

Ephesians Series

Lesson #087

October 11, 2020

Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

The Mystery Doctrine Revealed
Ephesians 3:3

Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—”

**Τούτου χάριν, *toutou charin*;
“for this reason”**

Eph. 3:13, “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”

**ἐγκακέω *enkakeō*
pres act inf,
“become tired, lose
heart, become
discouraged”**

**θλίψις *thlipsis* fem
plur dat
“trouble, tribulation,
oppression,
suffering”**

Paul's Mission

Rom. 11:13, “For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,”

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation *of the grace of God which was given to me for you,*”

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

What is a dispensation?

Latin: *dispensatio*, “to deal out, to weigh out, to dispense, or to distribute.”

Webster's *Third New International Dictionary*:

- 1. a divine ordering and administration of worldly affairs;**
- 2. a system of principles, promises, and rules divinely ordained and administered;**
- 3. a period of history during which a particular divine revelation has predominated in the affairs of mankind;**
- 4. any general state or ordering of things.**

***A dispensation takes place in time, but isn't necessarily related to time.**

dispense (di'spens) vb

(1) (tr) to give out or distribute in portions.

**(2) (tr) to prepare and distribute (medicine),
esp. on prescription.**

(3) (tr) to administer (the law, etc.).

Dictionary.com

verb (used with object)

to bring into use or operation: to

administer justice; to administer last rites.

to make application of;

give: to administer medicine.

**to supervise the formal taking of (an oath
or the like).**

Based on the use of the word in Scripture, a dispensation may be defined as *a stewardship, administration, or management of others' property*. This involves responsibility, accountability, and faithfulness on the part of the steward.

***Dispensation:* A distinct and identifiable administration in the development of God's plan and purposes for human history (Eph. 3:2; Col. 1:25–26).**

**Eph. 3:2, “if
indeed you have
heard ...**

**of the dispensation
of the grace of God
which was given to
me for you,**

**... that by revelation He
made known to me the
mystery (as I have briefly
written already,”**

**Eph. 3:3, “that by revelation He made
known to me the mystery (as I have briefly
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Eph. 3:3, “that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,” [~RD]

- 1. *that* [*hoti*, ὅτι] introduces the content of what was heard. Well documented across the manuscripts of both traditions.**
- 2. The verb “made known” is in the passive in the Critical Text, by revelation the mystery “was made known to me” or the active voice in the majority of manuscripts, “He made known” to me the mystery.**

Eph. 3:3, “that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,” [~RD]

**ἀποκάλυψις *apokalupsis* fem sing gen
revelation; disclosure, unveiling**

Rom. 16:25, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began”

2 Cor. 12:7, “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”

Gal. 1:12, “For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Gal. 2:2, “And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.”

What the Bible Teaches About

Divine Revelation



1. Key words

**ἀποκάλυψις *apokalupsis* revelation;
disclosure.**

**ἀποκαλύπτω *apokalyptō*, uncover,
disclose, reveal; the opposite of cover
up, conceal.**

**γνωρίζω; *gnōrizō*; to make known,
Eph. 3:5, 10.**

Luke 2:15, “So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ”

1. Key words

**φανερῶ *phaneroō* aor pass part neut
sing gen to make known, reveal, to
show, to manifest**

**cognate, φανέρωσις *phanerōsis*,
revelation, manifestation, disclosure**

Rom. 16:25, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began”