

## What is Acts 28?

### Acts 28 is the Great New Testament Dispensational Divide

Romans through Philemon, fails to compare Paul, confuses Christianity.  
After Acts 28, The Mystery of Christ and The Mystery.

Ephesians is the opening declaration of the present dispensation of the grace of God. Within this monumental circular letter are dispensational truths previously unknown and unique to the post Acts 28 ministry of Paul. These dispensational truths were revealed directly to him by Christ who descended from the Father's right and appeared to him. Our calling started with an appearing and will end with His glorious appearing.

Ephesians contains references to mysteries and while these are not identical, they are tied together. The first mystery reveals the hidden purpose about heavenly places, the second identifies this set of believers as to relationship and benefits, while the third places Christ central to the accomplishment. The final mystery identifies the unique relationship between Christ and the present calling.

#### **The Mystery of the Father's Will.**

having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, for an administration of the fullness of times, to head up all things in Christ, both the things in Heaven, and the things on earth, even in Him, Eph 1:9-10. MKJV.

#### **The Mystery.**

that by revelation He made known to me the mystery,....  
for the nations to be joint-heirs, and a joint-body and joint-sharers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, Eph 3:3, 6. LITV.

#### **The Mystery of Christ.**

Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Eph 3:4-5.

#### **The Great Mystery.**

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Eph 5:31-32.

Paul also writes of the mystery of the gospel in Eph. 6:19. The gospel or good news would include both redemptive and dispensational truths so this phrase means that the mystery is part of this all-inclusive message.

The great mystery concerning Christ and the church is not that we are the bride, which word does not occur in Eph.5, but rather that Christ, as head, and we, as the body, are one, totally united as in the unity of a marriage. The reference to Gen.2:24 is not used to show husband and wife, but two being completely one. In chapter 2 of Ephesians, Jews and Gentiles were created one and now the great mystery shows a similar, inseparable unity

between the Head and His Body. Indeed, we are the fulness or completeness of him who fills all in all.

The Mystery of the Father's will is significant in that the Scriptures now introduce a purpose in Christ for the heavenly places. The hidden plan is to head up all things in heavenly places in Christ, as well as the earth. Prior to Acts 28, it was known God dwelt in the heaven of heavens, but the revealed purpose from the garden is Christ and his dominion in the earthly sphere, which includes the New Jerusalem and the New Earth.

[The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.](#) Psa.115:16, Gen.24:3, Deu.10:14. 1Sam.2:10, Psa.8:1, 103:19, Matt.28:18, & Lk.10:21.

I believe these following phrases in the post Acts letters of Paul are relevant to this newly revealed purpose for Christ and a called-out company of believers who have been raised and seated with him in the heavenly places. Notice it is now both, earth, and heaven.

[from whom every family in heaven and on the earth is named.](#) Eph 3:15. NET.

[That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;](#) Php. 2:10. Cf Isa.45:23.

[And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.](#) Col.1:20.

The mystery of the Father's will states the purpose, and the following two mysteries reveal the means whereby this purpose is accomplished, and the final mystery pictures the inseparable unity the purpose intended and the methods accomplished.

### **The Mystery and The Mystery of Christ.**

These two mysteries are the building blocks of our present dispensation of the grace of God, called The Mystery.

[... the dispensation of God .....](#)

[..... Even the mystery .. ....](#)Col 1:25-26.

Ephesians 3:3-6 has presented some challenges to translators who notice the parenthesis in these verses, but disagree to the opening and closing thereof. [We looked at this issue last time.](#) One thing is certain, and that is Paul links these two mysteries as if they are co-dependent or provide the same essential dispensational truths. Here is the passage without punctuation.

[if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery as I wrote afore in few words whereby when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel](#) Eph 3:2-6.

Paul states that he wrote before about the mystery by which, when remembered, the readers will understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ. Paul ties the mystery to the

mystery of Christ which is understandable since Christ is the center of all God's purposes, look at the linking;

he made known unto me **the mystery as I wrote afore** in few words whereby when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**....

