

What is Acts 28? Acts 28 is the great New Testament dispensational divide.

Romans through Philemon mixes mysteries.

Romans through Philemon is not right division.

There are dispensational differences in the letters of Paul written either side of Acts 28 and the word mystery is found in both groups of letters. When we read the word mystery in either group, it is to be understood by the dispensational context of the group in which it is found.

The word mystery simply means something unknown, not something convoluted, or rich in hidden clues that only Sherlock Holmes could discover. Once the mystery has been explained, it is no longer unknown. Paul uses the word in Roms.11:25 about the mystery of Israel's partial blindness. He writes of the hidden wisdom of God in a mystery in 1Cor.2:7, being stewards of the mysteries of God in 1Cor.4:1, the mystery of godliness in 1Tim.3:16, and the mystery of 1Cor.15:51 where he states that not all, at the time he wrote that letter, would die (sleep). This did not eventuate since Israel's restoration through the imminent return of Christ to her, was postponed at Acts 28.

Paul uses the word mystery either side of Acts 28, but we must not interchange or transfer these mysteries across that dispensational boundary simply because it occurs in both groups of his letters. The word mystery, does not in itself, mean the dispensation of the grace of God or partial truths of that post Acts 28 calling. If we find the word mystery before Acts 28, this does not mean Paul was writing about The Mystery of Ephesians from either from his conversion or from Acts 13.

We begin a series looking at the mystery kept secret since the world began found in the close of Paul's letter to the Romans. This is a mystery written before Acts 28. There are several ideas regarding this mystery, but we will stick to context and structure before making an opinion.

This same subject is being considered via my [YouTube/Rumble](#) videos. Why not subscribe to my channel and receive more coverage of this mystery kept secret since the world began.

Romans concludes with a triple doxology, but if we include the close of chapter 15, it might be a quadruple doxology;

[Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen. Rom 15:33.](#)

[And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. Rom 16:20.](#)

[The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Rom 16:24.](#)

[Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according](#)

to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Rom 16:25-27.

There are some expositors who feel that the doxology in Roms.16:24, closes Romans, and verses 25 and 26 were an afterthought, a postscript added later because Paul had more information regarding the Mystery of Ephesians and Colossians. But if we follow that argument, then perhaps the doxology of Roms.15:33 might be a postscript as well, and there is nothing in that about the Mystery of Ephesians and Colossians.

The structural alignment and context of Roms.16:25-27 disallows any thought of a post script; an added piece because Paul had some or all dispensational truths revealed to him after Acts 28. These verses are not a post-script, something added later; they fit harmoniously, by structure and context, with the rest of Romans.

The mystery kept secret since the world began can be understood when we apply Bible study principles. When a careful comparison is made of the words and phrases used in context around this mystery kept secret, we find that there is an underlying structure, these words and phrases are found elsewhere in Romans. Not only so, but the words and phrases are consistent with the dispensational setting of Romans, which is certainly not the dispensational setting of Ephesians and Colossians. The following structure is freely available on my website, Acts28.net under the charts tab.

Romans structure, (the mystery of 16:25)

- A. 1:1-17 Paul separated to Gospel (promised afore, prophets, Holy Scriptures)
Concerning Jesus Christ, Son of David & God, power apostleship,
grace, obedience to the faith, all nations called and faithful in Rome
Paul's desire to visit spiritual gift, goal **established**, ready to preach
gospel of Christ, power, Jew first, just live by **faith**
- B. 1:18-3:20 Jews & Gentiles all guilty before God,
as it is written, Ps.51:4 (do good to Zion, rebuild Jerusalem)
- C. 3:21-31 Glory of God, all short of it, as it is written
(as written, 1:17, 2:24, 3:4, :10, 4:17, 8:36, 9:13, :33, 10:15, 11:8, :26, 14:11, 15:3, :4 :9, :21)
- D. 4:1-25 what says the Scripture?
Abraham's body "now dead", flesh v just'n by **faith**
- E. 5:1-11 Reconciliation of remnant, peace through Christ
- F. 5:12-21 **ADAM** condemnation (disobedience), law of sin & death
(lost dominion in a garden)
- G. 6-7 Questions & repudiations,
6:16 obey, obedience, righteousness
- F. 8 **CHRIST** no condemnation (obedience), law of Spirit of life
(dominion restored? 8:19-22) creature = creation
- E. 9-11 Reconciliation of "all Israel", Deliverer out of Zion, New Cov.
- D. 12-13 Present your bodies a living sacrifice,
for it is written, vengeance, put on Christ, no flesh
- C. 14-15:7 Glory of God received to, things written aforetime
- B. 15:8-16:24 Jews & Gentiles hope, OT promises confirmed,
as it is written, all acceptable before God, obedient
Is.11, Jews and Gentiles under the reign of Christ – holy mountain
- A.16:25-27 to HIM, power to **stablish**, my gospel
preaching of Jesus Christ acc'g to revelation of
mystery kept secret (silenced) since the world began
but now manifested and by Scriptures of prophets
commandment of everlasting God
all nations for obedience of **faith**

