

Scripture Paradox – Acts 3:21 and Romans 16:25

Greetings, I'm Dr. Paul Felter. Welcome to my video podcast, where I expose church fallacies and flawed Christian tradition with Bible truth. I let the Bible speak for itself. I want to thank all my supporters for your prayers and support. May the Lord richly bless you in all that you do!

I will begin slow and simplistic with this teaching because many pastors, teachers, and Christians believe everything in the Bible is the same and it all harmonizes. That is one of the major sources of confusion and why so many don't understand the Bible. And since they don't understand the Bible, and can't quite figure it out, they stop reading it. So, let's begin.

I want to compare two scriptures today:

The first passage was preached by the apostle Peter at the Temple compound, the day following the feast of Pentecost, which was recorded in the previous chapter, Acts chapter two. Peter addressed the Jews gathered at Solomon's porch in Acts 3:20–21 KJV:

"And he shall send **Jesus Christ**, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath **spoken** by the mouth of all his holy **prophets since the world began.**"

This passage speaks to the second coming of Jesus Christ. God the Father will send Jesus back to earth at the time of the restitution of all things. Jesus Christ will restore the earth and the nation of Israel at His second coming.

Peter referred to these things as, **spoken** about Jesus Christ by the prophets **since the world began**. That would be the prophetic books of the Old Testament as recorded by the prophets of Israel. In Acts 3:21, Peter refers to that which was **spoken** in the **prophetic** scriptures about Jesus Christ. The key word here is "**spoken.**"

SPOKEN – PROPHETS – JESUS CHRIST

The second passage under consideration was recorded by the apostle Paul in his epistle to the believers at Rome:

Romans 16:25 KJV - "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery**, which was **kept secret since the world began**,"

Here we find Paul writing of a **mystery**, not a prophecy! And, that **mystery** was not spoken, but **kept secret**. In both passages, the things **spoken**, and the things **kept secret**, were said to be held in that manner **since the world began**. Notice that both refer to Jesus Christ!

KEPT SECRET – MYSTERY – JESUS CHRIST

There is a clear dichotomy between Acts 3:21 and Romans 16:25

SPOKEN ≠ KEPT SECRET

Things spoken are not secret, as once a thing is spoken, it becomes known.

Here again, a prophecy is something spoken and known, therefore not a mystery, as a mystery is something unknown and unspoken.

A prophecy relates to something spoken.

A mystery relates to something kept secret.

From our two passages under consideration, Acts 3:21, and Romans chapter 16:25, we have the following:

SPOKEN ≠ KEPT SECRET

PROPHECY ≠ MYSTERY

Likewise:

PROPHECY = SPOKEN

MYSTERY = KEPT SECRET

Remember, both passages refer to Jesus Christ. We have now three things we must consider.

1. There is documented information pertaining to Jesus Christ which was **spoken** of by the prophets of Israel, since the world began, as recorded in the Old Testament.
2. There is a body of information pertaining to Jesus Christ which was **kept secret**, since the world began; a mystery revealed to the world by Jesus Christ, through the Apostle Paul, after his Damascus Road conversion.
3. Since something spoken cannot be the same as something kept secret, these two bodies of information pertaining to Jesus Christ **must be different!** Something spoken is revealed and knowable, something kept secret is hidden and not knowable.

Before I examine those two differing bodies of information pertaining to Jesus Christ, I want to examine one additional aspect.

Jesus said the following in John 5:39 KJV - "**Search the scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are **they which testify of me.**"

Here, Jesus is telling the Jews to search the scriptures, that would be the Old Testament scriptures. Jesus states that the scriptures testify of him. This corresponds to what the Apostle Peter said in Acts 3:21: things **spoken** by the mouth of all his holy **prophets since the world began** as recorded in the Old Testament.

Since the Old Testament is a written document, it is **searchable**.

Now let's examine a contrasting passage written by the Apostle Paul, found in Ephesians 3:8 KJV: "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the **Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;**"

Our Apostle Paul clearly states that he is going to preach among the Gentiles the **unsearchable** riches of Christ.

The unsearchable riches of Christ refers to things **kept secret** since the world began. These divine riches are not found in the Old Testament as they are **unsearchable!**

That which was SPOKEN by the prophets is SEARCHABLE.
That which was KEPT SECRET is UNSEARCHABLE.

