seen as a Bride, prepared for her husband. The beauty of the Lord is upon her. Rev. 21:2 The cities of this world are planned and built by man, and will all be destroyed, including, so called, holy cities. This true eternal city, the new Jerusalem is the handiwork of the Lord and is perfect in every detail. The Lord will find great joy in the ultimate work of His hands. She is the delight of His heart. It's

inhabitants are a joy and thrill to His being. It is the city of joy and happiness there will never again be heard the sound of weeping or crying. The former things have all passed away. Isa. 65:17-19

MYSTERY. 35

The new heavens and the new earth are the dwelling place of eternal unspoiled righteousness. The righteous, Lord, and the people of His righteousness will make their abode there. Never again will the righteous work of the Lord be spoiled by sin or unrighteousness. 2 Peter 3:13 All that it is and ever will be is reserved for those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Rev. 21:27 The Lord will establish, on that new earth, that great and marvelous city called the New Jerusalem. The Bride of Christ, the dwelling place of the Most High. No corruption of any kind will ever be found in her. The call of the Spirit is going forth in our day. It is time to put on the robes of righteousness. Garments of beauty and holiness. The uncircumcised and the unclean are forever rejected from that which the Lord will prepare. Isa. 52:1

A New Jerusalem. This time a spiritual city, an eternal city. The city of true holiness. The actual dwelling place of the Lord, His throne. All the majesty and glory of the Lord to be made manifest in her. She is gorgeous beyond description. While temporal, worldly elements with which we are familiar are used to describe her, in all actuality, the spiritual counter part is excessively far more beautiful. The natural things are of the earth earthy, but that which adorns her is uncontaminated, pure and holy. She is filled to capacity with the fullness of the glory of the Lord. She is a city of brilliant light. Glowing, scintillating with the light of the Lord. Rev. 21:11 The glory of the Lord is in and upon her, while the Lamb is her light. Rev. 21:23

The glory with which she is filled is of such magnitude that she will never need the sun or moon to furnish light for her. She is that sun clothed woman. Rev. 12:1 She possesses the complete glory of the sun, the moon and the stars. 1Cor. 15:41 The Lord God is not only light but His glory and being is like the sun. Ps. 84:11 He shines with greater glory than a sun. The Lord Jesus is the Sun of righteousness. Mal. 4:2 His glory is the glory of the Father. John 17:1 The glory of the Father was made manifest in His Son, the Lord Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. His face became as the

sun, His clothing became as exceeding white as snow and was shining, glittering, scintillating, glowing as the light of the sun. Mt. 17:2 Mark 9:2 Peter, James and John saw the Lord Jesus in His eternal glory. That is the same glory that will encompass and inundate the New Jerusalem. Mt. 13:43

MYSTERY. 36

The first Adam and his wife Eve were blessed of the Lord that they might be fruitful and multiply, thus filling the earth with descendants of like nature. Gen. 1:28 In a newly created earth the Lord set about to inhabit it with a new race of people. A people who were created in the image and likeness of the Almighty. Physically, man is made in the appearance of the Lord. Man has the same triune make up for he is body, soul and spirit. Three identifiable components, yet one human being. Gen. 1:26

The seed of eight who survived the flood were the beginning of a new race. All others were eradicated from off the face of the earth because of the excessive sin which had become common place to them. It was a new beginning, an opportunity to live a life that would please the Lord. The same command was given to them as that which the Lord gave to Adam and Eve. Be fruitful and multiply. Gen. 9:1

In Abraham, Isaac and Jacob we find one of those beautiful types of the Godhead. The Father, Abraham. The Son, Isaac and the Spirit, Jacob or Israel who became the prolific one. The man from whom issued the twelve tribes of Israel. He was the fruitful one. So typical of the fruitfulness of the Holy Spirit, not only in the fruit of the Spirit but in the multiplication of the Godly as well. In changing his name from Jacob, heel catcher or supplanter, to Israel, (he will rule as God), the Lord also changed His nature. Gen. 35:10 Briefly, in defense of Jacob, remember he made a deal with his brother Esau and Esau SOLD him the birthright.

The same command was given to Israel as had been given to Adam and to Noah. Only this time more detail is given. Israel was destined to become a great nation under the leadership and blessing of the Lord. Moreover, the scope of his descendants would not be limited to one nation only, but a multiplication of nations were to be found in his descendants. Kings as well

were to be found in those who counted Israel as a forefather. History bears witness of the authenticity of the prophecy of the Lord to the man named Israel. The greatest, the most outstanding King is none other than the King of kings the Lord Jesus Christ. Gen. 35:11 Hence, we get a glimpse into the plan and purpose of the Lord in relationship to this earth. Multiplication, increase, the enlargement of His family is what He had in mind.

MYSTERY. 37

The promise of the Lord to Abram as to the number of his progeny is astonishing. Certainly, to some unbelievable. Nevertheless, it is the promise of the Lord that his descendents would be as numberless as the stars of the heavens. Abram may not have been able to see the vast number of stars which are made visible today, thanks to powerful telescopes, but the Lord knew their number. Not only their number but He also knows their names. Ps. 147:4 The promise is from the Lord and He knew exactly what He was saying to Abram, though Abram may not have known the vastness of the promise. His promise to Abram opens up tremendous possibilities for the new heavens and the new earth and their being populated by a new race of people.

The universe in which we live is made up of some one hundred billion galaxies. Each galaxy contains billions of stars, or suns. Even this is not an established number for the farther out into space man is able to see, the more he finds yet other galaxies. We do not yet know the extent of the universe nor the full number of the stars of the heavens. The Lord knows their exact number and in the evening hours brings them out one by one (makes them to be visible) and He also knows their names, because He has named them. Isa. 40:26 If the total number of human beings from the first man Adam down to the very last were all included and granted entrance into the new heavens and earth, their number would be but a small fraction of the existing stars. We know that will not happen. Only the yet smaller fraction of the redeemed will enter heaven. Where will the Lord find such a tremendous volume of persons? He promised it and He will keep His promise.

The prophetic utterance of Jeremiah declared the impossibility of numbering the stars of the heaven. Adding that the seed of David would fit

into this numberless category, and the Levites which minister before the Lord would likewise be as numberless. The reference to David elevated his prophecy into a Messianic prophecy. Jer. 33:22 The Lord Jesus is proclaimed to be the “root of David” therefore has the authority to open the seven seals. Rev. 5:5 As the “root of David” He is also the bright and morning star. Rev. 22:15 His presence upon the throne makes it to be an eternal throne, an eternal kingdom, populated with a vast number who bear His star like brilliance. They will all shine as the stars for they will be filled with the glory of the Lord. Dan. 12:3

MYSTERY. 38

To give more emphasis to the posterity of Abram the Lord included the sand of the sea shore. Gen. 22:17 Immediately it becomes apparent that we are once again dealing with a vast number. How long would it take just to count a handful of sand? In using such uncountable items, which exist in such a great volume, it is very obvious that the Lord is making promises that are for a future life. That which seems and is impossible with man is possible with the Lord. Mark 10:27

The third element used to describe the number of the descendants of Abram is the dust of the earth. Gen. 13:16 This time the Lord has used a fine all prevailing element to convey to us the extremely great number involved. Here, for the third time the greatness of the number is that which is high lighted.

Thus we are given three great possibilities of the Lord having plans for the new heavens and the new earth which indicate the building of a spiritual race of people. Heavenly Jerusalem, is stated as being a mother, more over the mother of us all. She lives in liberty, free from the works of the flesh and the bondages of the past life. Gal. 4:26 Motherhood is the destiny of that glorious city of the Lord. Most unfortunately, the interest and eyes of too many are focused today on that which is natural. The interest of the Lord is on that which is spiritual. As a prospective bridegroom His attention is centered on His bride and not on a city of this world. More so, due to the fact that the earthly city lives in bondage. Gal. 4:25

The Lord is not bound by the natural way of accomplishing a matter. He has made promises and then waited until the promise was a natural impossibility and then moved in a miraculous manner to accomplish His goal. Paul wrote of Sarah who was to bear a son in her golden years, at the age of ninety. Gen. 17:17 In preparation for the miracle the Lord changed both the name of Abram and Sarai. Taking the H from His own name, JHVH, He inserted it into their names and in this manner refreshed their ability to bear children. The birth of Isaac was not only natural but it was after a supernatural work was wrought in them by the Lord. The Lord is not bound by natural laws. Sarah up to the time of this mighty and most unusual change had been childless. She had suffered anguish and sorrow over her barrenness, but now the Lord was about to change all that. Gen. 17:15

MYSTERY. 39

Cause for exceedingly great rejoicing. The all important event long waited for has arrived. The marriage of the Lamb has come. Rev. 19:7c The moment of the completion of the mystery of the ages has come. Weddings, as a rule, are times of celebration and great joy. This one will very definitely be a time of great rejoicing, for it is the wedding of the ages. This glorious occurrence is an eternal happening which will never be dissolved. It is THE wedding of all weddings. None like it have ever taken place nor will there ever be another. It is foreshadowed through out the scriptures, in prophecy, type and shadow.

From the beginnings of His dealings with mankind the intention of the Lord has been to have a people who would be totally consecrated to Him. We find, in the Old Testament, many times when individuals and even the nation of Israel displeased Him in their worship and service to Him. Humanity has not changed much since those days. The same problems still exist. While at the same time, the blessing of the Lord is also made manifest in those who fully follow the Lord. Thus the life and words of Hosea mirror a modern day spiritual condition.

Hosea (salvation) was commanded to go take a wife of whoredom. It would not have been necessary for her to have physically been a harlot. In other words, she was one who was following the manner of worship exercised by

unfaithful Israel, they had left off worshiping the true God. The Lord was sending an illustrated message to Israel through the family of Hosea. He chose a woman named Gomer, a very interesting name, meaning: "completion or ripeness, of consummate wickedness, daughter of double layers of grape cake." Hos. 1:3 Her name certainly speaks of the end of the age. The completion of the plan of the Lord. The world coming to a ripeness of wickedness that will bring harvest, while at the same time the Bride of Christ will come to the fullness of all that she is intended to be. The grape is the source of wine, typical of the joy of the Spirit. While a double cake would signify the double portion, or the complete fullness of the Spirit manifest in the church in a great last day revival. The Lord was about to display through Hosea, his wife and Children His very own feelings. The situation could not have been a pleasant one for Hosea for he was a man who served the Lord in truth. Therefore he had been called to be the prophet of the Lord. The Lord placed great confidence in him and knew that he would be obedient.

MYSTERY. 40

As with all true marriages the purpose of marriage is the propagation of a family, tribe, nation or even the human race. Their first child was a son who was to be named Jezreel, (meaning, God scatters.) It was to be a warning to Israel that they had gone too far in their false worship and the Lord was about to judge them. Their kingdom was about to be extinguished by the Lord. Hos. 2:4 The prophets of Israel constantly cried out against the nation because of their backslidings.

Adding to the family only brought further condemnation against Israel. The second child was a girl whom the Lord named Lo-ruhamah, (meaning, not pitied, not favored, not loved.) Israel because of their wickedness had fallen out of favor with the Lord. The Lord proclaimed that He would no longer show the mercy and the deep concern for Israel as He had in the past. Not only that but He said He would utterly take them away, or remove them out of the land. Hos. 1:6

These births with the subsequent prophetic messages covered a period of years. The next birth did not take place until the second child had been weaned. It gives evidence of the patience and restraint of the Lord in not

immediately visiting with judgment and punishment. Hos. 1:8 The third son, a boy, was named Lo-ammi, (not my people.) This is the key to a proper understanding of what the Lord will do in relationship to His church. How many times in the Old Testament do we find Israel being rejected by the Lord because of their heathenish worship and their forsaking the Lord. Note: Hos. 4:6

Now, in order to be a part of the “people of God” it is necessary to be a “son of God.” One born of the Spirit and the Word. A way that is opened wide to all nations, tongues and peoples. No one will be excluded providing they approach the Lord following His plan and purpose. The gathering of all nations must be unto the Lord Jesus and is a spiritual matter, not a political or secular matter. Hos. 1:10-11 In spite of having been rejected the way is now open to be the true people of the Lord. Once again, it is the way which the Lord has prepared. If we try some other way, then Jesus said, that the same is a thief and a robber. Religion or race will not be taken into consideration as the Lord makes up His Bride in the end of the age. To try to gain a place in the plan of the Lord by any other means other than that which the Lord has stipulated can only result in failure.