(Originally CH Welch see Just and Justifier, modified by BRK 06-2023)
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This structure demonstrates that these last verses fit with the overall themes of the letter. There are some words and phrases in these last verses of Romans 16 which appear at the opening of the letter. These are the signposts pointing us to a firmer understanding of what this mystery kept secret might be.

Here are some of the recurring words and phrases working back from the end of Romans to the beginning.

Stablish. Roms.16:25. Paul had already used this word in Roms.1:11 where it is given as establish in the KJV but is the same word in the original.

My Gospel. Roms.16:25. While the exact same words are not found in the opening, we should observe Paul's first words to them in Roms.1:1 and his use of it in Roms.2:16.

Preaching of Christ Jesus. Roms.16:25 harmonizes with concerning his Son, Christ Jesus in Roms.1:3.

Manifest, scriptures of the prophets. Roms.16:26. This phrase echoes Roms.1:2, where we read, promised afore, prophets, and holy scriptures.

All nations. Roms.16:26. This is a repeat of the same phrase in Roms.1:5.

Obedience...faith. Roms.16:26. In Roms.1:5 this is obedience to the faith, but a powerful link nonetheless.

It is also worth noting other features that might not structurally align, but which are mentioned in the beginning and repeated towards the end.

Paul's desire to visit them. Roms.15:22-24 and Roms.1:10-11.

The God of peace. Roms.16:20 and Roms.1:7.

The mystery kept secret since the world began is mentioned briefly at the end of Romans and I believe the words and phrases in the immediate and near context tie this mystery to the rest of Romans. Paul had already written about this mystery earlier in it and going outside Romans to explain it is a confusion.

It is not right division to jump from this one verse (Roms.16:25) across Acts 28 to Ephesians and Colossians to find an explanation for this mystery kept secret. We must not drag later dispensational truths back across the Acts 28 boundary.

Pogo stick eisegesis. This is the confusing and blinding technique of starting at one verse, then jumping over to other Scriptures outside the passage, to explain it. For example, reading the mystery kept secret in Roms.16:25-27, is not explained because we see the word Mystery in Ephesians 3 and drag back into Romans the dispensational truths of the Mystery in Ephesians.

Romans will explain the mystery kept secret since the world began, and Romans was written before Acts 28, before Paul had any knowledge about the present dispensation of the grace of God.

Romans through Philemon is not right division.

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What is Acts 28? Acts 28 is the great New Testament dispensational divide.

Romans through Philemon – a failure of right division.

It mixes the church Israel and the church His Body.

It confuses the earthly program with the above heavens program.

The mystery of Romans 16 has created a variety of opinions as to its true nature. It appears at the close of the letter and consequently, some believe it is an afterthought, added later by Paul or others. This suggests that it looks forward to the later dispensational truths of Ephesians and Colossians, but I believe the structure of the letter demands we look back into Romans for the dispensational and redemptive explanation.

Here is the passage followed by the structure, which is available on Acts28.net.

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Rom 16:25-27.