Do you see the dichotomy? See the simplicity? See how Satan's influence through man and church tradition has confused these facts!

Let's do a quick summary of what we have discovered so far:

- SPOKEN ≠ KEPT SECRET
- PROPHECY ≠ MYSTERY
- SEARCHABLE ≠ UNSEARCHABLE
- SPOKEN = PROPHECY
- KEPT SECRET = MYSTERY
- KEPT SECRET = UNSEARCHABLE

Now let's examine these two bodies of information pertaining to Jesus Christ which will enable us to clearly see the differences:

First, that which Peter referenced in Acts 3:21; things spoken by the prophets since the world began.

THE SPOKEN & SEARCHABLE

1. Genesis 3:15 (The Protoevangelium):

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

2. Genesis 49:10 (Prophecy of Judah):

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

3. Isaiah 7:14 (Virgin Birth Prophecy):

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

4. Isaiah 9:6-7 (Prophecy of a Child to be Born):

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

5. Micah 5:2 (Prophecy of Bethlehem):

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

6. Zechariah 9:9 (Prophecy of the King Coming to Jerusalem):

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."

7. Psalm 22 (Messianic Psalm describing Crucifixion):

This entire Psalm foreshadows the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, including phrases like "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (verse 1) and descriptions of the piercing of his hands and feet (verse 16).

8. Isaiah 53:3-5 (Prophecy of the Suffering Servant):

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

9. Psalm 69:21 (Prophecy of Jesus' Crucifixion):

"They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

10. Zechariah 11:12-13 (Prophecy of Betrayal for 30 Pieces of Silver):

"And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord."

11. Isaiah 42:1-4 (Prophecy of the Servant of the Lord):

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law."

12. Psalm 16:10 (Prophecy of Resurrection):

"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

13. Isaiah 35:5-6 (Prophecy of Miracles by the Messiah):

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

14. Psalm 110:1 (Prophecy of the Messiah's Lordship):

"The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

15. Malachi 3:1 (Prophecy of the Messenger):

"Behold, I (the Father) will send my messenger (John the Baptist), and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord (Jesus Christ), whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom

ye delight in: behold, he (Jesus Christ) shall come, saith the Lord of hosts (the Father)." (parenthesis mine)

16. Isaiah 61:1-2 (Prophecy of the Anointed One's Mission):

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."

17. Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Prophecy of the New Covenant):

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah..."

18. Isaiah 50:6 (Prophecy of Suffering and Endurance):

"I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting."

19. Psalm 118:22-23 (Prophecy of the Rejected Cornerstone):

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

20. Hosea 11:1 (Prophecy of the Flight to Egypt):

"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt."

- Matthew 2:15 KJV - "And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son."

These 20 prophecies highlight aspects of Jesus' life and ministry that were foretold in the Old Testament scriptures, and many fulfilled during Jesus' earthly ministry. Each prophecy contributes to the glorious portrait of Jesus as the promised Messiah and Savior of Israel. These 20 prophecies were **spoken** by the prophets of Israel, and **searchable** by the Jews at the time of Christ.

THE UNSEARCHABLE, MYSTERY, RICHES OF CHRIST:

Kept secret since the world began, given to the apostle Paul for the Gentiles!
These unsearchable riches of Christ are found only in the apostle Paul's writings,
Romans through Philemon, as he alone is the apostles to the Gentiles:

- Chosen in Christ – Ephesians 1:4 KJV - "According as he hath **chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"
- Predestinated unto adoption – Ephesians 1:5 KJV - "Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself**, according to the good pleasure of his will,"
- Accepted in the beloved – Ephesians 1:6 KJV - "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us **accepted in the beloved.**"
- Redemption and Forgiveness – Ephesians 1:7 KJV - "In whom we have **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"
- Wisdom and prudence – Ephesians 1:8 KJV - "Wherein he hath abounded toward us in **all wisdom and prudence;**"
- The mystery of His will – Ephesians 1:9 KJV - "Having made known unto us the **mystery of his will**, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:"
- A Heavenly Inheritance – Ephesians 1:11 KJV - "In whom also **we have obtained an inheritance**, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13 KJV - "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**"
- Spirit of wisdom and revelation – Ephesians 1:17 KJV - "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may **give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**"