Paul's words "wrote afore" are not the basis to search in Paul's earlier letters written back in the Acts period; I prefer to stay in context and will remain in Ephesians. The mystery is inseparable from the mystery of Christ and since this is the first occurrence of the phrase "the mystery" in Ephesians, when did he write about the mystery before if he did not mention it as such? To answer we use Paul to define the mystery after applying the parenthesis alterations.

that by revelation He made known to me the mystery,....

....for the nations to be joint-heirs, and a joint-body and joint-sharers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, Eph 3:3, 6. LITV.

This gospel does not mean Matthew Mark, Luke or John, or Paul in Acts, this gospel has a context and it concerns the things unsearchable, hidden in God, so again, we stay in Ephesians. The inheritance is mentioned in Ephs.1:5, 11 & 14, the body in 1:20-23 and we share in this inheritance as per the choice of the father before the foundation of the world, as per Eph.1:3-6.

These things of The Mystery, are inseparable from the mystery of Christ. The link is found in such phrases as "in him" and "by/in Christ Jesus," "in the beloved," "with Christ," "through Christ," and "in whom." In Christ is the only basis of everything we possess in this great present calling. These phrases occur 12 times in Eph.1:1-14, and 5 times in Eph.2:1-10. All we are and possess in this present dispensation of the grace of God is because we are "in Christ." We, the church which is his body are the Father's poem, his workmanship and all because we are in Christ.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Eph 2:8-10.

The phrase "in Christ" occurs before Acts 28 but which office of Christ was that? Our Lord Christ is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, however, he is the King of Kings, the Husband, the Bridegroom, and the Head of the church which is his body. The phrase "in Christ" must be carefully considered. Here it is before Acts 28 with context.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1Co 15:22

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1Co 15:52

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 1Cor.15:54-55. Isa.25, Hos.13.

The Acts period brethren were "in Christ," but were waiting for the Feast of Trumpets to be fulfilled and a resurrection to the earth. They were "in Christ," but the Christ of their time was the husband, they were betrothed/espoused/joined as virgins, 2Cor.11:1-2.

The Christ of Ephesians is the Head, we are not virgins, we are his Body. The Mystery of Ephesians is inseparable from the Christ of Ephesians, because in Ephesians (and Colossians) the final revelations of the mystery of Christ are found. The Christ of Ephesians, dispensationally, is not the Christ prior to Acts 28. These final features about him are the basis of our relationship to him, our inheritance, our hope, and the promises given us. Without these final revelations of the mystery of Christ, there would be no mystery, in this way these two mysteries are inseparable. This I believe is why Paul linked the mystery and the mystery of Christ so closely in Eph.3:2-6.

The mystery of Christ was a progressive unfolding about him which began in the Garden. In this revealing of Christ, we learn about his being and nature, who he was, is and will become, his authority, and his relationship with the Father, Israel, and the World. This progressive revelation of Christ contains both redemption and dispensational truths; He has been shown as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, but also as the lion of the tribe of Judah, Rev.3. This is the same Christ with different functions and offices. And so, we come to the mystery of Christ in Ephesians.

The mystery of Christ in Ephesians is mostly dispensational in its revealing. All the redemptive mysteries about him had unfolded, the sacrificial lambs were now understood, the scape and living goat were now understood as pertaining to Christ. The hidden wisdom of God regarding his death burial and resurrection had previously been understood in the Acts period and we compare, Lk.9:45, 10:21, 18:31, with 1Cor.2:6-9. We note these redemptive things hidden and revealed are not dispensational truths, and are not linked with the Mystery, the dispensation of the grace of God. They are, however, essential for all the redeemed no matter what their place of blessing.

