

# Mystery Aspect: Spoils of Victory

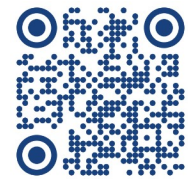
A Teaching by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

## About This Teaching

Clip from “Battle on the Cross” — Lesson 7

The cross of Christ did not merely secure forgiveness of sins and the repossession of the earth — it also sealed the total doom of Satan’s plan of evil in the heavenly places. This teaching by Keith Blades focuses on the mystery aspects of the spoils of Christ’s victory: why God kept the mystery of Christ hidden from all ages and generations, what Satan lost by crucifying the Lord of glory, and what God’s eternal purpose now reveals about the reconciliation of both heaven and earth under the one imperial headship of Christ. Drawing from 1 Corinthians 2, Ephesians 1, and Colossians 1, Keith shows that the cross provided not only for the release of Jacob and the Gentiles from the adversary’s grip, but for the formation of the church — the body of Christ — as the new creation that will be used by God to reconcile the heavenly places back to himself in the dispensation of the fullness of times.



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## Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 1	The mystery was kept secret so Satan would crucify the Lord of glory — and in so doing seal the doom of his entire plan of evil in both realms

## Lesson Summaries

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### Mystery Aspect: Spoils of Victory *What the Cross Secured for the Heavenly Places*

- 1 Timothy 6:15 presents Christ as “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords” — two titles for two realms: Potentate over the heavenly places, King of kings over the earthly places.
  - “Blessed” here is the Makarios concept — happiness in connection with what has happened and what he is now able to do in executing his power and demolishing the satanic plan of evil in both realms.

**The Mystery Kept Secret — Acts 7, 9 and 1 Corinthians 2**

- When Israel's extension of mercy ended (Acts 7), Stephen saw the Son of Man standing — the time had come to execute the Lord's day of wrath. But instead of descending in judgment, Christ appeared to Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9) and raised up Paul with an entirely unprophesied, unheard-of message: the gospel of God's grace to the Gentiles in the mystery of Christ.
- The mystery was kept a complete secret — God said nothing about it — specifically so Satan would go ahead and crucify the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:7–8).
  - Had Satan known any aspect of the dispensation of Gentile grace or the glory that would come to us through it, he would never have crucified the Lord of glory.
- By crucifying the Lord of glory, Satan did not merely lose the earth — he sealed the doom of his entire plan of evil: the heavenly places were lost as well. He was willing to lose the earth knowing he had the heavens; the mystery ensured he lost both.

#### **The Ransom — Jacob and the Gentiles**

- In the prophetic program, the ransom concept (1 Timothy 2:5–6) was to release Jacob from the adversary's grip, with the implication that the Gentiles would remain in it. But Paul's revelation of the mystery disclosed that Christ's death laid the iniquity of the Gentiles there too — something the adversary, blinded by pride, never saw.
- The result: not only Jacob but the Gentiles could be released from his grip, and God could form the one new man — the church, the body of Christ, made of Jew and Gentile on the exact same level — to reconcile the heavenly places back to himself.

#### **God's Eternal Purpose Revealed — Ephesians 1:8–10**

- The revelation of the mystery discloses God's eternal purpose: not just the repossession of the earth (the prophetic program), but the gathering together of all things in Christ — both in heaven and on earth — in the dispensation of the fullness of times (Ephesians 1:9–10).
- Ephesians 1:19–20: the exceeding greatness of God's power, seen in raising Christ and seating him far above all principality, power, might, and dominion — not only earthly but heavenly — provides for the full reconciliation of the heavenly places.
  - Christ is not only the firstborn of the kings of the earth but the firstborn of every creature — angelic as well — heading up both realms.