MYSTERY. 41

A message addressed to Ammi, or my people. Hosea 2:1 While this prophetic message was originally spoken to Israel of old, the same may be applied to the church of today. Those who are supposed to be HIS people. The Lord also changed the name of Ammi to Lo-ammi which has the meaning of not my people. Hosea 1:9

True cause with great effect. The Lord gave Moses a song commemorating the works of the Lord in the midst of His people. eut. 32:1-52 It also contained the impending judgment and punishment. The scope of it's message reaches far beyond just those who came up out of Egypt. In response to the emotions which their ways had stirred up in the Lord, He warned them that He would cause the same feelings to arise in their hearts. He would move them to jealousy with those who are not a people or a nation like them. He even called them a foolish nation. A nation of Gentiles, foreigners gathered from all the peoples of the world. Deut. 32:21

Peter outlined the true people of the Lord, the chosen race, by his description of them. I Peter 2:9 The Lord has exceedingly high standards but He will find a people in the end of the age who will measure up to His requirements for the Bride. They will be gathered from the nations of the world and embrace all nations and tongues. Where they had not had recognition or status because of their religious or natural background, they will be called the “people of God.” 1 Peter 2:10

Paul, in his letter to the Romans made it very plain that the Lord, today, does not recognize any difference among the peoples of the earth. Now, the gospel and all its blessings and benefits are for the whosoever will. Rom. 10:9-11 Furthermore, he strongly stated that there is absolutely no difference between Jew and Greek. Christ died for all. His response is the same toward Gentile as it is toward the Jew. Rom. 10:12 It is needful that we remember that the Lord is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34 The new man, renewed in spiritual knowledge and understanding is that which counts with the Lord. None of the racial divisions, established by men, exist with the Lord. The people of God are recognized by the fact of their having been born again. They are now a spiritual people, serving the Lord with their whole hearts. They are recognized as those who belong to the household of faith. Gal. 6:10

MYSTERY. 42

The prophecy of Isaiah, pertaining to Israel, is verified by Paul. Their number to be as the sand of the sea, but those who are saved are called a remnant, a few. Justification is not a gift of natural birth but rather, new birth, a spiritual birth. Rom. 9:27 Israel seeking to be justified by the Law of righteousness, could not measure up to its high demands. Rom. 9:29 The Gentiles not seeking righteousness after the righteousness of the Law found the true righteousness, which is not by works but by faith. Therefore, all who come by the way of faith are justified before the Lord, regardless of natural birth. Rom. 9:30

The prophetic utterance given by Hosea stated that the time would come where there would be those who were to be called the “sons of the living God.” Hos. 1:10 The promise of that prophecy was made available by the Lord Jesus. Those who received Him, who had faith in Him were given the

privilege of becoming “sons of God.” John 1:12 This is not something that has been scheduled for heaven and eternity but John said; “now are we the sons of God.” 1 John 3:2 To receive such a glorious blessing and standing with the Lord is the manifestation of His love for us. He is searching for a people who bear His likeness and have the same majestic character. 1 John 3:1

We are assured that this blessed status is something that is made known in this life, for it is evidenced in the midst of a world that is filled with all manner of wickedness. Those who are His sons will be filled with the eternal glory of the Lord and reflect the glory of the Lord. Phil. 2:15 The Spirit filled life, the Spirit led life is likewise an evidence of those who have become the sons of God. Rom. 8:14 This is not an imaginary group, or a sect which have gone astray. This is the promise of the Lord. He has given us enough evidence for us to rest assured that this is His will and purpose in the lives of all who will truly follow hard after Him. The ultimate manifestation of the sons of God is to be that glorious moment when the dead in Christ shall rise with a new body, the body of resurrection. Rom. 8:19,23 The final act of adoption into the great family of the Lord. That blessed moment of time when we lay aside these mortal bodies and are clothed with the body of eternal life. A new body which will never again feel the hurts and pains of this life. A body made like unto the body of the Lord Jesus.

MYSTERY. 43

The oldest son of Hosea was Jezereel. His name has a dual connotation and yet they are identical. First, God scatters. Secondly, God sows. The first predicting a judgment which would come upon the nations of Israel and Judah and they would be scattered. The second, a promise that the Lord would sow good seed (the Word) and bring the nations together under His leadership. Under one head (the Lord Jesus) they are to be united in one. Hosea 1:11 This is not to be a secular kingdom if it is under the guidance of the Lord Jesus it has to be spiritual.

The citizenship of His kingdom is composed of three general segments of humanity. All of them having been born of the Spirit. Without the new birth a person cannot even comprehend the existence of the kingdom of God. John 3:3 A sign has been established as a point around which they will rally, that is the Lord Jesus. The ‘nations,’ the Hebrew word ‘gowy’ indicates Gentile, heathen,

foreign nations. Thus, the door is opened to the whole world to participate in His kingdom. The outcasts of Israel and the dispersed of Judah are also invited to participate in the eternal kingdom of the Lord. Isa. 11:12 The twelve tribes were divided into the two nations at that time. If this is a physical, secular gathering it must include all twelve tribes. Where are the ten which at first were called Israel, then Samaria?

There is but one person who could be that 'one head.' He is the shepherd king, the Lord Jesus. David was a type of the Christ of God and was to be that one and only shepherd of the flock of the Lord. Eze. 34:23 The Father will establish HIS king upon HIS holy hill. Jesus will reign in the Zion of the Lord. Ps. 2:6 The Lord has [promised that the time would come when He would establish a branch of righteousness, a person, a king whose name is the righteous Branch. Jer. 23:5 He whose name is the BRANCH is the builder of the temple of the Lord. He will be the glory of that temple and will reign in a dual office, as the only true great high priest, and as the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. Zech. 6:12-13 It is Jesus who is the head of the church, the true temple of the Lord. All will be subject unto Him. Eph 1:22 The whole of His body, the church will have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and He is the head of that body. Eph. 5:23 The church of the Lord which He loved to such a great degree that He purchased her with His own blood. Acts. 20:28

MYSTERY. 44

A very strong and passionate appeal to Ammi, my people and to Ruhamah, beloved of tenderly pitied. These words are an appeal and an attempt for reconciliation. We see in these names the love and mercy of the Lord ever reaching out to those who have gone astray. The Lord in order to visit with compassion and mercy must first execute correction for according to the Law their mother is not His wife. Because of Israel's sinful actions, the Lord is not her husband. He is not married to her. Hos. 2:2

Due to the worship of false deities Israel was given a 'certificate of divorce' for all their religious wickedness. Jer. 3:8 For all that had happened to Israel, Judah did not learn and followed in the same manner of sin. Isaiah proclaimed the same prophetic message. Those to whom the Lord had looked upon as His wife, He had sent away, or separated Himself from them. Not because He was seeking revenge, but because of their sin and iniquity. Their own actions were the cause of the presence of the Lord

leaving them. Isa. 50:1 The Lord Jesus also referred to this action as having been caused by the hardness of their hearts. Mk. 10:4-5

The first covenant has been removed, liquidated that the second might be established. Jesus is doing the will of His Father fulfilled all the demands of the first covenant. While the righteousness of that covenant is still the righteousness of the Lord, there is now a true righteousness, a righteousness of the Spirit revealed in mankind, through Jesus Christ. Heb. 10:9-10 Now the way of righteousness is not by the works of men but by the working of the Spirit in the lives of those³ who will come to the Lord Jesus. The true people of God will have the righteousness of the Lord indelibly stamped on their hearts and saved in their minds. It is no longer to be as struggle to do the will of the Lord but to be a life of His nature living in us. Heb. 8:10

For those who will be the people of God , the Lord has prepared a new and living way. A manner of living in this world that is not of the world but is of that life eternal which is found in Christ. Heb. 10:20 Those whom He will call His people are granted entrance into the Most Holy place, through the veil, that is the Lord Jesus. Without Him there is no entrance granted. Jesus said; I am the door. There is no other way, but through the Lord Jesus Christ.

MYSTERY. 45

The high priest of the new covenant, not only has immediate access to the throne of God but occupies, shares that throne with His Father. His place and ministry are established eternally. His is an effective ministry, whereby those who appeal to Him find forgiveness and eternal life. Heb. 8:1 He ministers in the true tabernacle and not in that which is but a shadow of the true. A structure erected by the Lord which will abide forever. Heb. 8:2

The old Mosaic covenant replaced by a new and far better covenant. The old found to be faulty and needing a replacement. Heb. 8:8 The old was cancelled because it was weak, feeble and ineffective. It did not, nor could it produce the desired changes and life style demanded by the Law. It was therefore unprofitable, useless and unhelpful to those who followed it. Heb. 7:18 It brought nothing nor anyone to perfection or maturity. However the

introduction of the 'better covenant' rectified all this and produced a fellowship between the Lord and those who embraced the new covenant. Heb. 7:19

The Lord allowed the first covenant to become old or obsolete. It was no longer of any use. The Lord annulled the same causing it to become worn out and no longer of any account. It was time for it to be disposed of and for it to pass into oblivion. Heb. 8:13 For all this, what the Law could not do in introducing the righteousness of the Lord into the lives of it's adherents, faith in Christ, the new covenant does. The individual, who accepts Christ is enabled to meet the righteousness of the Law, through faith in Christ Jesus. Rom. 3:31

The Lord did not leave mankind without a way whereby they could know Him. That way is Christ Jesus. He is the end , the conclusion, the fulfillment of the struggle to embrace the letter of the Law. For all (the whosoever will, Jew and Gentile. Rom. 3:29) who will come to Him by faith, may find the righteousness of the Law lived in them through Christ. Rom. 10:4 These who are the people of God are made evident by their spiritual life. They walk in the Spirit, who then enables them to live a life of righteousness that is pleasing to the Lord. Rom. 8:4 The Spirit led life is that which makes us to be the people of the Lord.

MYSTERY. 46

All who are in Christ, are made to be one in Christ Jesus. The divisions that people put upon others are then eliminated. Even the racial division of Jew and Gentile no longer exist in Christ. Christ is all, and in all. Col. 3:11 The Gentiles are destined to be fellow heirs, of one and the same body and are to share equally in becoming partakers of the promises made in the gospel by the Lord Jesus. Eph. 3:6 In the body of Christ the Jewish practice of circumcision has no more merit that the uncircumcision of the Gentile. That which incorporates a person into the body of Christ is the spiritual birth which results in a new creature. Gal. 6:15

These are the people who were not a people, but are now the people of God. Hos. 1:10 A conglomerate of nations and languages. Peter speaks of them as a people who are the recipients of the mercy and grace of the Lord

Jesus. 1 Peter 2:10 The emphasis should be on the truth that THEY are the people whom the Lord has chosen and called to be the body, the bride of Christ in these last days. When the Lord promised Abram that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars, the sand and the dust did He limit that promise to the natural seed? Or will it be fulfilled in the spiritual seed? Is it limited to this earth or will it be accomplished in the new heavens and the new earth?

The Lord purposely created mankind, male and female, after His image and likeness. Now, He has had a Son and is preparing a Bride for His Son. The Father is the king of the kingdom of heaven who prepared a wedding for His Son. The illustration is found in Mat. 22:1-13 Many, the whole world is invited, but only a few are chosen. That does not mean a small number but not a large percentage will consecrate themselves to be the Bride. Mat. 22:14 Like the first Adam, the last Adam, the Lord Jesus will have a Bride. Is she just a center piece, something to show off as the Queen of eternity or is there a practical purpose in her existence? The first Adam was a living soul. Formed and created for this natural world. The last Adam, Christ, was made a quickening or a life giving spirit. 1 Cor. 15:45 The first, is the type, the symbol, the shadow. The Last is that which is real, it is true substance. It is eternal, everlasting, endless and is that which will grace the new earth. First the natural, then the spiritual. 1 Cor. 15:46 The natural is like a prophecy nothing but uttered words, until accomplished and fulfilled. In a mystery, Christ and His church, the Lord has set before us His great and glorious plan of the ages.

MYSTERY. 47

There is no limit set by the Lord as to the extent of His mighty works in the future. His ability and power to create will be beautifully manifest in the new heavens and the new earth. As we have noted, His words to the first Adam and Eve were 'be fruitful and multiply.' Thus indicating the Lord's desire for a constant increase of the population of the earth. They were also to have dominion over all other living creatures of the earth. Gen. 1:28

Likewise the last Adam and His Bride will be fruitful and multiply. The evidence is the woman of Revelation who is with child. Rev. 12:2 The great mystery. I speak concerning Christ and His church. Eph. 5:32 So vital and

important is this Bride to the Lord Jesus that 'He gave Himself for it.' Eph. 5:25 He will thoroughly cleans and sanctify her, with the Word. That constant washing which is so necessary for any and all who would partake in the wedding of the ages. Eph. 5:26 His Bride will be spotlessly clean. No blemish, no fault, no weakness, no contamination, nothing whatsoever that even hints of sin or unrighteousness. Eph. 5:27 He knows what He wants for a Bride and will find a people in these last days who will fill the criterion. She will be glorious when she marries Him, for her crown is like the stars, her clothing sun like and her foundation the moon. Rev. 12:1

Now, Isaiah said; hear ye the Word of the Lord. A message which is directed to those who highly evaluate and reverence the Word of the Lord. In contrast they are discounted by their brethren and cast out because of His name. It is an act of religious persecution for their statement was, 'let the Lord be glorified.' However He will appear to the joy of the persecuted and the shame of the tormenter. Isa. 66:5 A time when the voice of the Lord will be heard from the temple and the city. The birth of the man child is the beginning of the great tribulation. It is a time when the Lord will respond to all the wicked actions perpetrated against Him and His people. Isa. 66:6 The measure of punishment will be determined by the actions of the individual being judged. As there are differences in the glory bestowed upon the resurrected righteous. (1 Cor. 15:45) There will also be variations in the punishment's meted out to the ungodly. Even the very lightest (if there is such a thing) would be horrible for the judgment will be equal to the evil works of the individual. Isa. 59:18

MYSTERY. 48

Those who reverence the name of the LORD will see and participate in His glory. We find here just a glimpse of that glorious church in the end of the age which will become the Bride of Christ,. The sun like glory of the Lord will be both, upon her and in her. When she gives birth to the man child the enemy, Satan will attempt to destroy her by flooding after her to overtake, overwhelm and destroy her. Rev. 12:15-16 However the Spirit of the LORD will put him to flight and defeat his purposes. Isa. 59:19 The combination of west and sun rising, or east, conveys the thought of the victorious and all conquering LORD. There is none other like Him in all of the universe. Isa. 45:6 His name is great and to be exalted among the heathen, the Gentiles

will bring proper offerings unto the LORD. Mal. 1:11 The good news of the gospel is opened for all to hear and to receive all of its benefits.