The mystery of Christ as revealed in Ephesians, pertains to his ascension, seat in the heavenly places and his new title and relationship to heavenly beings and believers. Ephs.1:20-23 are verses pertaining to the mystery of Christ. These features had not been revealed to other ages and generations as Paul writes;  
[the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.....Eph.3:4-5.](#)

The mystery of Christ had been unfolding from the Garden, but the final dispensational features as recorded in Ephesians, had not been revealed previously. They were as hidden in God as the mystery itself.

The complete message regarding the mystery of Christ includes other apostles and prophets.

Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Eph 3:4-5.

The revelation of the mystery of Christ had been given to other apostles and prophets by The Spirit, however, since we have no record of them, then we conclude that only Paul has these final features of the mystery of Christ. Perhaps his record is the only one in Scripture because he is the only apostle to the nations.

Here is a comparison of these two mysteries.

**The Mystery of Christ.**

A progressive unfolding, with unique dispensational features revealed after Acts 28, and these unique dispensational features are only found in Paul's post Acts 28 writings.

**The Mystery.**

Hidden in God, away from ages and generations until after Acts 28. Only found in Paul's post Acts 28 writings.

Here are two charts which I pray will help us all understand the relationship between these two mysteries and how closely they are united in the establishment of our present calling.

Both available on my charts page.

**Acts 28** The dispensation of the grace of God was not revealed prior to Acts 28. Is not found in O.T type, or prophesy, not found in the Gospels or Acts.

## Ephesians (Colossians) – new calling & hope

church his body every spiritual blessing, raised to heavenly places inheritance  
the appearing in glory – Col.3:1-4.  
a new purpose, previously hidden in God, revealed to Paul alone after Acts28

**the Mystery of Christ** revealed to Paul after Acts 28

▲ the final feature of the mystery of Christ  
▲ head of church his body in heavenly place

Gospels/Acts Jesus, raised to Father's right Israel, angels subjected, until. Lk. 1:32, Acts 3:13-21, 13:23, 1Pet.3:22  
Prophets death, burial, resurrection. Kingdom restored, gifts promised. Psa.16, Joel 2, Hos.2, Zeph.  
David a Son 2Sam.7:12-13, Psa.89  
Exodus deliverer Deut.18:15.  
Abraham's seed  
all families of the earth. Gen.12:3, 15:3-4.  
Job redeemer lives Job.19:25.  
Eden Adam, image, skins, son of man Gen.1:26, 3:21.

the mystery of Christ in other ages

**the Mystery**

▲ the Mystery-present dispensation

Paul, prisoner of Christ Jesus for the nations, dispensation of the grace of God, given me for you, the mystery known to Paul by revelation Eph.3:1-3 the nations, joint-heirs, joint-body, joint-sharers. Eph.3:6 among nations, unsearchable riches the mystery hid in God. Eph.3:8-9 All things created by Christ Jesus. Eph.3:9 **Every family in heaven and earth.** Eph.3:15 One body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, One God and Father Eph.4:4-6

Eph.1:3. blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. Eph.1:4. Chosen in him before the foundation of the world, holy, without blame before him. Eph.1:5. Predestined to adoption of sons/heirs. Eph.1:6. Highly graced in the beloved. Eph.1:8-10. Mystery of his will, dispensation of fullness of seasons, head up in Christ all things, heaven, earth. Eph.1:11. will, have and are an inheritance. Eph.1:12-14. Previously hoped, sealed, Holy Spirit pledge of inheritance. Eph.1:18-19. Hope, inheritance, power in us. Eph.1:20-23. Power in Christ, raised, seated, Head. Eph.2:1-10. Power in us, made alive, raised, seated, His Body. Eph.2:21-22. Every building fitly framed, a temple, the body a dwelling place of God. Eph.3:18. 4 dimensions. Eph.3:21. All generations of age of age. Col.1:18. Head, beginning, firstborn, preeminence. Col.1:20. Reconcile things in earth & things in heaven. Col.1:25-27. **The mystery** completes the Word, hid away, but now, **riches of glory** among the nations, **Christ among the nations.**

