

What is the ultimate purpose of the mystery (v.10)?

What do you understand by the expression “rulers and authorities in the heavenly places”?



## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

If you are a Gentile (non-Jew) what does this passage tell you about the privilege of being united with Christ?

*The salvation that is enjoyed by all those who are united with Christ was “according to [God’s] eternal purpose.” If we meditate on this truth then we really can have “boldness and access with confidence through our faith in [Christ].”*

## A Short Study of EPHESIANS 3:1-12

*In this study from the third chapter of Ephesians we learn about a great mystery that concerns the application of the Gospel beyond the national and racial borders of Israel and the Jews.*

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## EPHESIANS 3:1-12

- 1 *For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—*
- 2 *assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,*
- 3 *how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.*
- 4 *When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,*
- 5 *which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.*
- 6 *This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*
- 7 *Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.*
- 8 *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*
- 9 *and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,*
- 10 *so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*
- 11 *This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,*
- 12 *in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.*

## OBSERVATION

Mark every occurrence of the name 'Paul,' and any pronouns (I, me, my) that refer to him.

- What is Paul's current state?
- What things were 'given' and "made known" to Paul?
- What did Paul have an 'insight' into?
- What was Paul called to be and do?

Mark the word 'Gentiles,' and any other pronouns referring to them.

- Summarise what you learn about the Gentiles.

Mark the words 'mystery.'

- Is the mystery still a secret?
- Who knows the mystery, and who revealed it to them them?

## INTERPRETATION AND CROSS REFERENCE

Briefly summarise the mystery (v.6). It concerns Jesus Christ. Who else does it concern?

Look up Galatians 3:14, 23-4:7 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 and note how they help to explain the expressions in verse six.

- "fellow heirs"
- "members of the same body"
- "partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus"

Paul was given this great ministry. Do you think Paul saw that as a sign of his superior spirituality? Give your reasons.