The covenant of the Redeemer involves the anointing of the Spirit and the Word of the Lord in their mouth. These two spiritual elements are of extreme necessity to a last day revival and the perfecting of the Bride. The promise is to His seed, from henceforth and forever more. How long is for ever? According to Strong's it is eternal, perpetual and everlasting, among other meanings. The promise is to a seed, a line of descendants, a lineage, which is eternal. Isa. 59:21 Consider the promise of a continuing seed reaching even to the new earth and the new heavens. The promises of the Lord are not in vain. He will accomplish all of His eternal goals. Isa. 66:22

David was a type of the Lord Jesus. As a matter of fact it is Jesus who will occupy the throne of David. It is to be a kingdom which is established with judgment and justice, "henceforth, even for evermore." The same thought of that which is eternal is found here. Of the throne of the Lord Jesus {David} there will be no cessation. That kingdom will continuously, greatly increase. His throne is everlasting. Of it's increase there will be no end. His kingdom is destined to grow and increase in the new heavens and the new earth. The promise of the Lord to David is an enduring seed, a seed which is eternal, and a throne as the days of heaven. Seed speaks of planting, with the ultimate harvest. It is a process that is constantly repeated. Ps. 89:29 The same promise of continued increase that was given to Abraham was also given to David by the Lord. His rule would be over a people as numerous as the stars of the heavens. A promise not yet accomplished. 1 Chron. 27:23

MYSTERY. 49

Where are we? Hopefully we are becoming more and more aware of the invitation to come to Mt. Sion. Not the natural, but the spiritual. Not that which shall perish but that which is eternal. It is a living city occupied by the living God. The heavenly, embracing both that which is now, but will perish, also that which is yet to come, the new heavens. It is the true Jerusalem and should be the center of our attention. It is likewise the abode of the myriads of angelic beings created by the Lord. Heb. 12:22 It is the true center of all that is glorious and wonderful in the eternal and spiritual realm.

We need to consider here that the one hundred forty four thousand stand with the Lamb on Mt. Sion. Rev. 14:1 That focuses our attention on the importance of the true eternal, holy city. There is no other city on the face of the earth which can compare with this city of the Lord.

This Sion is noted to be the place of the general assembly, the universal gathering together of the body of Christ. They are also entitled the 'church of the first born.' Not only are they all born spiritually into the family of the Lord but they are considered to be the first born. The first born had special rights and were to receive a double portion as their inheritance. Deut. 21:17 They are a people who have had their names recorded in the Lamb's book of life from before the foundation of the world. Rev. 17:8 They have stood in the presence of the Judge of the whole earth and have been made just and righteous in His sight. They have been granted a full pardon and will never have to give an account for those things which they have confessed to Him. 1 John 1:9 They live and walk before the Lord without condemnation of any kind because they walk after the Spirit. Rom. 8:1

These who dwell in spiritual Sion are those who are living according to the promises of the Word. The term, no body is perfect, is just an escape and an excuse for our faults and failures. It is most certainly not the will of the Lord for His people. His will is to develop a church that is without spot or wrinkle. Eph. 5:27 His command to Abraham was to walk before Him in perfection. Gen. 17:1 Enoch walked with the Lord and was received up into heaven. Gen. 5:22 Of more importance than any other city, is the city of the great king, the Lord Jesus, which is that majestic heavenly Jerusalem. Too many have their sights set on the wrong city, the temporal city and not that which is everlasting.

MYSTERY. 50

In coming to mount Sion we come to the only mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. There is no other who can represent mankind before the Father but the one whose blood was shed on Calvary. Heb. 12:22 To some, it may seem narrow minded but the Word of the Lord makes it very plain that there is but one God and only one mediator between God and man and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Tim. 2:5 In life, if at all possible we like to chose the best. His mediation is the most

excellent. Excelling all others. Unique, in that it is the only one accepted before the Lord. Therefore it is the best covenant which has been founded on the better, the very best, promises. Heb. 8:6 The old dead forms have been rejected and never will be profitable for access to the Lord. Christ fulfilled the law of sacrifice for us. His sacrifice is the perfect offering for it reaches back to Adam and will be effective for the last man to repent. 1 John 2:2

The focus of the church should be on the redemption of Jew and Gentile. Not on the re-establishment of that which the Lord has already rejected. Mt. 23:38 The church is committing a gross injustice by suggesting that the Lord will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and subsequently returning to that which He has rejected. Consider His words by Isaiah, where is the house that will be build unto the Lord. Isa. 66:1 All these things are the work of His hands. The person whom He is seeking is that one who is of a broken and contrite spirit and has great respect for the Word of the Lord. Isa. 66:2 Consider carefully the attitude of the Lord concerning the restoration of animal sacrifices. Isa. 66:3 Such a thing would be a stench in the nostril's of the Lord. A return to the offering of animals would be a prime insult to the Lord Jesus and an absolute denial of His blood atonement. There is only one acceptable sacrifice. Christ Jesus was offered once for all and for eternity. Heb. 7:27

Jesus, visiting the Temple in Jerusalem declared that one greater than the Temple was in the building, referring, of course to Himself. Mt. 12:6 The greatest act of love for time and eternity is His willingness to manifest His great love by shedding His life's blood. John 15:13 The Lord Jesus is the architect and builder of a far greater and more perfect Tabernacle. He promises good and great things for the future eternity as well as for the here and now. His priesthood is the only one acceptable to His Father. Heb. 9:11

MYSTERY. 51

The Lord has established a true foundation in His Zion. Isa. 28:16 If the building is not founded on the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ it is not of His building. There is no other foundation for the authentic city of the Lord. He will not acknowledge anything which does not have the Lord Jesus

Christ as it's foundation. 1 Cor. 3:10 For certain, the spiritual, the real, the firm foundation which was laid by the Lord is the only one which is acceptable to Him. 2Tim. 2:19 It's seal is the fact that the Lord knows those who are His. He requires all who would claim to be a part of what He has done, and is doing, to depart from all iniquity.

Jesus referred back to a stone rejected by the builders of the city of Luz. Mt. 21:42 A poor choice made by man for the Lord was to make that stone the headstone of the Lord's city. Jacob found that rock and used it for a pillow. Jacob saw that stone as the basis of the stair way to heaven. His awesome dream/vision so greatly impressed him that he called it the house of God and the gate to heaven, therefore he called it Bethel (house of God.) Gen. 28:17-19 Jacob set the stone up as a pillar and anointed it. It was a type of Christ, rejected of men but chosen and anointed of the Lord.

This stone upon which the church is built is of great value in the eyes of the Father and must be to the church, especially in the end of the age. It is the stone elect, chosen by the Lord. Anything not constructed on this rock will fail badly when the storm's beat against the church. It is a stone of exquisite value to both God and man. Those placing their trust in this foundation will never be confused or put to shame. 1 Peter 2:6 Thus we see that the real, the true Sion is not after the flesh but after the Spirit of the Lord. Jesus is that living stone. Indeed disallowed by men but God's very elect. 1 Peter 2:4 His Sion is built of living stones. Stones which are quarried by His own hands. Shaped and cut to fit perfectly into the body of Christ. The true temple of the Lord. Constructed to be a spiritual house. The dwelling place of the Most High. The attention of the Lord is focused on the spiritual rather than the natural. The natural may join the spiritual by the same process as all others become a part of the body of Christ. This stone has a dual effect. To the believer the stone is of tremendous worth. To the unbeliever it is a stone causing them to stumble and fall. They are disobedient to and take offense at it's message. 1 Peter 2:7-8

MYSTERY. 52

Jesus proclaimed that His kingdom was not of this world. That eliminates anything and everything that is of the political order of this world. John 18:36 In other words, His kingdom is not earthly, carnal or worldly. The

anticipation at His first coming was a kingdom for the Jews. Acts 1:6 The kingdom of God is not physical, nor will it be. The kingdom of God is spiritual, for it is revealed within the spiritual nature of a person who has been born again. Luke 17:20-22 The kingdom is not meat and drink, the supply of the necessities and even the surplus or riches of this life. Again, it is spiritual, for its citizens must have been justified by the Lord Jesus. Living in the abundant peace and life which is found in Christ alone. A people who, to their spiritual delight and happiness, are filled with and living in the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 14:17

The kingdom of the Lord will be established on a renewed earth for the day of the Lord, the thousand year of the millennial reign of Christ. Rev. 20:6 In as much as the works of men are destroyed at the second coming of Christ and the topography of the earth is altered. Rev. 6:14 Therefore He will have made all things new for that glorious thousand years of His kingdom on earth. Rev. 21:5 The ultimate will be a new heavens and a new earth, the dwelling place of righteousness and the righteous. 2 Peter 3:13

The question now is, how and by whom will the new heavens and earth be occupied. The promise to Abraham was threefold, signifying its importance. Count the stars, count the grains of sand and also the dust of the earth, so will be the number of your descendants. Could we count the number of people of faith, from Adam down to the last man, the accumulation would end up far short of the proposed number of the promised seed. The Bride, the married woman of Revelation twelve is the key to the divine will and intention of the Lord. She is glorious. She is 'with child' and gives birth to a son. Rev. 12:1 The one hundred forty four thousand are that segment of the body of Christ which will produce that which is called firstborn. The firstborn of any creature, human or animal, Israel was to be dedicated to the Lord. They were special and would be used of the Lord as a sacrifice or would be the one making the sacrifice before the Lord. Ex. 13:2

MYSTERY. 53

A male child. One destined to a position of leadership and appointed to rule all nations. Rev. 12:5 As with many things in the eternal kingdom of the Lord, there is to be a shared rule and authority. The specifics are not spelled out for us only these are mentioned as having a position of

responsibility. The Lord Jesus is shown as being one who is to rule with a rod of iron or a shepherds staff or the scepter of a king. He is acknowledged as the Son of God. As one having an eternal throne. He is addressed as God. He is to possess a kingdom and is to reign in righteousness. Heb. 1:8 Because of His love for righteousness and His hatred of iniquity, God, His Father has anointed Him with the oil of gladness above His fellow leaders. That makes Him supreme. Heb. 1:9 He is the head, to the body, the church. He is likewise the first born from among the dead. The first resurrected to life eternal and with a glorified body. He is above all and has the preeminence over all. Col. 1:18

In all governments there is the leader, be he a president, prime minister or a king. Associated with him there will be an assortment of leaders, each with a governmental responsibility of some sort. In His message to the church at Thyatira, to those who would keep His works unto the end, Jesus included a promise to involve them in the responsibility of the management of the nations. The same term is used for them as was used for the Lord Jesus. Royalty will produce an offspring of Royalty. That which is heavenly will likewise produce offspring of the same kind and nature. The man child born of the marriage of Christ and a perfect church will bear that which is eternal. He is immediately caught up, into heaven. He will participate in guidance and spiritual leadership shepherding the nations. He too has the same terminology used in relationship to his duties as the others. He will direct or rule with a rod, or a scepter of iron. Rev. 12:5

We have an example of the dividing of the people in the instructions given Moses by Jethro. The people were divided into thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens thus easing the work load that Moses carried as he tried to lead the people. Ex. 18:21 A wise Moses gave heed to the words of his father-in-law and at his advice divided the people. Ex. 18:24 Our God is a God of great variety. Nothing is ever boring in His presence or in the things that He creates. No two individuals are the same. Not even identical twins are truly identical. Eternity and heaven will have the same divine touch and variety in all that the Lord will bring forth in the new creation.

