### Basic Distinctions Between Prophecy and The Mystery

#### Prophecy

1. Concerns a *kingdom*; a political organization (Dan. 2:44; Matt. 6:10).

2. The kingdom to be established *on earth* (Jer. 23:5; Matt. 6:10).

3. Christ to be its *King* (Jer. 23:5; Isa. 9:6,7).


5. Israel to be given *supremacy* over the nations (Isa. 60:10-12; 61:6).

6. The Gentiles to be blessed through Israel’s *instrumentality* (Gen. 22:17,18; Zech. 8:13).

7. The Gentiles to be blessed through Israel’s *rise* (Isa. 60:1-3; Zech. 8:22,23).

8. Prophecy mainly concerns *nations* as such (Isa. 2:4; Ezek. 37:21,22).

9. Prophecy concerns blessings, both material and spiritual, *on earth* ( Isa. 2:3,4; 11:1-9; etc.).


11. In prophecy salvation by grace through faith *alone* is not contemplated.

12. The proclamation of the prophetic program committed particularly to *the twelve* (Matt. 10:5-7; Acts 1:6-8; 3:19-26).


14. Old testament writers frequently did not understand the prophecies made known through them (Dan. 12:8-10; I Pet. 1:10-12).

#### The Mystery

1. Concerns a *body*; a living *organism* (I Cor. 12:12,27; Eph. 4:12-16).

2. The body given a position *in heaven* (Eph. 1:3; 2:5-6; Col. 3:1-3).

3. Christ its living *Head* (Eph. 1:19-23; Col. 1:18).

4. The body chosen in Christ before the world began, but “kept secret since the world began” (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 1:4-11; 3:5-9).

5. Jew and Gentile placed on the *same level* before God (Rom. 10:12; 11:32; Eph. 2:16,17).


7. The Gentiles blessed through Israel’s *fall* (Acts 28:27,28; Rom. 11:11,12,15).

8. The mystery concerns *individuals* (Rom.10:12,13; II Cor. 5:14-17).

9. The mystery concerns “all spiritual blessings *in the heavenlies*” (Eph. 1:3; Col. 3:1-3).

10. The mystery explains Christ’s present *absence from the earth* (Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 3:1-3).

11. Salvation by grace through faith alone lies at the very heart of the mystery (Rom. 3:21-26; 4:5; Eph. 2:8,9).

12. The proclamation of the mystery committed particularly to *Paul* (Eph. 3:1-3,8,9; Col. 1:24-27).

13. The mystery revealed through *one man*: Paul (Gal. 1:1,11,12; 2:2,7,9; Eph. 3:2,3).

14. Paul both understood and longed that others might understand the mystery revealed through him (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Col. 1:9-10; 2:1-3).

*Things That Differ*, by C. R. Stam, pgs. 63-65