

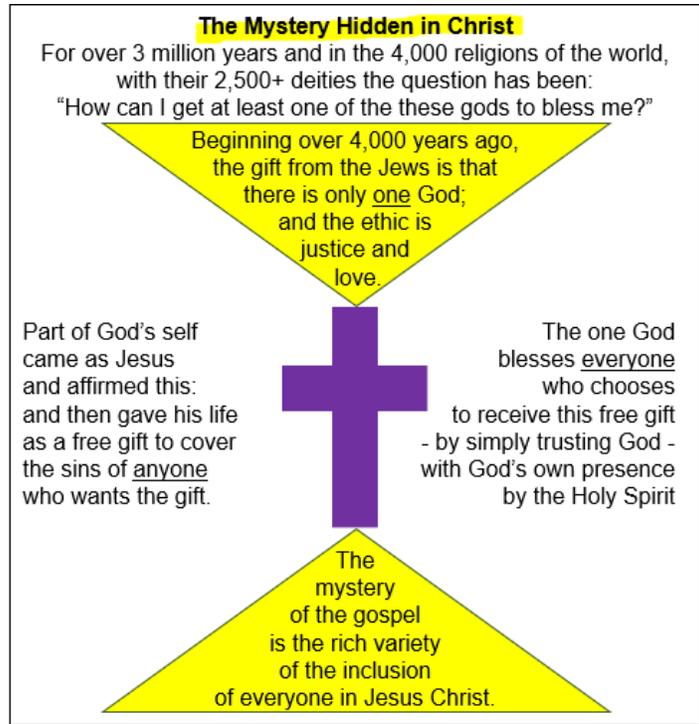
**READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021 Week 36 (September 6-10)**

*("Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly" ... and bear fruit in our lives) – Ephesians 3:16.*

**Historical Context** (Paul's third missionary trip – that includes his captivity for two years in Rome, before he arrived home again to the church in Antioch.)

**60-62** Ephesians captures the essence of the New Testament church, that Paul was helping to establish, that is built around the splendor of the mystery hidden in Christ (Ephesians 3:5-11) Because the mystery is at the historical core of the Gospel – as well as grounded in the Old Testament – it is very briefly sketched out below.

**Notes from Jesus' Ministry**  
 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold: I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." (John 10:16)  
 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me ... will have the light of life." (John 8:12)  
 "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9)  
 "Whoever eats this bread will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (John 6:51)  
 "And we will come and make our home with that person (through the Holy Spirit)." (John 14:23)  
 "... make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ..." (Matthew 28:19)



**Notes from Acts**  
 "...God made all nations to inhabit the earth, and God allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for God and find God – for God is not far from each one of us." (17:26-27)  
 "... Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children, and to all who are far away ..." (2:38-39)  
 "As I began to speak the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us ...' When they heard this ... they praised God saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'" (11:15-18)

God said: "Shall I not be concerned about (great Gentile city) in which are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left?" (Jonah 3:11). "I will give you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6) "I will pour our my Spirit on all flesh ..." (Joel 2:28) "There is no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free, no longer male or female. For all are one in Christ Jesus." And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:28-29)

<b>Day</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Clarification from original language – Greek word in parentheses</b>
Mon.	Ephesians 2 (:18)	<b>Access</b> = (Prosagoegaen) Entrance / the privilege and freedom to come into the presence of another.
Tues.	Ephesians 3 (:8)	<b>Boundless</b> = (Anexsichniaston) It is so great that one is unable to walk to the limits of it / cannot put a line around it.
Wed.	Ephesians 4 (:1)	<b>Walk</b> = (Peripataesai) Literally the stepping movements of the feet / to walk about, the act of going someplace. Therefore, where your feet may take you throughout the day.
Thurs.	Ephesians 5 (:4)	<b>Silly</b> = (Morologia) Foolish talk / expressions that exhibit folly, a lack of sense and awareness.  It's the opposite of wisdom.  It is <u>not</u> the word for humor, levity, or having fun in a conversation.

Fri. Ephesians 6 (:12) **Cosmic rulers** = (Kosmokratoras) The root of this word means power, strength, might, to have rule over, to have the upper-hand. To this word is added "Kosmos" (Cosmos) which ...

1. From Homer onwards meant simply how things are put together / the order in which people and things are placed. It is the way society and its subparts are regulated and constructed. Therefore, it can be used to refer to the seating positions of rowers.
2. Adding to this, the Greek philosophers used the word to describe the sum total of all that makes up the universe: the stars and planets, earth, the people upon it, and the order by which one part relates to the others and the whole.

This combined word, "Kosmokratoras" is not found before the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. And, at the time of Paul's writing, it was used in Greek society to first describe the planets - and then the rulers of the universe - upon whom the fate of all people depend.

This concept is worth comparing with I John 5:19, and I John 3:8. Note: Jesus is never referred to by this word.

Sources: [www.thebiblejourney.org](http://www.thebiblejourney.org); ; [www.datingthenewtestament.com](http://www.datingthenewtestament.com); [Analytical Greek New Testament](#); [The Interlinear NIV, Parallel New Testament in Greek and English](#); [Dictionary of New Testament Theology](#), Vols. 1-3; [The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament](#); [The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament](#).

© DFN (May be printed, but not used for profit).