### hidden in God – away from ages and generations

**Passover**  
1<sup>st</sup> step in Israel's deliverance

**UnLeavened Bread**  
1<sup>st</sup> fruit of reas.

**Weeks – Pentecost**  
Zion  
Israel aside at Acts28

**there is no such thing as one true church**

The heavenly aspect of the Kingdom revealed to Paul alone, after Acts 28

**totally separate from the Feasts of Israel**

← present dispensation not found before Acts 28 →

the appearing Israel resumed

**Trumpets**  
the end? Harvest reas. We shall not all die postponed Acts28

**Atonement**  
National cleansing new covenant

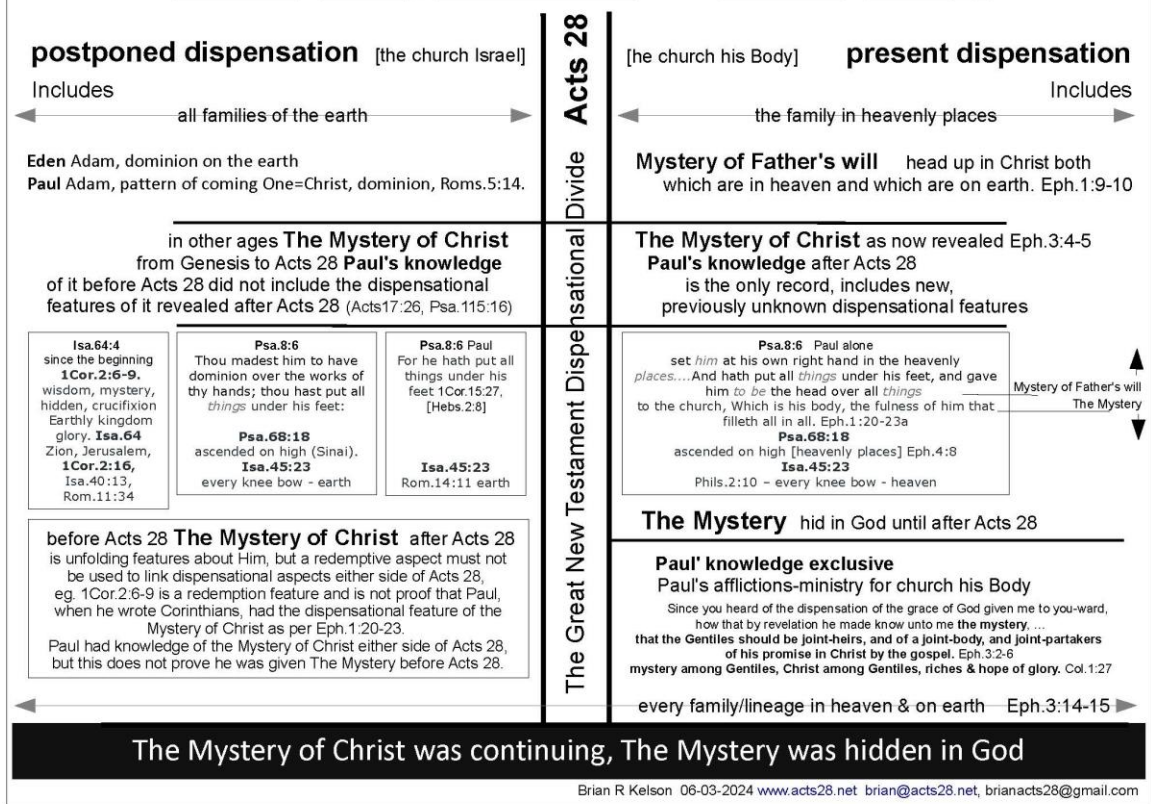
**Tabernacles**  
Booths

**Ephesians & Colossians = calling revealed, heavenly sphere of Christ's kingdom**

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The dispensational truths of Ephesians & Colossians revealed after Acts 28  
Acts 28 the great N. T. dispensational divide - Israel set aside, promise and prophesy postponed

# The Mystery of Christ & The Mystery



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