MYSTERY. 54

Among the responsibilities and the wonderfully expressive names bestowed upon the Lord Jesus by the prophet Isaiah there are two which are of particular interest to this study. Isa. 9:6 The first is His governmental obligation. When we think of the shoulder in relationship to the Lord Jesus we think of His cross which He was compelled to bear. The foundation, the root, the beginning of the whole story of redemption begins at the cross. It is not the cross which is our salvation but it is He who was crucified on the cross that is our Savior and Redeemer. The physical cross is meaningless. There have been crosses and crucifixions without number, all without a purpose other than to rid the world of common criminals. The precious blood of the Lamb slain at Calvary is our only hope of reconciliation with the Lord. Col. 1:20

Typology comes to life in the installment of Eliakim (God sets up) in the place of Shebna as the treasurer over the king's household. Isa. 22:20-25 The Lord will clothe Eliakim with the clothing or the badge of this high office. The responsibility of the government will be his. He will be as a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Isa. 22:21 It is very apparent that he was to be given full authority by the Lord. The key to the house of David was to be laid on his shoulder. Isa. 22:22 Holding the key, he would also control the door. Surely the cross comes into view again. There is no other way, Jesus said, I am the door. John 10:9 He alone can open or close the door. He has complete control.

He shall be as a nail or a peg fastened in a sure place. One upon which all may trust and know that it will stand the test. The glory of the family will hang upon him. Isa. 22:23-24 Ultimately the peg was to be removed and all that hangs on it would fall. At Calvary, Christ was cut down or crucified. The hopes of a restored kingdom for Israel were all cut down with Him. The Law was fulfilled. Rom. 10:4 The new order was introduced. Now all enter the kingdom through the Lord Jesus. There is no other way. In His visit to the earth the full responsibility of gathering a people for His name's sake was laid upon Him. Salvation is available only through His name. Acts 4:12 Those who would try to come some other way are considered to be thieves and robbers. John 10:1 Very definitely, there will be a ruling class in eternity.

MYSTERY. 55

The second item of interest to this study is the name that is given to the Lord Jesus, where He is called The everlasting Father. Isa. 9:6 Being The everlasting Father would make Him to be the eternal Father. Not just the one who introduced eternal life to the world but one who will be a Father. Even as His Father was not a Father until the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus. So The Lord Jesus is destined to be the Father of the Man child. Is there any reason why the process used in bringing Christ into the world will not be repeated and the Man child be born of the one hundred forty four thousand virgins? They are the reproductive organ of the body of Christ. The scriptures show us that we have a body, with hands, feet, ears, eyes, nose and a head, the Lord Jesus. 1 Cor. 12:14-21 There are also parts of the body which are less honorable, weaker, uncomely, "the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty." 1 Cor 12:22-23 NIV. Modesty and decorum. AMP.

The spiritual, the eternal, the new Jerusalem is called a mother, the mother of us all. Gal. 4:26 We have a first Adam and his Eve. Therefore, we have a last Adam, Christ and His Eve, the church. We also note that Christ and His church are declared to be a Father and a Mother. Paul in speaking of the relationship between Christ and His church called it a great mystery. Eph. 5:32 The Lord desires to share His intentions by revealing His mysteries to His people. Eph. 3:3 Then there is that category of 'others,' who while seeing, in all reality do not see. They read the words but do not comprehend. Hearing, yet unable to understand what they are hearing. Luke 8:10

John the Baptist introduced himself as the friend of the Bridegroom thus making Christ the Bridegroom. From the very first of His ministry the title Bridegroom was upon Him. John 3:29 Paul, in his message to the church proclaimed the Bride to be a chaste virgin who was to be presented to Christ as His Bride. 2 Cor. 11:2 The first miracle of the Lord Jesus was when He turned water into wine at the wedding reception in Cana of Galilee. John 2:1-10 Six water pots used for purification speak to us of the six thousand years from Adam to the end of the age. Purification, cleansing from all sin and bondage's. A perfect church. The time of the marriage of Christ. The water pots filled to the brim. The Divine fullness of the Lord

inhabiting that perfect church. She is made to be like Him. She is ready.
Rev. 19:7

MYSTERY. 56

Among other things, the one hundred forty four thousand are called first fruits unto the Lord. Rev. 14:4 This classifies them as being special before the Lord. Their constant companionship and presence with Him wherever He goes elevates them to a high position before the Lord. Their designation as being first fruits indicates that they are but the beginning of the harvest. The first fruits, whether of man, beasts or crops were simply the first born or the first ripe.

Each of the three major feasts of Israel were to be celebrated with the first fruits. Not only the first but the choicest of the first fruits was brought unto the Lord. In that manner true honor and deep respect was shown toward the Lord. Num. 18:12 The first harvest of the year was barley. The food of the poor. It represents the way of salvation for it was the first fruits of Passover. It was waved before the Lord on the day after the day of Passover or on the day after the special Sabbath.. Lev. 23:10-11 The message of Passover is that of salvation by blood. Redemption by the blood of the Lamb is vital to membership in the one hundred forty four thousand,

The feast of Pentecost, representing the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It speaks of that all important experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. There were two loaves of wheat flour waved before the Lord. They were to be identical and represent Christ and His church as Spirit filled entities working as one. The church is to be to be one and the same with Him. Made of finely ground powder, which speaks of suffering. Lev. 23:17 All those in the one hundred forty four thousand will be filled with the Spirit to the same capacity as the Lord Jesus.

The feast of Tabernacles. The last of the feasts order by the Lord representing the great last day harvest. The perfect Bride of Christ is symbolized here. It is the great ingathering in the end of the age. A glorious time of the working of the Spirit such as never seen before. A church of perfection walking in the fullness of the might and power of the Lord. Ex.

23:16 This is a church body which is living in all that is in Christ Jesus. She has reached the completeness of the Divine nature which is found in the Lord Jesus. These are a people who will be, in the fullest sense of the word, totally like Christ. 2 Cor. 3:18

MYSTERY. 57 (Note: This is in actuality **No. 58** in the series. See next entry.)

The enemy, trying to kill off of those who are destined to be leaders in the plan and purpose of the Lord. The enemy of mankind, the devil, cannot stand the increase of the family of the Lord. The Israelites in Egypt were increasing by leaps and bounds. The scripture tells us that they “were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.” Ex. 1:15 The enemy cannot stand his opposition to increase even moderately, let alone in great abundance. Therefore they afflicted them greatly. Ex. 1:9-11 However, the greater the persecution, the greater their increase in numbers. Ex. 1:12 Whether in the time of Moses or today, afflict the people of the Lord and they grow in numbers. Ex. 1:12

All Israelite baby boys to be killed at birth. Shiphah (brightness or garnished) and Puah (to glitter, brilliancy) the Hebrew midwives were instructed to dispose of all baby boys. They were God fearing women, just look at their names, they were enlightened women and were not about to commit the genocide required of them. If God be for us, who can be against us! They obeyed the Lord and not Pharaoh. The Lord then caused him to build them houses because they feared the Lord and not the King. Ex. 1:20-21 Be patient, the Lord reverses the evil that men attempt to do and makes all things to work together for good. The male boys were to be cast into the river that they might be drowned. That very river of death carried Moses to his destiny, life and leadership in Israel. His own mother raised him in Pharaoh’s palace as Pharaoh’s son. The Lord has a sense of humor. What better place to hide the future leader but under the nose of the one who sought to kill him. Ex. 2

The Lord is not in a hurry. He waited until Moses was forty years old before He called him. He left him herding sheep for another forty years and then brought him into leadership. The Lord is never late nor does He act too soon. Have patience, the Lord is still working and will accomplish All that

He has purposed. He has a plan and will follow that plan to the finish. The Lord took Moses from the luxury of the Egyptian palace to the tent of a herder. From dinners of state to the food of a Bedouin. From the pride of fame and fortune to the humble state of following the flocks of his father in law. The Lord knows exactly how to direct our lives. If your vision has not yet been fulfilled, wait on the Lord and He will bring it to pass.

*Hi. Sorry, messed up sequence. **This is the authentic 57.***

Things are a bit upset around here. My sweetheart of 67 years fell in church Sunday and injured her back. No broken bones but she is in extreme pain. Deeply appreciate your prayers.

MYSTERY. 57

The Sion of the Lord is not difficult to identify. The Word makes it extremely evident that Sion is a spiritual entity built and founded upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. The only possible foundation upon which any may build spiritually is the Rock. That which the Father has chosen and has called Jesus His elect. A precious, greatly honored and of great value chief corner stone. In its position in the corner it is the meeting place of Jew and Gentile. Both are to be founded on Him and in Him. There is no other foundation. Those who believe have seen the great eternal value in the Lord Jesus Christ and have believed on Him. The disobedient have found the same stone to be a source of stumbling and view it as offensive. 1 Peter 2:6

With a division having been made, not on a basis of race but of faith, belief in the Lord Jesus, who exactly are His people? Who is Zion? Are they of the flesh or of the Spirit? Can any be in the true Zion without having been purchased by the blood of the Lamb. He paid a tremendous price for His church. Acts 20:28 He is seen on the mountain peak of Zion with the redeemed one hundred forty four thousand. Rev. 14:1

Isaiah declared that Zion would be delivered, of a man child, before she travailed. Isa. 66:7 The church, the New Testament Bride, the true Zion will be delivered of a man child in the end of the age. Rev. 12:2 This is the event which becomes a trigger for the tribulation period. Isaiah looked and wonder at such an amazing happening. However, the Lord does wonderful

works which are astonishing to the unsaved at times to the saved. The virgin birth of Christ is still a subject of controversy. Will the Lord do it again? Isa. 66:8 In one day, a whole nation born. Zion will travail with child to produce her children. Note, the term is children. In the Hebrew children is translated from ben, that is a son (as the builder of the family name). Strong's Dict. The Lord will thoroughly accomplish His holy purposes in and through His church. Isa. 66:9 Therefore let all rejoice with the Jerusalem which is above which is the mother of us all. Isa. 66:10 Quite evident that the Lord will work a very special work in these last days. Whole it is not apparent to the natural man all that which the Lord will accomplish, the spiritual receive the revelation of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:9-10 To often we draw attention to the ninth verse without considering the tenth verse, which shows us that the Lord desires to make His will known.

MYSTERY. 59

If the devil tried to induce Pharaoh to kill Moses, who was to lead Israel. How much more would he try to stop the ministry of the Lord Jesus. It is small wonder that Herod the Great would attempt to destroy the young child Jesus. He caused all the young children who had been born in Bethlehem and environs, two years old and younger to be killed. Mt. 2:16

Had the wise men who came seeking the Lord Jesus, and who enquired of Herod, been magicians, necromancers, magi or any other person who practiced black magic, the whole story would have been different. The men who came were men of wisdom. They followed His star. They came from the east, the sun rising. Even Balaam, the foolish, false prophet was used to proclaim the "Star out of Jacob." Num. 24:17 It was not a conjunction of planets or stars giving them direction, but it was His Star. Mt. 2:2 Had these men of wisdom been what some make them to be, being from Satan's camp, they would have conspired to kill the Child Jesus. Instead they came to worship Him and brought gifts for Him. They were also wise enough to be obedient to the Lord. They received the warning and went home another way. Mt. 2:12

The enmity of the dragon who stands before the woman of Revelation twelve in it's self is evidence of the importance of the woman and the child she bears. The dragon, the devil, was intent on not allowing the man child

to exist beyond birth. Rev. 12:4e The very fact that he is born to rule shows how important he is to the eternal plans of the Lord. The question then is over whom will he have the rule. If the Lord prepares the office, never fear He will prepare the citizens to be ruled. For instance, From Paul's words, there will be heathen, who by nature kept the precepts of the law without having the law. By nature, involving their spirit, and mind fulfilled the righteous demands of the law and will be in heaven eternally. Rom. 2:14-15 His significance is emphasized by the words, 'all nations.' He will rule as a 'shepherd' with a rod or scepter. He will have absolute authority over the nations. Rev. 12:5 At the time of his birth, he is to be caught up to the throne of the Lord. Satan is thwarted in this attempt to destroy those who are destined to be leaders in eternity. This is not Mary and Christ. The book of Revelation is not a book of history, the past. It is a prophecy of the future and of those things yet to come. Jesus was not confronted by the dragon at His birth nor was he immediately caught up to heaven.