- Filleth all in all – Ephesians 1:22–23 KJV - "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the **head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**"
- Justification by Grace:
 - "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" Romans 3:24 KJV
 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" Romans 5:1 KJV
 - "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:7 KJV
- Direct access to God through Jesus Christ – Ephesians 2:18 KJV - "For through him we both **have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**"
 - 1 Timothy 2:5 KJV "For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;**"
- Peace of mind - Colossians 3:15 KJV - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."
- Salvation by Grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone - Ephesians 2:8–9 KJV - "For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift of God**: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
- Spiritual Growth and Transformation - Philippians 1:6 KJV - "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you **will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**"
- Victory over Sin and Death - Romans 6:4 KJV - "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**"
- The fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22–23 KJV - "But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
- Members of the body of Christ - 1 Corinthians 12:27 KJV - "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."
- Eternal Security - Ephesians 2:6 KJV - "And hath raised us up together, and made us **sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**"

- Co-Laborers with Christ - 1 Corinthians 3:9 KJV - "For we are **labourers together with God**: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

As you can clearly see from these two lists, the spoken, prophesied, searchable attributes of Jesus Christ found in the Old Testament are clearly different from the unsearchable riches of Christ kept secret since the world began. The unsearchable riches of Christ were revealed to our Apostle Paul, by Jesus Christ **himself**, after Paul's Damascus Road conversion in Acts chapter nine.

The unsearchable riches of Christ, build upon the foundation of the searchable attributes of Jesus Christ, spoken by the prophets in the Old Testament.

Here is an example:

The fact that Jesus, the Messiah, would die for the sins of Israel, is found in Old Testament prophecy, specifically Isaiah chapter 53. However, the means of Jesus' execution, crucifixion on a wooden cross, was not prophesied. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is also found in Old Testament prophecy. However, the fact that Jesus would die on the cross as payment for the sin of Gentiles is a part of the unsearchable riches of Christ. The fact that Gentiles could be saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, is part of the unsearchable riches of Christ. These riches were revealed by Christ to the Apostle Paul and not found in the prophetic scriptures of the Old Testament.

Prior to the cross of Jesus Christ, Gentiles were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). But after the cross, Gentiles were "made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). How wonderful, how marvelous is God's love!

The union of the prophetic and the mystery attributes of Christ, are what the Apostle Paul calls the "fellowship of the mystery."

Ephesians 3:9 KJV - "And to make all men see what is the **fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:"

What is "The Fellowship of the Mystery":

- The fellowship of that which was **spoken** and that which was **kept secret** since the world began.
- The fellowship of the **prophecy** and the **mystery**.
- The fellowship of the **searchable** and the **unsearchable** riches of Christ.
- Giving us today the complete picture of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for all mankind, both Jews and Gentiles that believe in Him.

The unsearchable riches of Christ pertain to the church, the body of Christ, which the Holy Spirit is building during this present dispensation of grace. They were not revealed to Israel via the Old Testament prophets. They were kept secret since the world began, being held in a mystery to be revealed at the appropriate time. That time could only come after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ because that is what the church and the gospel of grace are built upon: Jesus died on the cross for our sin and was resurrected on the third day to give us newness of life.

During the ministry of Jesus Christ, a Jew could be saved by believing in what the Old Testament prophets wrote about the Messiah. After all, that was the only writings they had for 1500 years from Moses to the time of Christ. However, during that time there was no formal plan of salvation for Gentiles. A Gentile had to convert to Judaism to be saved thereby becoming what's known as a proselyte, a gentile convert, yielding to circumcision and placing themselves under the law of Moses.

Only with the advent of the Apostle Paul did God provide a plan of salvation for the Gentiles, based solely on grace through faith and not the works of the law of Moses. Salvation today is entirely separate from Israel, Judaism, and the law of Moses. Salvation today includes both Jew and Gentile through the gospel of grace until the Rapture. After which, God turns His focus back on Israel, and the salvation plan reverts to the law of Moses during the 7-year Tribulation.

Praise the Lord for our salvation based exclusively on the finish work of Jesus Christ!

Praise the lord for the unsearchable riches of Christ!

Hallelujah, come quickly Lord Jesus!