

# The Wisdom of God in a Mystery

“...unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God...” - Ephesians 3:10

## 1. The kingdom rejected (Review)

- a. Israel had promises of a coming kingdom forever. (2 Sam 7:12-13)
- b. Jesus came to confirm the promises made unto the fathers (of Israel) (Rom 15:8)
- c. “We will not have this man to reign over us!” Jesus said they would say. (Luke 19:14, 27)
- d. The nation of Israel rejected Christ, and the Holy Ghost. (Acts 5:30-32, Acts 7:51-60)
- e. Next according to prophecy? Judgement on Christ’s enemies. The great tribulation is upon them. (Luke 19:27, Acts 2:34, Acts 7:55-56)
- f. “Lay not this sin to their charge,” Stephen prays (Acts 7:60)

## 2. Salvation Now (Not future)

- a. Saul was consenting unto Stephen’s death, and scatters the believing remnant. (Acts 8:1, 9:1)
- b. Saul was a blasphemer and persecutor of the little flock that did recognize their Messiah. He deserved God’s wrath. But... (1 Tim 1:13-16)
  - i. The Lord reveals himself to Saul on the road to Damascus in an unprophesied reappearing. We do not know Christ after the flesh any longer. (Acts 9:4-6, 2 Cor 5:16)
  - ii. Paul is **saved** by grace on the road to Damascus, becoming a pattern for those who would **hereafter** believe.
  - iii. To Paul is given the revelation of the mystery of Christ. (Gal 1:11-12, Eph 3:1-10)
- c. Israel is fallen and in blindness, but God had something more to reveal about the cross. (1 Cor 2:6-8)

## 3. Glory in the Cross (Not shame)

- a. For Israel, the cross of Christ was to their shame. While His sacrifice was needed, they killed the Chosen One in their unbelief. (Acts 2:23-24, 3:13-15, 4:10, 5:28-29)
- b. But now, the cross is preached as glory and power to anyone who believes, the power of God to save all. (Gal 6:4, 1 Cor 1:18, 1 Cor 1:23)
- c. No Jew nor Greek, but **something new** made from twain. One new man, **the church, the body of Christ**. (Gal 3:28, Eph 2:14-16)
- d. For a heavenly destination and purpose. (Eph 2:6, 1 Cor 15:48)
- e. In this dispensation of God’s grace, all things are become new. (2 Cor 5:17)
  - i. A new creature, a new church body (not the church, the remnant of Israel)
  - ii. A new dispensation of God’s grace (we are not under the law, we are not Israel)
  - iii. A new apostle of the Gentiles saved only by God’s grace (who did not confer w/ 12)
  - iv. A new heavenly destination (not an earthly one)