

The Revelation of the Mystery of God

January 1, 2017 – Ephesians 3:2-12

“Surely you have heard about the administration - Οικονομιαν - of God’s Grace that was given to me for you, (- Οικονομιαν - Also translated as: Stewardship, Management of a household) that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy Apostles and Prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are Heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of His power. Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, Who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

This morning I have something in my hand. Who is able to tell me what I have in my hand? As long as I keep my hand closed, no one knows what I have in my hand until I reveal it to you. Where do we come from? Who Created us? What are we doing here in this world? Where will we go when we die? How do we get there? – To heaven.

Those questions you are able to answer because you have been studying the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise unto salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This morning we are celebrating **Epiphany**. To have an Epiphany to have that Eureka moment, to have something **revealed** to you that you did not previously know.

Epiphany which is celebrated on January 6th is sometimes referred as the Gentile Christmas. It is for this reason that the Gospel is the reading of the Magi who come to worship the Christ Child in a rented house. (Note: Mary & Joseph and the baby are no longer in the stable.)

The Magi are Gentiles, - that is non-Jews. Some believe that based upon Psalm 72 these wise men come from the area of Sheba and Seba – which is believed to be present day Yemen - a country south of Saudi Arabia. While some people believe that based upon Psalm 72 and the mention of Tarshish that the Wise-men come from present day Sudan, just south of Egypt.

Regardless of where they come from, these wise men are Gentiles, and they saw His Star – The Star out of Jacob - in the East (Numbers 24:17) and came to worship HIM.

Regardless of which traditions are correct, we learn from the Holy Scriptures as recorded by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Congregation of Believers in the city of Ephesus that God in His mercy revealed Salvation to ALL people including the Gentiles, which includes us as Paul has written:

Vs. 4 – In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the MYSTERY of Christ,

Vs. 5 – which was not made known to men in other generations as it has NOW been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy Apostles and Prophets.

And so we can thank God now for this revelation of Jesus Christ our Savior and forever in eternity. AMEN