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Basic Distinctions  
between  
Prophecy  
and the  
Mystery

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# Prophecy



1. Concerns a **kingdom**; a political organization (Dan. 2:44; Matt. 6:10).
2. The kingdom to be established on **earth** (Jer. 23:5; Matt. 6:10).
3. Christ to be its **King** (Jer. 23:5; Isa. 9:6,7).
4. The kingdom **prophesied "since the world began"** (Luke 1:68-70; Acts 3:21).
5. Israel to be given supremacy over the **nations** (Isa. 60:10-12; 61:6).
6. The Gentiles to be blessed through Israel's **instrumentality** (Gen. 22:17,18; Zech. 8:13).
7. The Gentiles to be blessed through Israel's **rise** (Isa. 60:1-3; Zech. 8:22,23).
8. Prophecy mainly concerns **nations** as such (Isa. 2:4; Ezek. 37:21,22).
9. Prophecy concerns blessings, both material and spiritual, **on earth** (Isa. 2:3,4; 11:1-9; etc.).
10. Prophecy concerns Christ's **coming to the earth** (Isa. 59:20; Zech. 14:4).
11. In prophecy salvation by grace through faith **alone** is not contemplated.
12. The proclamation of the prophetic program committed particularly to **the twelve** (Matt. 10:5-7; Acts 1:6-8; 3:19-26).
13. The prophetic program revealed through **many** of God's servants (Luke 1:70; II Pet. 1:21).
14. Old Testament writers frequently did not understand the prophecies made known through them (Dan. 12:8-10; I Pet. 1:10-12).

# The Mystery

1. Concerns a **body**; a living **organism** (I Cor. 12:12,27; Eph 4:12-16).
2. The body given a position in **heaven** (Eph. 1:3; 2:5-6; Col. 3:1-3).
3. Christ its living **Head** (Eph. 1:19-23; Col. 1:18).
4. The body chosen in Christ before the world began but **kept secret since the world began"** (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 1:4-11; 3:5-9).
5. Jew and Gentile placed on the **same level** before God (Rom. 10:12; 11:32; Eph. 2:16,17).
6. The Gentiles blessed through Israel's **obstinacy** (Acts 13:44-46; Rom. 11:28-32).
7. The Gentiles blessed through Israel's **fall** (Acts 28:27,28; Rom. 11:11, 12, 15).
8. The mystery concerns **individuals** (Rom. 10:12, 13; II Cor. 5:14-17).
9. The mystery concerns "all spiritual blessings **in the heavenlies**" (Eph. 1:3; Col. 3:1-3).
10. The mystery explains Christ's present **absence from the earth** (Eph. 1:20-24; Col. 3:1-3).
11. Salvation by grace through faith alone lies at the very heart of the mystery (Rom. 3:21-26; 4:5; Eph. 2:8,9).
12. The proclamation of the mystery committed particularly to **Paul** (Eph. 3:1-3,8,9; Col. 1:24-27).
13. The mystery revealed through **one** man: Paul (Gal. 1:1,11,12; 2:2,7,9; Eph. 3:2,3).
14. Paul both understood and longed that others might understand the mystery revealed through him (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Col. 1:9-10; 2:1-3).