MYSTERY. 60

Thy kingdom come. The kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is a kingdom into which every believer has already passed and has taken up residence in that glorious kingdom. We have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and are now translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. Col. 1:13 All the privileges, the benefits of that kingdom are now available to it's citizens. It is an amazing kingdom for it exists now in heaven, while at the same time it is found in the hearts of His people. In the future it will be established for a thousand years here on earth. It is likewise an eternal, never ending kingdom. It is the heart and soul of the new heavens and the new earth. The dwelling place of righteousness. 2 Peter 3:13

According to the statement of the Lord through His prophet Isaiah, 'of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.' Isa. 9:7 Subtly the Lord reveals in His Word His plans for that which is yet to come. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and the government of His peace is one which will grow and increase. Remember the Lord's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that their descendents would be as numerous as the stars of the heavens, the sand on the seashore and the dust of the

earth. After the flood He instructed Noah and his sons to be fruitful and multiply. Gen. 9:1

The intent of the Lord in the creation of this earth was that it be inhabited. Isa. 45:18 Surely, His reason for creating the new earth is that the it too might be occupied with His new, heavenly, eternal race of people. All of that which is in existence today and is a part of creation He has brought into existence. Whether it be things heavenly or earthly, The tangible and the intangible, all past authorities and the total of governmental leadership in the future. All were created by Him and for Him. Col. 1:16 The total existence of the whole of creation is for His Divine good pleasure. The ultimate goal is that new, eternal heavens and earth. The Lord called Abram of old that He might form a people unto Himself who would be grateful for His manifold blessings evidenced in their lives, but they failed Him. Isa. 43:21 Therefore, He will have a new people, a new heavens and a new earth filled with a people who are totally dedicated to worshipping Him in spirit and truth.

MYSTERY. 61

Eternal, everlasting life is to be found in the Father and the Son, as is natural life. The Lord is the Lord of life. Nothing can live without Him. All life proceeds from Him. "In Him we live, move and have our being or existence." Acts 17:28 So life and the Lord are synonymous. As light is necessary for life and all light emanates from Him, both natural and spiritual, life is entirely reliant upon Him. He is the only Source of light and life. John 1:4

It is well recorded that the Lord has given us eternal life and that, that life is found in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:11 Eternal life is assured when one knows the Lord Jesus as their personal savior. Having been born of the incorruptible seed, the Word of the Lord. John 17:3 Those who possess the Son, have inherited eternal life. Those who do not have Him do not have life everlasting. 1 John 5:12 Eternal things are of far greater importance than the temporal things of this life. The natural man spends his whole life gathering things unto himself. Then at death leaves them all. The spiritual man, in this life is constantly storing up treasures in heaven all of which are everlasting. Mt. 6:20

The majestic, glorious throne of the Father and the Lamb, the Lord Jesus is the only source of the water of life. Flowing from that throne is a river called the river of life. There is no river on earth to which it may be compared for it is a spiritual river. While the word pure has been added by the translators, it is certainly an appropriate description. It is a river that is as clear as crystal. That too would attest to its purity. This river is very special, it is transparent, it is consistent in its flow. It is not like the rivers of this earth it is eternal and will never dry up. It is glistening with the light of the glory of the Lord. Rev. 22:1 When we drink from the fountain of life do we physically ingest water or is what we receive of the Lord spiritual? Spiritual, of course. The water from the fountain of life is no different than the river of life flowing from the throne of the Lord. Rev. 22:17 We do not drink of these waters in the usual, physical fashion. These waters are received through the spirit nature of those who are truly seeking the Lord. Natural water is H₂O, three gases that when combined make, one element, that is water. What a beautiful type of the Godhead. Triune in being. That great river is the very essence of the Lord flowing out to and through the redeemed in the kingdom of the Lord.

MYSTERY. 62

The tree of life. First found in the garden of Eden, in the midst of the trees of the garden along with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:9 In disobedience Adam and Eve partook of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thus became sinners and had the sentence of death invoked upon them. Gen. 3:22 Had they partaken of the tree of life they would have possessed eternal life. That tree is more than just a tree bearing natural fruit. Obviously the tree of life represents the Lord Jesus. He is always the one in the midst, the central one. He is the only way, the only truth and the only source of life eternal. John 14:6 Jesus came, speaking the Words of the Father. Words which are spirit and life and result in eternal life when obeyed. John 6:63

Every word spoken by the Lord Jesus was anointed with the power and might of the Spirit of the Lord. Out of His mouth, the righteous One, flowed a well of life giving waters. Prov. 10:11 The Lord is not obligated to answer every prayer immediately. He can say no, or not yet, thus deferring the

answer. The result of a delayed answer may cause consternation and a feeling of emptiness. However when the answer comes and the desire is fulfilled it becomes a tree of life. Prov. 13:12 Wisdom and understanding likewise are a tree of life, those who embrace wisdom and understanding are filled with happiness. Prov. 3:18 The righteous bear fruit and the result is a tree of life. Prov. 11:30 The wholesome tongue is a healing tongue. It speaks words of peace and virtue. Words of kindness and reconciliation are articulated by it. Prov. 15:4 What has more of a healing, calming effect than the Word of the Lord.

The tree of life is a most unique tree. It was in the garden of Eden and now in the book of Revelation we find it to be in the midst of paradise. Existing, from the creation of that which is natural to that which is everlasting and eternal. The promise was made to the church at Ephesus that the membership of the churches (all inclusive), as over comers that they would be privileged to partake of the tree of life. It's location was in a prominent place in the Paradise, or the garden of the Lord. Rev. 2:7 Not only is the tree used as a symbol of the Lord Jesus, but that which is joined to Him, His Bride is to be seen as a vital part of the tree of life. Jesus allude to this when He said that, He was the vine and the churches are the branches. The branches are where we find the leaves and the fruit. John 15:5

MYSTERY. 63

Each part of every tree is of importance to the whole. While each has a separate purpose to fulfill, there must be a coordination, a working together for the welfare of the tree. The roots gather moisture and nutrients from the soil. They also acts as a place of storage during the winter months when they have no leaves. Roots are the strength and stability of the tree during storms. The Lord Jesus is that root out of Jesse, His descent as to the natural lineage. Isa. 11:10

The branches are those who are in Christ. The natural seed, His own race are not joined because of race. They must be born of the Word and the Spirit in order to be a part of this glorious tree. As we have already noted, Jesus is the root, the trunk of the vine while those who are His are the branches which grow leaves and bare fruit. John 15:5 The branches must have the same spirit of holiness that is found in the vine. He was without

sin and will influence the whole of the vine to be like Him, in all holiness. Rom. 11:16 Through the grace of the Lord Jesus, that which was wild and afar off has been grafted into the tree and has become a vital part of it. That which had been apart and separated from the true olive tree is now made to be one with it. Now they have the stability of the root and are feeding of it. Rom. 11:17 That which had been far off now made nigh and is privileged to partake of the goodness and anointing of the roots of the true olive tree, the Lord Jesus.

The leaves for the healing of the nation. That nation which honors the living Lord will be blest of the Lord. As a nation we have forgotten God and oppose His honor in many ways. Nevertheless, as long as there are Bible believing Christians who honor the Lord with their whole being the Lord will be with that nation. As long as there is salt, the redeemed, in the country the hand of the Lord will be evidenced. The leaves are for the healing of the nations. Sodom and Gomorrah would not have been destroyed if there had been sufficient righteous dwelling in them. Abraham eventually had to give up interceding for them knowing that the Lord knew exactly who the righteous were, and them He delivered. He had bargained down to finding ten righteous people and the Lord said; "I will not destroy it for ten's sake." Gen. 18:32 Full judgment of a wicked earth will not begin until the Lord has taken the Bride into the wilderness by eagles wings. Rev. 12:6, 14 The one (the Holy Spirit) who holds back the powers of wickedness will continue to resist Satanic powers until He is removed. 2 Thess. 2:7 NIV The leaves bless the nations.

MYSTERY. 64

Ezekiel had a vision of the same river flowing from the throne of the Lord. He saw the waters flowing toward the desert. Take particular note that the word 'waters' is in the plural signifying the double portion. A flow of the Spirit of the Lord in mighty power, in it's fullness. Like the tabernacle and the temple the door of the house in his vision faced toward the east. Jesus is the door. John 10:9 The coming of the Lord Jesus will be from the east unto the west, thus the importance of the east. Mt. 24:7 These waters speak of a mighty move of the Lord which will preceded the tribulation period and usher in the final events of the age as recorded in the book of Revelation. Eze. 47:1

The man with the measuring line in His hand. Eze. 47:3 There is but one measure by whom all are to be measured, and that is Jesus. The Son of God, the son of man. We have in common with Him the fact that we are born of mankind. Also, we have the privilege to be born of God, by the Word and by the Spirit. The destiny of the church is to bear His likeness in all things spiritual. The Bride of Christ will be in absolute harmony, absolute unity, in doctrine and in their comprehension of the Lord Jesus. They will have reached full maturity. The perfections of Christ will be manifest in the Bride. They are like Him, in every spiritual aspect. They are of the same stature as the Lord Jesus. Spiritually, they have reached the high standards of the Lord and have achieved equality with the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 4:13 He will not marry below His standard. After all, He is the King of kings. That is why He is elevating His own to be kings unto the Lord. Rev. 1:6

The four measurements of the depth of the waters begin with Abraham, the father of all who believe and reaches down to the end of the age, culminating in the second coming of the Lord Jesus. The constantly increasing of the depths of the waters are indicative of the flow of the Spirit and knowledge of the Lord in the hearts and lives of those who follow the Lord. Eventually, the waters reach such magnitude that the river can no longer be crossed by wading. Now we come to a broad and deep river filled to overflowing with the waters of life. It is thrilling to think of a flow of the Spirit in such grand and great scale. Eze. 47:3-5 Impassable waters lead us to just one conclusion and that is, that this spiritual revival and refreshing will be absolutely world wide in it's fulfillment.

MYSTERY. 65

These are amazing waters and no wonder for they symbolize the waters of life. They flow through a dry place bringing life to the whole area. They enter into the sea, a type of the masses of humanity. Immediately they effect a change in the sea by bringing healing. Eze. 47:8 While today's church has increased numerically, there is a tremendous spiritual dearth. Manifestations that were motivated by the Spirit are now mostly spiritual aerobics. Activities which require little or no anointing of the Spirit and benefit the physical, the emotional man more than the spiritual man. There

is a great change in store for the church and that very soon. A general spiritual awakening is on its way.

Wherever the water flows there is an abundance of life. We have seen documentaries on the deserts of the world on TV. When it rained and water flowed, small animals such as frogs came to life and beautiful flowers bloomed which had been dormant for long periods of time, even years. It is like a resurrection, that which was not visible suddenly becomes apparent. The Lord has left us many examples in nature which manifest His works. Eze. 47:9 All waters mingled with these water of life experience a change and are made useable or healed. The demonstration of the Spirit will always be accompanied by signs and miracles of healing.

A great abundance of fish. It was significant that Jesus called 'Simon, called Peter and Andrew his brother' who were fisher men by trade. In following Him, they became fishers of men. Mt. 4:18-19 Thus, these living waters result in a great abundance of fish. The church of the last days will know an increase of the power of the Spirit and a catch of fish as no other generation has known. Every kind (nationality) of fish will be caught in exceedingly great numbers. En-gedi, the fountain of the kid or goat. Representative of the Lord Jesus and His sacrifice on Calvary. A fountain opened in the house of David. A place where all may come and find cleansing from sin and iniquity. Zec. 13:1 En-eglaim, the fountain of two calves. Representative of Christ and His church. Both are identified with fountains, a source of the living waters. The church in the end of the age, the time of the double portion, will know revival as no other time of the church age. It is the time of that short or quick work mentioned by the Apostle Paul. Rom. 9:28

MYSTERY. 65 (more than probably **No. 66**)

Ezekiel's vision of the trees portrayed a tree lined river bank. The Hebrew word, bank, is of interest for it is translated both lip and language in the scriptures. Isaiah proclaimed that the lord would use foreign lips and strange tongues to speak to His people. Isa. 28:11 NIV On the day of Pentecost they were , all filled, with the Spirit and spoke in tongues, a tongue spoken by the inspiration of the Spirit. Acts 2:4 To seal the veracity of the prophetic word, there were gathered at Jerusalem, a great variety of

men. They were celebrating the feast of Pentecost, and were from a mixture of nations and tongues. These men were amazed for they saw that they were Galileans, yet they heard them declare the wondrous works of the Lord, in their own language. Acts 2:7-12 The Lord has used the Pentecostal, Charismatic move of the Spirit to spread the message of the gospel around the world and it continues to grow.

On both sides of the river a multitude of trees in the process of growth. Due to the length of the river there would have been a multitude of trees lined up on either side of the river. Like in the garden of Eden, these trees will be pleasant to look upon and filled with fruit. Gen. 2:9 As these trees were noted for their fruitfulness so the tree of life has a reputation of increase and fruit bearing. The person with a high standard of Christ like life is considered to be as a tree of life, with the same attributes. Ps. 1:1-3 The individual who places unfailing trust in the Lord is likened to the tree of life. It is a tree that maintains it's beauty and life in spite of drought and heat. It is gloriously and continuously fruitful. Jer. 17:7-8 One thing is very prominent concerning the tree and that is it's continuous fruitfulness. Its fruit will not be consumed, consummated or cease. Every month it will bear fruit. Eze. 47:12

John' s tree of life has the same qualities. It will bear twelve manner of fruit every month. Rev. 22:2 There are twelve months in a year so we are looking at twelve times twelve or one hundred forty four a number which is not without great significance. It is a shadow of the purpose of the one hundred forty four thousand. They are the fruit bearing member of the body of Christ. The fruit trees all contain their seed of reproduction within themselves, or in their fruit. Gen. 1:11 Life, God's life is eternal, everlasting. The tree like all trees is there to produce life, eternal, everlasting life. The very nature of the Lord is that which brings forth life, eternal and everlasting.

