

Basic Distinctions

Between PROPHECY and MYSTERY

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| <u>PROPHECY</u> | <u>MYSTERY</u> |
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| Prophecy concerns an earthly Kingdom: a governmental organization (Daniel 2:44; Matthew 6:10). | The mystery concerns a Body; a living organism (I Corinthians 12:12, 27; Ephesians 4:12-16). |
| This Kingdom will be established (Matthew 6:10) on earth with Christ as its King (Jeremiah 23:5; Isaiah 9:6-7). | This Body is given a position in heaven (Ephesians 1:3; 2:5-6; Colossians 3:1-3), with Christ as its Head (Ephesians 1:4-11; 3:5-9). |
| This earthly Kingdom had been prophesied “ <i>since the world began</i> ” (Luke 1:68-70; Acts 3:21). | The Body was chosen in Christ before the world began and “ <i>kept secret since the world began</i> ” (Romans 16:25; Ephesians 1:4-11; 3:5-9). |
| Israel will be given supremacy over the nations (Isaiah 60:10-12; 61:6). | Jew and Gentile are placed on the same level before God (Romans 10:12; 11:32; Ephesians 2:16-17). |

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| The Gentiles will be blessed through Israel's instrumentality (Genesis 22:17-18; Zechariah 8:13). | The Gentiles are blessed through Israel's obstinacy (Acts 13:44-46; Romans 11:28-32). |
| The Gentiles will be blessed through Israel's rise (Isaiah 60:1-3; Zechariah 8:22-23). | The Gentiles are blessed through Israel's fall (Acts 28:27-28; Romans 11:11-12, 15). |
| Prophecy mainly concerns nations as such (Isaiah 2:4; Ezekiel 37:21-22). | The mystery concerns individuals (Romans 10:12-13; II Corinthians 5:14-17). |
| Prophecy concerns blessings, both material and spiritual, on earth (Isaiah 2:3-4; 11:1-9). | The mystery concerns " <i>all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies</i> " (Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 3:1-3). |
| Prophecy concerns Christ's coming to earth (Isaiah 59:20; Zechariah 14:4). | The mystery explains Christ's present absence from the earth (Ephesians 1:3, Colossians 3:1-3). |
| The proclamations of prophetic concerns were committed particularly to Israel's Twelve apostles (Matthew 10:5-7; Acts. 1:6-8; 3:19-26). | The proclamation of the mystery was committed to Paul (Ephesians 3:1-9; Colossians 1:24-27). |
| The prophetic concerns were revealed through many of God's servants (Luke 1:70; II Peter 1:21). | The mystery was revealed through one man: Paul (Galatians 1:1, 11-12: 2:2, 7, 9, Ephesians 3:2-3). |
| Old Testament writers frequently did not understand the prophecies that were made known through them (Daniel 12:8-10; I Peter 1:10-12). | Paul both understood and longed that others might understand the mystery revealed through him (Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Colossians 1:9-10; 2:1-3). |

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