

1 The Divine Secret

2 SECRET

- Dictionaries define the word “SECRET” as a mystery—as something hidden or unexplained, along with something kept from the knowledge of others or shared only confidentially with a few.
- Add the word “divine” to the word “secret,” and you heighten its interest and increase everyone’s desire for knowing .

3 Divine Mystery

- Since millions of people seek a connection to the divine,—unseen world of God, there has to be something really special and juicy about a “divine secret,” doesn’t there?
- Just what might that divine secret be?
- Is there some sort of God–inspired mystery that hasn’t been unsealed, or some special information that’s gone untrumpeted for thousands of years?
- If so, what is it? And where can it be located?

4 Answers

- The answers can actually be found in the Holy Bible, the ultimate source of written truth.
- Some passages in assorted Bible translations refer to . . .
 - “God’s secret,”
 - “God’s secret wisdom,”
 - “God’s mysterious plan,”
 - “a wonderful secret,”
 - “the secret that was hidden from everyone,”
 - “the secret of the Good News,”
 - “the mysteries of God,” and
 - “the mysteries of the kingdom of God.”

5 KeY References

- Wow! Scripture makes it more than obvious that God has a mysterious, secret plan, so let’s take a look at some of the quotations that mention it.
- Perhaps the single most declaration verse about the Bible’s divine secret is found in the New Testament, in the book of Colossians, stating:
 - This message is the secret that was hidden from everyone since the beginning of time, but now it is made known to God's holy people. (Col. 1:26 NCV)

6 KeY References

- But this verse in Colossians is not some rogue translation that is either a mistranslation or simply doesn’t belong in the Bible.
- The Apostle Paul used very similar language numerous times elsewhere, as he discussed:
 - . . . the mystery kept secret since the world began . . . (Romans 16:25 NKJV)

- But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages . . . (1 Cor. 2:7 NKJV)

7 Key References

- Interesting as it is, the Apostle Paul goes on in 1 Cor. 2, admitting that Jesus would never have been executed if the people in charge at the time comprehended this mysterious plan.
 - None of the rulers of this world understood it. If they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (1 Corinthians 2:8 NCV)
- Moreover, Paul also taught that those who follow the truth are actually special agents of sorts.
 - “So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.” (1 Corinthians 4:1 NIV)
- So then, there are things hidden from the worlds’ general population, but true followers of Jesus are meant to know the secret things and the Apostle Paul wasn’t alone in addressing this.

8 Key References

- Jesus Christ, God Himself in the flesh, used terms including “secret” and “mysteries.”
- In fact, when Jesus was asked directly about why He so often spoke to people in puzzling analogies known as parables instead of just explaining things simply and clearly, He gave an answer that even today surprises many Christians who wrongly assume Jesus was the great communicator-in-chief.
- Jesus indicated He was purposely HIDING His message from the vast majority of the public, intending it only for a select few at that time. Here’s what He told His apostles:
 - You are permitted to understand the secret about the Kingdom of God. But I am using these stories to conceal everything about it from outsiders. (Mark 4:11 NLT)

9 Key References

- Jesus more than once said some things had been kept secret since the world was made.
- He stressed that He was taking deliberate steps to conceal the secrets, to hide the mysteries of God’s kingdom from the general populace, yet at the same time was revealing the divine secret only to His closest followers.
 - To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ (Luke 8:10 NKJV)
 - Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. (Matthew 13:11 NKJV)

10 Not So Secret

- This whole situation is drenched with irony.
- While God has gone out of his way to hide his plan and purposes, and then only does reveal it to a few.
- So who are these few?
 - The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant. (Psalm 25:14 NKJV)
- The New Testament agrees, and has a variety of examples confirming this.
 - At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. (Luke 10:21 NIV)
 - Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.” (Luke 10:23 NIV)

11 Eyes that See

- Two of the most common phrases used in both the Old Testament and New Testament is the phrase, “Eyes that see and ears that hear” or “Eyes that don’t see and ears that don’t hear.”
- Both of these are referring to spiritual receptivity and what happens when we hardened our hearts to the truth.
 - He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.” (Matt 13:11 NIV)
 - Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.” (Matt 13:12–13 NIV)
 - In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.” (Matt 13:14–15 NIV)

12 Eyes that See

- Then Jesus turned to his followers and said, . . .
 - But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (Matt 13:16–17 NIV)

- So in other words, spiritual illumination is a free gift to those who harden not their hearts when God visits them with the truth.
- Without it, no one can be saved.
- This is why it says in Proverbs, Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. (Prov 4:23 NIV)
- And in Hebrews, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Heb 4:7 NIV)

13 Peter’s Confession

- When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (Matt 16:13 NIV)
- They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matt 16:14–16 NIV)
- Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. (Matt 16:17–18 NIV)

14 The Divine Secret

- So then, what is the Divine Secret.
- . . . that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. (2 Cor 5:19 NIV)V)
- Jesus himself said the same thing, “Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.” (John 14:11 NIV)
- Many of them said, “He is demon–possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?” (John 10:20 NIV)
- Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:25–27 NIV)

15 The Divine Secret

- The Divine Secret is this, . . .
 - God is reconciling himself to the world, through His Son, Jesus Christ for the sake of those who have hardened not their hearts and have “Eyes that see and ears that hear.” They can put their faith in the words of His Son and the preaching of the gospel of Christ.
 - Thus having understanding to the things of God we can become a vessel holy and pure where God comes by His spirit and lives this life through us.

- As the Apostle Paul has said, I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness — the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col 1:25–27 NIV)

16 Our Destiny

- According to Joe Kovacs, award-winning journalist and broadcaster . . .
- Scripture refers to God’s obedient people as “the children of God,” who will become . . .
 - “partakers of the divine nature,” —endowed with and sharing the glory of Christ,
 - elevated above the angels to judge angels and the citizens of this world,
 - who will rule and reign alongside their literal brother Jesus, and
 - even sit down on the very throne next to the Creator of the universe and be examples to everyone of God’s goodness, grace, and kindness.

17 Our Destiny

- And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:6–7 NIV)
- In other words, God wants us close to him, so that in the ages to come, our presence there by God’s throne will remind all of creation of God’s goodness, grace, and mercy.
- So then, if any angel like Satan would ever want to accuse God of not being fair, just, and good and lead a rebellion, he will probably not get very far.
- Everyone will look at us and know that God is good and there’s no darkness in Him.

18 What Does This Mean?

- If God has revealed himself to you, it is because you are special as He only shows himself to those who are humble in heart—those who accept the witness of the Holy Spirit and take responsibility for a guilty conscience.
- To them God gives grace to believe the Gospel, when it is preached in clarity and power.
- This is why it says in Scripture that we are saved by grace, not by works, but him who calls. (Rom. 9:12)
- But those who harden their hearts, God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, . . . (Rom 11:8 NIV)

19 We Are Special

- Since we are special, let us act special!

- For God has called us to be participants in His divine nature so that we can through his precious promises escape the lust and evil that is in the world caused by those who have hardened their hearts. (See 2 Peter 1:1-4)
- God wants to come live in us and we in Him.
- There is a glorious and wonderful intimacy awaiting us.
- So let us make His paths straight and accept responsibility for our actions and follow the words of Christ.
- God want us to rule and reign with Him and be examples of His kindness, goodness, and mercy forever and forever.
- He has already seen we have a heart for this, therefore, let us keep in step with what God has called us to and that is to be examples of His glory and grace!