MYSTERY. 66 (more than likely **No. 67**)

“It shall bring forth new fruit.” Eze. 47:12 The idea of ‘new fruit’ is a key to the understanding the tree of life. The Hebrew word, bakar is used here. Strong said that it is “a primitive root , properly, to burst the womb, i.e. (causatively) bear or make early fruit (of a woman or tree) also (as

denominative from OT:1061 to give the birth right. KJV - make firstborn, be firstling, bring forth first child (new fruit).”

The purposes of the Lord are not made known to the natural man. A parable to them would be but a story or maybe even a fairy tale. The same parable, when spoken by the Lord Jesus is freighted with meaning and spiritual implications. Paul in his day was well aware that the full revelation of all that the Lord would accomplish for those whom He loved was not yet known. The natural mind cannot receive and comprehend the things of the Lord. 1 Cor. 2:9 This is frequently quoted as an excuse for our inability to understand all the ways of the Lord and the precious things of the future heavenly, spiritual life prepared for those who love Him. But, God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:10 We are not to be in darkness or ignorance as to the intentions of the Lord which will be manifest in His Bride.

Rejoice with Jerusalem. Isa. 66:10 That is, Jerusalem which is above and is the mother of us all. Gal. 4:26 The emphases of the Lord in the end of the age is on that which is Spiritual and not that which is natural or after the manner of this world. The natural man does not have the spiritual capability to discern the things of the Lord. To him they are but foolishness therefore he cannot comprehend the objective of the Lord for the end of the age. 1 Cor. 2:14 When that which is the beginning, the foundation of the doctrine of Christ, that is the cross, is a stumbling block to the Jew (the religious) and foolishness to the Greek (the learned), it is small wonder that the deeper things of Christ are rejected. 1 Cor. 1:23 The declaration of Jesus as the Christ of God will lead to the revelation of the mystery which was held in secret from the foundation of the world. Rom. 16:25 In the gospel dispensation, all the mysteries of the Lord are made known through His Word and by the enlightenment of the Spirit. He has promised that all of His plans will be made known before He acts. He said that He would reveal them to His prophets. How about the book of Revelation for a good start. It is His Revelation to the church, both then and now. Rev. 1:1

MYSTERY. 67 (more than likely **No. 68**)

Who has ever heard of such circumstance? To whom have they been related? Has anyone ever seen such happenings? The Lord is doing a new

thing. Before travail and pain there is the deliverance of a man child. Isa. 66:8 It is the Bride, while yet on this earth who will give birth to the man child. Rev. 12:2 Thus it is an event which is prior to the rapture and the escape of the Bride into the wilderness. The man child is immediately caught up into heaven, to the Lord. Rev. 12:5 Like Moses and Christ, the man child of Revelation will be born to rule, to be a shepherd. He will be responsible for the guidance of the new nation, which will inhabit eternity.

“Behold, I make all things new.” Rev. 21:5a How far do you suppose the Lord might go with this statement? One thing that we must know about the Lord and that is that He never does things haphazardly. With Him, all, is all inclusive. The whole of a thing. Therefore we are scheduled to enter into a new heavens and a new earth, neither of which will resemble the old. 2 Peter 3:13 Entrance into that future creation may only be gained by embracing the new covenant instituted and sealed by the blood of Christ. Heb. 12:24 It will be occupied by those who have been redeemed by that precious blood and to whom all things have become new. 2 Cor. 5:17

Shall a nation be born at once? We are looking for a nation, a group of people, however many or few. Immediately, with a twinge of travail she brought forth her children. Children is in the plural indicating instantaneous multiple births. That would be necessary for there to be sufficient to be called a nation. The one hundred forty four thousand are the womb of the Bride. Remember, many members of the body, it must be a complete body, lacking no organs whatsoever. The man child, being of equal number would qualify as a new nation. Isa. 66:8 Astonishing, amazing, but then is not our God just like that. With Him there are no impossibilities. The word children, in the Hebrew according to Strong, is ben or a son (as the builder of the family name), in the widest sense (of literal and figurative relationship, including grandson, subject, nation, quality or condition. All of which are most certainly applicable to the man child of Revelation twelve, whose importance is emphasized by the fact that at birth he is instantly caught up to the Lord and to His throne.

MYSTERY. 68 (more than likely **No. 69**)

Shall a nation be born at once? Isa. 66:8d In the scriptures we have a very definite answer to the question. Of course it is in the affirmative. The Lord

will have a new people born to inhabit the new heavens and the new earth. Rev. 12:5 The man child is the first fruits of that which is born of an eternal, heavenly family. The word 'nation' in Hebrew is, goway, and bears the connotation of a heathen or Gentile nation, not Israel after the flesh but a real people of God, a spiritual people, born of Christ and the Bride.

The desire of the Lord is to establish a people for Himself who are fully like Him. A people to whom He may reveal Himself as their Savior, Redeemer and the Mighty one, the one who has begotten them for His own purpose and glory. Their land will be a land of peace and quietness. Never will it be disturbed by any thing which is raucous ungodly or unrighteous. No destruction will ever take place there. No violence to be exhibited in that perfect new heavens and new earth. No more rebellious spirits to be dealt with. A city whose walls are Salvation and whose gates are Praise unto Him forever. Isa. 60:17-18

A glimpse into some of the differences between this world and that which is to come. It is the land of everlasting light. The current celestial lighting system will no longer be evident. Continuous, everlasting light and glory will prevail for the Lord will be that blessed light. Isa. 60:19-20 It is not easy to visualize the conditions which will exist in the new heavens and the new earth but we may rest assured that it will be vastly different from that which exists now. No night, no darkness physically or spiritually. Never tired, therefore no need of rest. There is no end to the vast number of differences. The Lord God and the Lamb are the only light to shine there. That glory and marvelous light create the atmosphere of the New Jerusalem. Its occupants will live with the constant flow of the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of life and the glory of His presence upon them. Rev. 21:23, 22:5 It is a place of perfect peace and harmony. Without sickness, disease or any of the imperfections which are common to humans. No more tears. No one will ever die. No sorrow. No pain. A land without sin, no disagreements, nor arguments. No crying. All these former things will have passed away. They cannot exist in the light and glory of the Lord. Rev. 21:4-5

MYSTERY. 69 (more than likely No. 70)

The people of righteousness. The living, speaks of the saved, the redeemed. A condition that may only be found amongst a spiritual people. They are the inhabitants of the Zion and the new Jerusalem. They are there because their names have been recorded in the Lamb's book of life. A righteous, holy, pure hearted people of the Lord. A tested people, those who have been purified by the spirit of justice and the cleansing of fire. The result of revival and the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit. Again, all those in the Bride of Christ must reach the same measure of righteousness as the Lord Jesus, else, they will not be in that Bride. Isa. 4:3-4

This portion of Isaiah's prophecy illustrates the Bride in the wilderness after she has given birth to the man child and has been transported by eagle wing power into that marvelous place prepared by the Lord. Rev. 12:6, 14 The place which the Lord will prepare is indeed in the wilderness, a desert. However the dwelling place of the bride is just the opposite. It is like the garden of Eden. A place which the Lord promises to be, His garden, meaning the place of His comfort and rest. It will be filled with the songs of the Lord and anthems of praise and worship. Heaven on earth.

When the tribes of Israel were in the desert Pharaoh was hot on their trail. He knew exactly where they were at all times but could not touch them because of the pillar of fire and the cloud which stood between them. There is no way that the Bride in the wilderness is able to be completely hidden. With all the modern electronic cameras (and who knows what is coming) there is no place to hide. Never mind, the camp of the Bride is untouchable. Neither the antichrist nor his armies will be able to reach them in any manner. The same glory cloud and fire that was with Israel will be with the Bride. A presence of the Lord which no one can penetrate. They are the tabernacle of the glorious presence of the Lord. In all of His completeness He is with them. They are an extremely precious commodity in His sight. Nothing will be able to disturb them or cause any consternation whatsoever. While the world around them is in chaos, they are resting in perfect peace and enjoying the glorious presence of their Bridegroom in the best resort that has ever been prepared and it is exclusively theirs. During the three and one half year tribulation, nothing whatsoever will disrupt their perfect tranquility. Isa. 4:5-6

MYSTERY. 70 (more than likely **No. 71**)

The tree of life will occupy a prominent place in the eternal kingdom of the Lord. The Lord is the essence of life, He is its only source, all life emanates from Him. Life, in Him, is eternal, everlasting, without a boundary or cessation. His life is ever fruitful and productive. Rev. 22:4 The Lord Jesus is that life, and it is revealed and manifest in those who follow Him. He is the light of life, the light of heaven, the eternal light of the New Jerusalem. John 1:4, Rev. 21:23 Isaiah prophesied of a people who would be favored by the shining of that eternal being, the LORD, Jehovah. Isa. 60:19-20 Life is light and light is life, one without the other cannot exist. Both, working together are essential to all that the Lord will accomplish.

His righteous people. Isa. 60:21 This is the aim, the goal of the Lord. He is determined to have a people who are altogether righteous. Their inheritance is assured and is eternal. They are the planting of the Lord. The Father is the husbandman or the vine dresser. He has planted His vine in this earth, the Lord Jesus being the true vine. There is no other vine like the vine which He has planted. John 15:1 The branches, because they are joined perfectly with the root have the same nature, the same personality. The root, the Lord Jesus, is holy, therefore the branches, the Bride must have the identical character and holiness. Inferior, sinful branches will but wither on the vine and remain fruitless. Rom. 11:16b

The branches which are one with the vine will bear abundant fruit. Under the inspiration of the anointing of the Spirit, Isaiah prophesied of the coming ministry of the Lord Jesus. His accomplishments in His people will consummate in the planting of trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that He might be glorified. Isa. 61:1-3 As the Lord God planted the garden of Eden with innumerable plants and trees, then Adam and Eve, so the new heavens and the new earth must also be planted with trees of righteousness or with the tree of Life for the righteous will inherit eternal life. The righteousness of the grace of the Lord will sanctify the spirit nature of mankind, granting them the privilege of inheriting life everlasting. Rom. 5:21 In the song of Moses he proclaimed the planting of the Lord to be in the mountain of His inheritance, the dwelling place of the Lord which He has prepared for His abiding place. His sanctuary which He has developed.

Ex. 15:17 We readily understand the importance of this prophecy when we compare it with the words of Paul. Ye are the Temple. 1 Cor. 3:16

MYSTERY. 71 (more than likely **No. 72**)

Time is in the hands of the Lord. He has established the dispensations of time and predetermined the time of the end. It is all in His hands. Nothing that man can do will at all hinder His schedule. He will gather His own unto Himself, "in the fullness of times". Eph. 1:10 That day has been set from eternity and is known only by the Father. Mt. 24:36 Each event leading up to the end is set in place and their sequence of fulfillment is in perfect order.

The birth of the man child is a high point, a stellar event on the calendar of the Lord. They are the first born. The result of the double portion. The ultimate of the seed promised to Abraham. Born to a Spiritual, Heavenly Bridegroom and Bride, Christ and His church. Eph. 5:32 She is a glorious church. Eph. 5:27 The parents of the man child are pure, righteous and holy. There is no spot or blemish to be found in them. Their marriage is fruitful. If not, why get married?

The new heavens and the new earth need to be planted just as the first had wonderfully and beautifully been furnished. Therefore the promise that a little one will become a thousand will be accomplished in the thousand year reign of Christ and His church on this earth. Rev. 5:10 The tree of life bore twelve manner of fruit twelve times a year, which had the seed of propagation within each fruit. This presents the likelihood of fruit being born. With the great possibility of the little one being replicated. The statement of Isaiah is positive, 'shall become a thousand.' A little one to increase in stature and become a mighty nation. Isa. 60:22 The Lord will hasten it in His time. Strong translated the word chuwsh as meaning, to hurry, figuratively, to be eager with excitement or enjoyment. An emotion which is very understandable under the circumstances. To see a goal fulfilled is as source of joy and enjoyment.

MYSTERY. 72 (more than likely **No. 73**)

Heavenly, eternal things are often portrayed in this world by that which is a type, and not the real, the everlasting. The tabernacle of Moses was but a

replica of that which the Lord revealed to him on mount Sinai. It was but a shadow, an imitation of that which is heavenly. Moses was carefully and fully warned of the Lord that he was to duplicate the tabernacle exactly like that which had been showed him. Heb. 8:5 Not only was the Spirit of the Lord upon Moses but that same Spirit was communicated to all those who worked on the preparation of its materials and its construction.