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We found in Roms.16:25-27, words and phrases that accompany this mystery; these must not be ignored. We can not extract and isolate this mystery kept secret since the world began from "my gospel," "stablish," "scriptures of the prophets," "commandment of the everlasting God," and "made known to all nations for the obedience of faith." To ignore this informative context is to fail in right division and promote even more confusing theories about it.

These contextual signals will be examined, but before walking that path, I need to clarify a point I made last time. This is what I wrote;

Paul uses of the word mystery either side of Acts 28, but we must not interchange or transfer these mysteries across that dispensational boundary simply because it occurs in both groups of his letters.

It is not entirely accurate to say that we cannot carry some of the mysteries about Christ across the dispensational boundary of Acts 28. The mysteries of Christ are unknown truths about him and his accomplishments, that have been made known. Please note these explained mysteries we might carry across Acts 28, are truths about Christ not about the dispensations either side of Acts 28. It is entirely accurate to say we must not carry back into Acts the dispensational truths of Ephesians and Colossians which are contained in The Mystery; the dispensation of the grace of God. However, the present dispensation of the grace of God does contain mysteries about Christ, who he is, and what he has accomplished.

This mystery kept secret since the world began in Roms.16, is explained by Paul. His explanation does not contain the words, "dispensation", "before the foundation of the world", "hid in God", "head of the church which is his body", and very importantly, does not include the words, "dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward". This mystery kept secret regards the preaching of Jesus Christ, not the disclosure of any called-out company, and Paul does not hint that it was given to him alone, on the contrary, he states it is made manifest and by the scriptures of the prophets.

[Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets,...](#)

This mystery is about Christ Jesus, and it was part of Paul's gospel when he wrote Romans. Examining the context of this mystery will guide us in our understanding of it. Roms.16:25 begins the immediate context of this mystery kept secret and Paul writes this;

[Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, Rom 16:25.](#)

This mystery kept secret is in a context of the word "stablish", which was made possible by Paul's gospel. The original word "stablish" is found in Lk.9:51 where it is translated "set", in Lk.16:26 where it is "fixed", and in Lk.22:32 where it is "strengthened". Paul had already used this word in the opening of this letter;

[For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Rom 1:11-12.](#)

My gospel of Paul in Romans, included spiritual gifts. These are not elements of my gospel after Acts 28. It was the giving of supernatural gifts to these believers which would {e}stablish, or strengthen them. Supernatural gifts are part of the immediate

context of this mystery kept secret which is the preaching of Christ Jesus. In what way are gifts and Christ Jesus linked? Peter tells us;

[This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. Act 2:32-33.](#)

Peter is not proclaiming Christ ascended as the Head, but as the One seated at the right hand until he descends and "sits on the throne of his Father David." In the Acts period, it was Christ ascended to the right hand as the seed of David, and raised to Israel, who had poured out these gifts. Here is Paul.

[Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: Act 13:23.](#)

The ascended Christ who shed forth the gifts in Acts 13 is the seed of David, and it was that Christ as High Priest King who had spoken to Paul on the road, and who empowered him all the way to Acts 28.

Paul writes about gifts in Roms.12, and declares vividly about his ministry with these gifts in Romans 15.

[That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. Rom 15:16.](#)

[For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand \(Isaiah 52\). Rom 15:18-21.](#)

Paul quotes Isaiah 52 here in Roms.15, and he had earlier referenced Isaiah 53 in Roms.10:16. Isaiah is about the One who would startle nations but was undesirable, despised, rejected, a man of sorrows and grief, bruised, bearing iniquity, a lamb to the slaughter, stricken for transgression, but who would justify many.

Who was this One Isaiah foresaw? Perhaps the answer is the mystery kept secret since the world began?

Paul's unique ministry itinerary was according to prophesy, Is.52:15 (see the word nations there), and his commission to preach to the Gentiles was according to a command of prophesy, Acts 13:46-47. From Acts 13 to Romans, Paul was ministering according to prophesy and empowered by the supernatural gifts of prophesy which had been poured out by the seed of David seated at the Father's right.

It is inexcusable to overlook these very important subjects associated with "my gospel", Paul, and this mystery kept secret since the world began.

Romans will explain the mystery kept secret since the world began.