

I Cor. 4:1 cf. 1 deacons, I Tim. 4:9

Rom. 16:25, 26 "my gospel" = "a revelation of the mystery"

THE SEVEN MYSTERIES REVEALED TO PAUL

The two (ancient and modern) meanings of the word "mystery":

(1) Modern.

In a dictionary, first meaning: "something beyond human comprehension, that cannot be explained." Unfathomable, incomprehensible.

(2) Ancient.

μυστήριον, from μύστης, one who has been initiated into the secret religious rites of the mystery religions. From μύω to close, as the lips, the stem "μυ" a sound produced with closed lips. cf. Latin "mures": dumb

cf. English "mute": "

The ancient "mysteries", "mystery religions": secret rites known only to those who had been initiated. The most famous were the Mysteries celebrated in Eleusis under the patronage and control of the Athenian State, associated with the worship of Demeter and her daughter Persephone. Another, the Orphic mysteries (Orpheus). Another, Egyptian Isis and Osiris. Another, Persian Mithraism. The chief purpose of the rites: to secure for the votaries a mystic union with some deity and a guarantee of a blissful immortality.

The Greek word μυστήριον, "mystery", does not at all have the idea of incomprehensibility, but means a secret imparted only to the initiated, what is unknown until it is revealed, whether it be easy or hard to understand.

So in the NT, μυστήριον: its ancient sense of a revealed secret; a great truth now hidden in God but now made known; something known now, could not ~~discovered~~ but is known by the revelation of God who kept it secret until His time came to reveal it.

DISCOVER

So Jesus in Math. 13: 9-17

So Paul in I Cor. 2: 6-8, 13, 14.

q. 2:6 "wisdom" $\tau\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\epsilon\iota\omicron\varsigma$, a term applied in the
mysteries to the fully instructed as opposed to novices

1. The mystery of the Incarnation.

I Tim. 3: 16

2. The mystery of the Divine Indwelling

Col. 1: 25-29

note 1: 28 "wisdom" $\tau\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\epsilon\iota\omicron\varsigma$. [Our purpose in teaching, preaching]

The mystery of the new birth, of Nicodemus Jn 3.

We are a part of the body of Christ I Cor. 12: 13

3. The mystery of the Church.

Eph. 3: 1-11

The union of Jews & Gentiles in one body, the Church.

4. The mystery of Israel's blindness
Rom. 11: 25^{1/2}.

5. The mystery of the Translation of the living saints
I Cor. 15: 50-54
1. I Thim. 4: 13-18

6. The mystery of Triunity.
II Thess. 2: 3-9
The man of sin, the ^{primal} Anti-Christ

7. The mystery of the Church as the Bride of Christ
Eph. 5: 22-32
Rev. 21: 1, 2, 9-11