To reconstruct a tabernacle or a temple and restore the religious practices conducted by those who ministered in them, is but building shadows. We know shadows have no substance. The object which casts the shadow is the real thing, and is much more desirable. Is God into building shadows? The Law itself, was but a shadow of good things to come. It but foreshadowed the coming and sacrifice of the Lamb of God as the only atonement. The Law has been disannulled, set aside for it was weak and did not profit anyone. Heb. 7:18 Were it not for the redemptive blood of Christ no one who was under the Law would gain entrance into life eternal. The blood of Christ is the only redemptive force acceptable to God. The transgressions of the first covenant may only be pardoned by the true sacrifice, the real thing, the true substance and not the shadow. Heb. 9:15 Rom. 3:23 To try to reinstate the rituals of animal sacrifice as practiced under the Law is blasphemous and a direct insult to the Lord Jesus. Look to the real and not the shadow. Isa. 66:3

Mount Sion/Zion is the mountain peak of the Lord Jesus. He will occupy the most preeminent place in the eternal, heavenly, the everlasting kingdom of God. It is the peak of holiness and God has placed His everlasting King, the Lord Jesus upon it. High and lifted up. Ps. 2:6 Therefore we come to the real mount Sion. The living city of the living Lord. The place and source of eternal life. Coming to the Jerusalem which is heavenly. Heb. 12:22 To that which is real, which actually cannot cast a shadow, for it is a city filled to its fullness with the glory of the Lord. The Lamb is the light of it. John saw that glorious city of light. Rev. 21:11, 23 The true Zion of the Lord is that which is eternal and spiritual. It is not temporal. It is not just a shadow, which will all too quickly cease to exist. It is reality, the authentic and the everlasting Zion of the Lord.

MYSTERY. 73 (more than likely No. 74)

With the knowledge that the New Testament church has been called both Mount Zion Heb. 12:22 and Jerusalem Gal. 4:26. We take the liberty to apply some Old Testament prophecies, where applicable, to be related to the New Testament people of God. Noting also, that there those who were born of the flesh and those born of the Spirit. Galatians 4:22-31 This will show us the difference and identify which are of the flesh and which are of the Spirit.

Most assuredly, the promises of the Word are going to be applied to the Spiritual people. The spiritual people inherit the promises of the Lord, by grace and not by race. The Lord will arise, stir Himself up and perform the prophetic utterances of His Word pertaining to the church in the end of the age. He will manifest His mercy and His grace in the life's of those who seek Him and love Him. There is that set time, predetermined by the Lord, when He has promised to show His abundant favor to His beloved. The church loves Him today as one who benefits them in many ways. The current rage among Christians being that of prosperity. The day will come when the church will love Him as a Bridegroom, and oh, what a love story that will be. Ps. 102:13

The Lord is a wise master builder and will manifest His glory and power in His church in these last days. He will bring the church to perfection. Eph. 4:13 Eph. 5:27 The city with foundations which are permanent, is that city whose builder and maker is the Lord. The city which was the destiny of Abraham. Heb. 11:10 That city is the New Jerusalem, not the old. The one who will bring the Bride into existence is called her Maker, He has brought her into being for she must be born of His Spirit. He has filled her with the Spirit. He has washed her in His Word. He has clothed her with robes of righteousness. Every spiritual benefit and power available, He has delegated to her in preparing her for the marriage. Not only is He her maker but He is also her husband. Isa. 54:5 The pleasure and enjoyment of the Lord is in benefiting those who are His. His promise is that He will withhold no good thing from those who walk in the right manner and on the right paths. Moreover He will beautify the meek with His salvation. Ps. 84:11 The heart which is committed to Him is a thing of beauty, to Him. The beauty seen in the Bride will cause Him to desire her. The relationship between

Christ and His church is that of real, sanctified, true love. The love story of the ages. Ps. 45:11

MYSTERY. 74 (more than likely **No. 75**)

The Holy People. The truth that the Lord will have a very special people in the end of the age is scattered throughout the scriptures and is stated in different ways. Isaiah 62 is one of the portions of the Word that fits better with the spiritual, the eternal Zion and Jerusalem than the earthly, the natural. They are to be entitled , the Holy People. Isa. 62:12 Establishing them as the redeemed, they are removed in the prophecy from the earthly to the heavenly. There is only one redemptive force and that is the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. Heb. 9:22 None will be in heaven except through the blood of Christ.

The Lord will take the ragtag of the nations, a conglomeration of people, with and without pedigree and will combined them into His Holy people. Peter expressed the feelings of the Lord toward those who are among the Holy people. He had laid in Sion the very best, the most excellent of foundations, the true rock of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The chief corner stone, the most important of all the stones used in the building. The head stone, the cap stone of the corner. Ps. 118:22 Rejected of men but elect, chosen of the Father and of extreme value. Those placing their faith in Him will not be confounded or put to shame. 1 Peter 2:6 Those who believe, see Him as the most precious, the most valuable of all. While the people among whom He was planted, rejected Him and still do to this day. Because of their disobedience to the Word, that which was to be their very rock of salvation caused them to stumble and fall and is an offense to them. 1 Peter 2:8 Does God honor disobedience?

The new nation, the Holy people, a people, a kinship, the offspring of the Lord. Obedient to the Lord and born of the Spirit and the Word. Called, elect and chosen of the Lord. The people of the rock. Founded and built up on the Lord Jesus Christ. Made to be a priesthood of royalty and serving in the royal mansions of the living Lord. The nation of Holiness. The people purchased by the blood of Christ for whom He gave Himself. Uniquely and particularly His prized possession. 1 Peter 2:9 To do justice to all the

nations of the earth it is necessary that they be made to understand that they are not saved because of who they are, or of what race they originate. It is faith in the Lord Jesus and His atonement which is the only salvation for all races. None are barred from His kingdom, providing they come to the kingdom in His way, not their own.

MYSTERY. 75 (more than likely **No. 76**)

To think of the Lord being without peace or rest is not an easy thing . Nevertheless, the prophetic utterance of Isaiah depicts Him as experiencing both. In bringing His intentions, concerning the eternal Zion and Jerusalem, to fruition His emotions are deeply stirred. We well know that He is the God of peace and rest and to find statements such as these can only manifest the intensity of His feelings for that very special people. 'For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest.' Isa. 62:1a

His accomplishments in His people, the church, His Bride are two fold. They are, righteousness and salvation. We will consider salvation first for without it there is no righteousness. The Hebrew word used here pertaining to salvation is, Yashuw'ah, which translates into the name Joshua or Jesus. How wonderful, how majestic. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we may be saved." Acts 4:12 What a powerful and conclusive statement.

Yashuw'ah also is translated great deliverance in Ps. 18:50. Illustrating that salvation is deliverance. Everyone coming to Jesus, seeking salvation will find that there is a work of deliverance wrought in them. In Ps. 42:5 the word is help, the Lord Jesus is always a very present help in a time of need. He knows all of our needs and will supply that which is truly needed and beneficial to His people. Ps. 42:11 and the word is health, He has never ceased to be the Lord who heals those who call upon His name. Saving health for the spirit soul and body and is found in Ps. 67:2 Which is easier to say, take up thy bed and walk or thy sins be forgiven thee. Mk. 2:9 What a mighty name.

The true church, the church within the church, His Bride will be altogether righteous. Isa. 62:1b The standard of the Lord for His Bride is found

repeatedly in the Word. David answered his own question when he asked who would dwell with the Lord. It will be those who walk uprightly, in all honesty. A life lived in the righteousness of the Lord is a necessity. While at the same time it is an assurance of being a part of His last day plan. Not to be left out is the need for a heart of truth, for the words of our mouths reveal the condition of the heart. Ps. 15:1-2 The Lord does not require anything of us that He will not equip us to perform.

MYSTERY. 76 (more than likely **No. 77**)

A people of righteousness cannot help but shine with the glory of the Lord. The light of the Lord dwells where there is a righteous heart. Jesus said that the righteous would have that sun like glory in the kingdom of the Lord. Mt.13:43 That glory of the sun is indicative of the glorious presence of the Lord, who is a Sun. Ps. 64:11 That same brilliant, scintillating, glowing light was manifest in the Lord Jesus. Mt. 17:2 The same glory was in Stephen when he went before the high priest, they saw his face as that of an angel. Acts 6:15 The Bride of Christ is to be clothed with that same sun like glory of the Lord. Rev. 12:1 The path of the righteous shines brighter and brighter until they reach the day of perfection. Prov. 4:18

As a smoking furnace and a burning lamp the fiery presence of the Lord passed between the sacrifices of Abraham and consumed them. With this manifestation of fire He sealed His covenant with Abraham. Gen. 15:17 The description given by Ezekiel of the four living creatures and their likeness is most marvelous. It gives us a glimpse into heaven and the conditions surrounding the throne of God. The burning, flaming fire, the continual movement and activity which has the appearance of burning lamps waving up and down in their midst is exciting and will elicit an electrifying reaction in the masses of heaven. Furthermore, that fire will generate lightning and will flash forth in glorious display. Frightening, no most wonderful. Eze. 1:13 All those who have been baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire have been initiated into the atmosphere of that which is heavenly and eternal. John proclaimed that the Lord Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire. That He did on the day of Pentecost. Not only were they filled with the Spirit but visibly, literally fire fell on them. Acts 2:3 It was a time of great excitement. The fire did not harm them. It consumed the dross in their lives and left them with a mighty anointing of the Spirit. Do not forget that Jesus

is forever the same. There is still a baptism of fire for all who will seek His face. Why is there such a many fold manifestation of fire from the throne of the Lord? It is because our God is a consuming fire. Heb. 12:29 Who will dwell with the devouring fire, and everlasting burnings? Isa. 33:14 Bound for heaven, then expect fire. Verse fifteen outlines those who are the righteous, who will dwell in the eternal presence of the throne of fire, serving and worshiping a God of fire. Mind you, fire is not God but He is a flaming fire. A sweet, gentle flow of the fire of the Lord which creates an enjoyment and a thrill that can be found any where else, except in His glorious presence.

MYSTERY. 77 (more than likely **No. 78**)

Harvest time, the time of the gathering of the Gentiles into the kingdom of the Lord. Attracted by the zeal and revealed glory of the church the respond to the gospel. Isa 62:2 The prophecy of Isaiah and the promise of the Lord was that Jesus would be a light and the salvation unto the Gentiles even unto the end of the earth. Isa. 49:6b The ministry of the church was to be directed toward the people (Israel) and the Gentiles. We must never lose sight of the teaching of the Word that the Lord does not differentiate between Jew and Gentile. They are both just people who need salvation, regardless of ethnic origin. In Christ, the two are made one, without distinction or favoritism. Eph. 2:13-16 Man may chose and consider some races more worthy than others. The Lord is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34

The matured church, the Bride of Christ, the true Zion of God, the New Jerusalem will be a crown of glory and a royal diadem, in the hand of the Lord. He will fully accomplish that which He commenced when He set out to find a special people who would worship and adore Him. Isa. 62:3 The high priest wore a turban and a head piece upon which was inscribed "HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD." Ex. 28:36-38 Thus they were made acceptable to the Lord. As a type and symbol that most definitely points out the great desire of the Lord toward His people. Holiness is His character and He will impart it to that special people know as the Bride of Christ. Heb. 12:14

Forsaken. One of the strange twists in the scriptures is the history of wives who were greatly loved, yet remained childless. That is, until the Lord came on the scene and changed the circumstances. From the very beginning of building a people for Himself the Lord worked a miracle. He took two people who were well beyond the age of childbearing, renewed their bodies and caused Abraham and Sarah to have a child. From that seed there were to be nations and kings born into the world. Gen. 17:15-16 Sarah was grieved because of her bareness. She made a mistake, a bad one and suggested Abraham have a child by Hagar. That brought conflict and discontent into their lives. Hagar despised Sarah because she had no child. Sarah was jealous of Hagar and ultimately caused her to be driven from the home. The barren will become fruitful. The Lord had a plan and purpose in it all.

MYSTERY. 78 (more than likely **No. 79**)

Forsaken and Desolate but to be entitled with a new name. To be called Hephzibah, or my delight is in her. The delight, the pleasure of the Lord is always toward a people who will serve Him with all of their hearts. Where would He find what His heart desires more than in the Bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem. She is His Hephzibah. His Beulah, i.e. married. In the relationship between Christ and His church there is no greater event for the end of the age than their marriage. For the church, her perfection and marriage is the next great event on the calendar of the Lord. It is time to consider it strongly, and above all, to prepare our hearts and lives for that precious time. The Bride will have made 'herself' ready. Rev. 19:7 They will appreciate and love His name which will be on their foreheads. Rev. 22:4

It was the custom in the east, in Bible times, for the young man to marry a virgin. When the true purpose of marriage is love, it is a beautiful institution practiced by mankind. Paul espoused the church to Christ as a pure virgin. The example used by the Lord in Isaiah of His love and longing for His Bride is very dramatic and revealing. Isa. 62:5 He placed Himself in the position of a young man in deep love with a virgin, and declares that He will marry His virgin. The virgin Mary bore the Christ child. Mt. 1:23 The one hundred forty four thousand are female and virgins. The Greek word used in reference to Mary is used in relationship to the one hundred forty four thousand. Rev. 14:1-4 They are parthenos and not eunuchs.