#### **The Believer's Position and Purpose — Colossians 1:12–20**

- Colossians 1:12–14: every believer has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son — no longer a satanic possession but owned by God, of his household, and destined to be utilized in the reconciliation of the heavenly places.
- Colossians 1:15–16: Christ is the firstborn of every creature; by him all things were created — visible (earthly governments) and invisible (heavenly principalities, powers, thrones, dominions). Both spheres are in view.
- Colossians 1:18–20: Christ is the head of the body, the church — the firstborn from the dead — that in all things he might have the preeminence. Having made peace through the blood of his cross, he reconciles all things unto himself, whether things in earth or things in heaven.
  - For further study on the mystery of Christ and the dispensation of Gentile grace, Keith recommends the Basic Bible Comprehension video series ([www.enjoythebible.org](http://www.enjoythebible.org)).

## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### The Prophetic Program vs. The Mystery of Christ

The prophetic program — declared through the Old Testament Scriptures — concerned the repossession of the earth: the Davidic kingdom, the release of Israel from the adversary's grip, and the millennial reign of Christ over the nations. The mystery of Christ, kept entirely secret by God until revealed to Paul, concerns the reconciliation of the heavenly places as well — an entirely separate and additional purpose. Where the prophetic program addressed one realm, the mystery reveals God's eternal purpose to bring both heaven and earth under the one imperial headship of Christ in the dispensation of the fullness of times.

### Why God Kept the Mystery Secret

The mystery was not hidden in encoded or symbolic form in the Old Testament — God said nothing about it whatsoever. The reason was strategic: God needed Satan to crucify the Lord of glory. Had Satan known that crucifying Christ would result in the formation of a new creation to reconcile the heavenly places back to God, he would never have done it. By keeping the mystery completely hidden, God ensured that Satan's own action — in his pride and blindness — would seal the doom of his entire plan of evil in both realms (1 Corinthians 2:7–8).

### The Ransom: Jacob Only vs. Ransom for All

In the prophetic program, the ransom secured by Christ's death was understood as releasing Jacob (Israel) from the adversary's grip, with the Gentiles left in it. The revelation of the mystery to Paul disclosed that when Christ died, the iniquity of the Gentiles was laid on him as well — something the adversary never anticipated. This means the ransom is for all (1 Timothy 2:6) — both Jew and Gentile can be released from the adversary's grip, enabling God to form the one new man, the church, the body of Christ, out of both on the exact same footing.

### Earth Repossessed vs. All Things Reconciled

The prophetic program set forth the reconciliation of the earth and its governmental systems to God under the Davidic king. The mystery reveals a far greater scope: the reconciliation of all things — both in heaven and on earth — to God through the blood of Christ's cross (Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 1:10). The church, the body of Christ, will exist in resurrection bodies fit for the heavenly places and will be used by God to bring about the reconciliation of those heavenly governmental authorities to himself, completing what Satan's rebellion disrupted.

## Key Scripture References

<b>1 Timothy 6:15</b>	Christ as the blessed and only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords — two titles for two realms
<b>Psalms 110:1</b>	"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool" — fulfilled as Stephen sees Christ stand (Acts 7)
<b>Acts 7</b>	Stephen sees the Son of Man standing — end of Israel's extension of mercy; the day of wrath at hand
<b>Acts 9</b>	Christ appears to Saul of Tarsus; Paul raised up with the unprophesied mystery dispensation
<b>1 Corinthians 2:7–8</b>	The hidden wisdom ordained before the world for our glory; none of the princes of this world knew it, or they would not have crucified the Lord of glory
<b>1 Timothy 2:5–6</b>	One God, one mediator, Christ Jesus; gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time
<b>Ephesians 1:9–10</b>	The mystery of God's will: to gather together all things in Christ — both in heaven and on earth — in the dispensation of the fullness of times
<b>Ephesians 1:19–20</b>	The exceeding greatness of God's power in raising Christ and seating him far above all principality, power, might, and dominion in the heavenly places
<b>Colossians 1:12–14</b>	Made meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; delivered from the power of darkness; translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son
<b>Colossians 1:15–16</b>	Christ the firstborn of every creature; by him all things created — visible and invisible, earthly and heavenly governments
<b>Colossians 1:18–20</b>	Christ head of the body, the church; firstborn from the dead; having made peace through the blood of his cross, reconciling all things — in earth and in heaven

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