

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 3:1-10

Let's look at the mystery of Christ and Christmas

I. THE MYSTERY

- Note the essence of Paul's words from Ephesians 3:3-6

³ ... by revelation there was made known to me [Paul] the mystery ...
⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, ...
⁶ *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are
fellow heirs
and fellow members of the body,
and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

A. GENTILES INCLUDED IN GOD'S PLANS THROUGH JESUS

1. Fellow Heirs: Blessed with God's riches (see Ephesians 2:19)
2. Fellow Members: United by Christ's reconciliation (see Ephesians 2:14-16)
3. Fellow Partakers: Redeemed through Christ's blood (see Ephesians 2:11-13)

B. JEWS EXCLUDED FROM GOD'S PLAN DUE TO UNBELIEF

1. They did not receive their Messiah - Note John 1:11
2. They rejected faith in God and trusted in salvation by works - Read Romans 9:30-32

II. THE MARVEL

- During the month of December ...

A. MOST JEWS CELEBRATE HANUKKAH (December 22-30)

1. Though angels announced to Jewish shepherds "there has been born for you a Savior" (Luke 2:11)
2. Most reject Jesus and rather rejoice in a Jewish Maccabean victory over Gentile Seleucids in 165 BC and the rededication of the Temple

B. MOST GENTILES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

1. Rejoicing that the Son of God put on human flesh
2. Remembering "Immanuel" God with us - see Matthew 1:21-23

C. WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED SUCH AN AMAZING MYSTERY?

- A role reversal where most Jews reject Immanuel while many Gentiles accept Him

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CONCLUSION:

When we look at the mystery of Christ and Christmas, we must praise God for His amazing grace

to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, - Ephesians 1:6-7

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