As thy sons marry thee has been translated by some to read, "so shall thy restorer marry thee." This is more fitting to the subject of the verse, and what we see in the Word as the ultimate purpose of the Lord. The King greatly desires the beauty of a perfected church. Ps. 45:11 Her Maker, her creator is to be her husband. Isa. 54:5 The Father God was married to Israel through the virgin birth of Christ. So the Son, the Lord Jesus will be married to His virgin, the church. As the heart of the bridegroom rejoices over his Bride, so, the Lord will rejoice over His church. So, He is to be given no rest or quietness until He establishes the promises of His Word as the Bridegroom of the church. The chosen virgin is likewise filled with great anticipation as she looks forward to that glorious wedding day. Remember, spiritual Jerusalem is destined to be a mother. Gal. 4:26

MYSTERY. 79 (more than likely **No. 80**)

As the bridegroom rejoices over the Bride. Isa. 62:5 He has just cause to feel the deepest of love for her, for out of Zion the perfection of beauty, the Lord has shined. Ps. 50:2 We note that perfection and beauty in Revelation twelve. She is clothed with the elements of light. The glory of the Lord shines within her and all may behold her brilliancy. Rev. 12:1 She is the sanctuary, the housie, the dwelling place of the Lord. In her is to be found His honor and majesty for strength and beauty are to be found in His sanctuary. She is as desirable to Him as the glory of His presence could possible make her. Ps. 96:6

The heavenly Bridegroom filled with rejoicing. Zeph. 3:17 Her commitment to Him is absolute. There is no other being or object which attracts her attention. Her eyes are for her Lord and only for Him. His ways are her ways. She is totally pleasing to Him. Theirs is a love which exceeds all human love. He looks upon her with great joy and delight. She is exactly what He had desired from the very beginning. In her will dwell all the fullness of the Lord. That fullness or completion, may only be received through the love of Christ dwelling within. Eph. 3:19 The love which exist between these two is perfect love. 1 John 2:5

He will rest or be silent in His love. With His virgin wife he has reach a place where He is silent. His yearning for love has been satisfied. He will

find in her the perfect companion. Zeph. 3:17 The opening of the last seal, the seventh will result in silence in heaven for the space of about half an hour. Heaven stands in awe at the glorious beauty and the majestic occasion of this one of a kind wedding. Rev. 8:1 This wedding is a definite signal of the approaching tribulation period and will take place in the year prior to the birth of the man child. Rev. 12:5

His joy is to be found in her, she is the joy and rejoicing of His life. According to Strong, the Hebrew word used here for joy, is to spin around (under the influence of any violent emotion). It is the Holy Spirit who reveals, who causes us to understand the greatness of the love of the Lord. He also enables us to reciprocate and to communicate our love to Him. Rom. 5:5 In His great joy, He will break forth into a love song that is far more beautiful and moving than any ever previously composed. It is a song of true, eternal, everlasting love. A love that will never cease or grow old and cold.

MYSTERY. 80 (more than likely **No. 81**)

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people. Isa. 65:19 The city destined to be the ever lasting dwelling place of the most High is the eternal, the spiritual, the New Jerusalem. Concerning the current city the Lord Jesus said that it was they who killed and stoned the prophets and messengers sent to them. How He would have liked to have gathered them unto Himself and manifest His love and kindness to them, but they would not. Such a city would hardly be chosen of the Lord to be His place of habitation, ever. Luke 13:35

The concentration of the Lord for our age is that glorious city known as the new Jerusalem. This is the true city of the Lord. The place of His eternal habitation. Those who overcome are promised to be made a pillar, or a support, a place of strength in that blessed city. They are to be eternally in the mighty presence of the Lord as they dwell in that beautiful place. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is written upon them as a witness and testimony of their love and dedication to Him. It is the city of the most High. Rev. 3:12

The city is the bride of Christ. A city of absolute purity, as holy as the Lord Himself. That precious new Jerusalem is also adorned in her wedding garments. Her wedding garments are explained in Revelation twelve verse one. They are glorious beyond description. Never has there ever been a Bride so clothed. Connected to this is that tremendous shout from heaven announcing that the true tabernacle of the Lord is now with mankind. His majestic presence will never leave them. The inhabitants of that new Jerusalem will be His people. We know for sure that the scriptures are speaking of the new Jerusalem for there will be no crying there, no wailing wall. Not only that, but the former things will all have passed away. The negative, the hurtful things of this life will no longer be in existence, even in our memories. Rev. 21:2-4

In the future new heavens and new earth the former things will never come to mind. Isa. 65:17 The difference between this present world and that which is to come is so great that we will not even desire to recall even the pleasant things of this life. Let alone, those things which we would like to forget, even now. In such an atmosphere the tree of life will flourish and bring forth fruit to the praise and glory of His eternal name.

MYSTERY. 81 (more than likely **No. 82**)

The proclamation of the Lord is that He will make all things new. How far will He go in developing that new heavens and new earth? He is the God of infinite variety and it is well within His capability to create all things entirely different than what we are accustomed to on this earth. Of one thing we may be certain, that which is new will never be corrupted by sin and iniquity. All unrighteousness ceases with the final destruction of this present earth and order of things as they are. There will be nothing to remind us of the old, the past, nor will it ever come to mind. Isa. 65:17 No contamination, physical or spiritual will ever be found there. It is the dwelling place of righteousness. As darkness is driven away by light so righteousness expels unrighteousness. 2 Peter 2:13 It is a new creation brought into existence and is to be occupied by those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Rev. 21:27

That little one who will be duplicated a thousand times is destined to become a great nation and may well be repeated as long as the Lord sees

fit. It is part of making all things new. They are a new race. A new breed. A new people brought into existence through the marriage of Christ and His Bride. Isa. 60:22 These are the branch of His planting. A royal seed which His plan of salvation has produced. They are altogether righteous. The very epitome of righteousness. Their origin is from beings of absolute righteousness. Their inheritance is eternal. They are the work of His hands, created by Him and for Him. He will be glorified in and through them. Isa. 60:21

There is a great contrast between the old and the new. The old mourns, all of its efforts end up in ashes, it lives under condemnation and a spirit of heaviness. The new is the very apex of beauty, anointed heavily with the oil of joy and covered with a garment of praise unto the Lord. They are trees of righteousness, like the tree of life before the throne. The husbandman is none other than the Lord. He has carefully and thoughtfully planted them according to His own will and purpose. Isa. 61:3 His Word is always creative. It will accomplish every task to which it is set. He will plant the heavens and establish the earth. At the time of Isaiah, The Lord could not have been speaking of the past creation but the future. That which was in Isaiah's future and ours is the new heavens and the new earth. The Lord will plant it with that new race produced by Christ and that perfected church. They are His people. Isa. 51:16

MYSTERY. 82 (more than likely **No. 83**)

The throne of David was the earthly type of that which is everlasting. It prophetically addresses the throne of the Lord and its occupancy by the Lord Jesus. Isa. 9:7 The Lord promised David that from among those who would be his offspring sitting upon his throne. Ps. 132:11 While Jesus will not actually sit upon the same throne as David. The throne speaks to ruling over the people of the Lord, which Jesus certainly will do. The gospel of Matthew opens by introducing Him as the son of David. Mt. 1:1 Several in seeking His attention for healing called out and proclaimed Him to be the son of David. The two blind men sitting by the wayside are prime examples. They not only cried out to Him, but were rebuked for their seeking His attention. That however did not deter their determination to make Him aware of them and their need. Most interesting to note that not only did they call Him the son of David but they also acknowledged Him as Lord.

They received what they had sought for. Their persistence pay off. They were blind physically but not blind spiritually. They were not satisfied with the loaves and the fishes, they proceeded to follow Him. Mt. 20:30-34

As the King of kings and occupying the throne of David He will have a kingdom of judgment and justice. Isaiah proclaimed it to be a throne which would be for ever. That makes it eternal. It is also declared that of His kingdom there shall be increase, or abundance. Remember, the original promise to Abraham, the founding father, was that his seed would be as the stars of the heavens, the sands of the sea and the dust of the earth. Of all those born from Adam until now we have not equaled the numbers involved in any of the three. Isa. 9:7

In as much as this is a prophetic utterance from the Lord rest assured that He will perform it. The zeal of the Lord will fulfill this promise. In no uncertain terms we are told that the Lord will get the job done and that according to His will. He is Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord over all hosts. Not only those which are heavenly but He rules over all. Barnes states that the word zeal here denotes ardor. It is the great passion and love of the Lord for a people who are solely His. A people who will be created in the accomplishment of His will. They will inhabit the new heavens and the new earth. The angel told Mary that the one whom she would bring into this world would reign over the house of Jacob, eternally. Also, that of His kingdom there would be no end. Luke 1:33

MYSTERY. 83 (more than likely **No. 84**)

All of the creation of the Lord is with purpose and design. He has created the heavens and the earth for occupancy. Isa. 45:18 Nothing of His works are superfluous or without a divine intention. He created the earth to be inhabited and ruled over by a human species, again the result of His creation. Mankind was chosen to have dominion over all other life on the earth. Gen 1:26 Likewise, that which is new.

The Lord created man in His own image. The word image here has the meaning of a shade, a phantom, a resemblance or figuratively, an illusion. Once again that which is of this world is but a shadow, it is transitory. The real thing is found in the Lord. So, while we have been made in the image

of the Lord, we are far from being what He is. Gen. 1:27 We are but a shadow cast by that which is substance. We have the whole thing turned around. He is reality, we are but a shadow. He is of the true world and if we need substance to prove reality, then we must find it in the One who is eternal and is true spiritual matter and substance.

He is immortal, ever living, death cannot touch Him. He is life personified. Life of very life. The only source of all life. In Him was life and that life was the light of men. One source of light, one source of life both found in the one who is the light of life and the life of the world. John 1:4 The Father is life in Himself, so He has given to the Son the same life. John 5:26 Jesus is the resurrection and the life those who follow Him, though they expire, they still have eternal life and will live forever. John 11:25

The man child of Revelation twelve is born of parents who are of that substance which is real, and everlasting. No longer a race which is but a shadow. Now, a people of eternal reality. They are no longer but a fantasy but are now of the same spiritual material as the Lord. Because the man child is spiritual, therefore real substance and not an image of, or an illusion he is reality itself. Jesus in His resurrected body, had the ability to enter rooms the door being shut. Showing that the spiritual body is not hindered by the shadow of this world. John 20:26 Nevertheless, He was substance for He invited Thomas to come and feel Him, to place his hands in the healed wounds of Calvary. John 20:27 Reality may only be found in things which are heavenly, those things which are spiritual and eternal.

MYSTERY. 84 (more than likely **No. 85**)

In summary. The woman of Revelation twelve is the perfected last day church. Eph. 5:27 She is clothed and filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:19 The three light bearing bodies are symbolical of the Godhead, The Sun, the Father. The moon, the Son. The stars, the Holy Spirit. She is the Bride of Christ. Eph. 5:32

The one hundred forty four thousand are female virgins {parthenos, female virgins} Collectively, they are a member in the body of Christ. The Bride as a whole is the many membered body of Christ. Eph. 5:30 Not all the members of the body of Christ have the same office. Nevertheless, they

are vital to the proper function of the body. 1 Cor. 12:23 Just as Mary the mother of Jesus was a virgin and bore Jesus. Lk. 1:27 So will be the conception of the man child. Inasmuch as the book of Revelation is not history but a prophecy of the last days, the woman could not be Mary nor is the man child Christ. Its events were projected out into the future. Rev. 1:1, 1:19, 4:1 The importance of the man child is very evident for at his birth he is caught up to the throne of the Lord. His responsibility will be to govern, he is to rule. Rev. 12:5

The symbolical tree of life is a result of that life giving force proceeding from the throne of the Lord as a beautiful river. The waters of the Lord are a source of eternal life wherever they might flow. It is living, life giving water. John 4:10 Those who come to Him, not only drink but become a source of that living water. John 7:38 The tree is unique for it will bear twelve manner of fruit twelve times a year. We find in its number a hint as to its make up. Twelve times twelve is one hundred forty four. Surely a glimpse of the one hundred forty four thousand. If the tree would bear but a thousand fruit a month it would come to a sum of one hundred forty four thousand. The Lord commanded the first Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. Gen. 1:28 Why not the last Adam and His Bride. Selah.

There will be a new heavens and a new earth. It will be not only the dwelling place of righteousness but the habitation of the righteous as well. 2 Peter 3:13 We are promised that the former earth and heavens will, never be remembered. The Lord has promised a continuation of the name His people bore and of their seed. Isa. 66:22
