

JUDGES

REVEALS JESUS CHRIST
AS THE WONDERFUL SECRET



THE GOLDEN THREAD SERIES: E-BOOKLET SEVEN
LARRY M. JAYNES

The Golden Thread

Tracing Jesus through the Books of the Bible

An Anthology and Layman's Commentary of Jesus of Nazareth

Larry M. Jaynes

Judges

Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wonderful Secret

E-Booklet Seven of The Golden Thread Series



The Golden Thread

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Why this eBooklet is free:

We are so glad that you chose to download this eBooklet as our gift to you. Jesus taught us in Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” and we aspire to follow our Lord’s teaching. The Apostle Paul also understood this concept, “What is my reward then {for preaching and giving the gospel away freely}? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge” (I Corinthians 9:18). Paul came to realize that to serve the Word *without charge* was both a blessing to those who received the Word and to himself personally because he understood that God Himself is the reward, “*I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward*” (Genesis 15:1, and see Hebrews 11:6). When you have God in your life as your *exceeding great reward*, then being *with God* you will have everything you need to begin enjoying the more than abundant life. Our prayer for you is that you come to know experientially that “with God all things are possible” (Mark 10:27).

Enjoy, and God Bless You!

Scripture Notes:

Number one:

The verses quoted in this book are either from the King James Version of the Bible, or the Amplified Bible — Expanded Edition. When explicatory additions are used by the author in any of the Scripture verses they are enclosed in {braces}. Any other (parentheses) and/or [brackets] found in the Scriptures in this book have already been inserted by the Bible translators.

Example:

John 3:16 (The Amplified Bible):**

For God so greatly loved and dearly praised the world {the people in the world} that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him {God's Son, who is Jesus Christ} shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

Number two:

All Hebrew and Greek words quoted in this book are transliterated into English, and will be typed in *italics*.

Example:

The verb "loved" in John 3:16 (above) is the Greek word *agapaō* and indicates God's love applied.

Number three:

In the Bible the words *son of God* and *sons of God* is an all-inclusive biblical language and includes men and women, boys and girls, young and old.

Example:

Romans 8:14 (The Amplified Bible):**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Preamble

"All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." Jesus Christ

Have you ever asked yourself, What is the subject of the Bible? If we were to pose this question to any number of people, responses would be numerous. But what if we could honestly find one single thread of truth in the Bible that would satisfy the question and prove the subject beyond any doubt? We would benefit immensely by having the clearest understanding of God's opened will when reading His Scriptures. The Golden Thread answers this question; Jesus Christ is that one thread, and thus, he is the illustrated subject and theme through both the Old and New Testaments.

This Golden Thread Bible study series can be briefly summarized with three verses of Scripture, two of which are found in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, *"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,"* and *"we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth."* The third verse is found in the seventh chapter of the Book of Hebrews, *"Wherefore he {Jesus} is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

When comparing these three verses, it is evident that Jesus is, first, according to the Bible itself, the incarnate Word of God; secondly, Jesus is the living subject and focal point of all that the Prophets wrote, and thirdly, Jesus is unquestionably the only way to, not only salvation, but to God Himself. Consequently bypassing Jesus in one's search into the Bible is the main reason that so many people do not understand the heart of the Scriptures. Jesus of Nazareth confessed, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me."* When a man or a woman can come to know Jesus as he is, this is when coming to know the Father and His way, His love, and His truth is assured by Jesus!

So the questions that one must ask and answer when looking for God the Father is: *"Have we followed Jesus along his way, have we discovered that he is the truth, and have we received the life that he himself is?"* These questions are brought to light and then answered from beginning to end in this series as we follow Jesus through every Book in the Bible, commencing in Genesis, so that you will be able to say with believing confidence, *"I have found him, of whom Moses {who wrote the Book of Genesis} in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth."*

Preface:

“THE truth of the Lord’s coming runs like a golden thread from Genesis to Revelation. It is not a new doctrine, but an old truth . . . May we see how full the Scripture is of it, and how it runs like a golden thread.” William G. Carr / June 1894

Our intent in this series is to find and then highlight Scripture and follow its woven course through the Bible concerning Jesus Christ, noticing how these Scriptures relate to the whole of the Golden Thread who is Jesus Christ, thereby uncovering the inherent knitted tapestry of Christ that is displayed throughout God’s Word.

Our aim through this approach is in the pursuit of the thread that holds the living Word together, for then the larger mural of the life of Christ and what he has accomplished for humanity is brought clearly into focus.

In the course of this series as we pass through all of the books of the Bible, we will highlight a theme from each book, such as this study in the Book of Genesis. Our focal point will be to emphasize the singular aspect of Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed. Indeed, there are hundreds of thousands of subjects in Genesis and all of them do relate to Christ in various meaningful ways. However, our endeavor is to “figuratively” point a telescope at a single thread and bring this into a clear focus. Then we will hold a microscope over that particular focused concept to clearly view a detail of our wonderful Savior. With this approach, we will actually be magnifying, one by one, biblical concepts, concepts that were previously unclear or totally unrealized, and these will be cataloged for you throughout this series.

As an example, in Genesis we will begin following the thread of the Promised Seed who is Jesus Christ, searching for wherever the path itself leads and thereon we will be guided into both the Gospels and the New Testament; this research method will be followed through from Genesis to Revelation.

Learning about Jesus Christ from only the Gospels can greatly confine and blur one's complete vision of him. Often the Gospels give a summation of the life of Jesus, whereas the why and the purpose and the reason for God sending His Son are largely offered to us in extraordinary details throughout the Old Testament Scriptures and further ahead in the New Testament Scriptures. If we were to only look at the Gospels in a search for Jesus Christ, we may end up drawing conclusions devoid of all the contributing factors and perhaps only understanding about half of the story of his life's purpose as it relates to you — personally.

In The Golden Thread series, we will bring out new insight regarding Jesus by viewing him through both the Old and New Testaments to see the purpose, the prophecies, and the reason why God sent His Son into the world, and then a more palpable representation of him comes into the spotlight to enlighten our day-to-day walks with God which is our goal as believing Christians.

Honestly now, consider this with me; Would it benefit you and me if I framed only a small part of a great masterpiece and still call it a priceless work of art? Oh, let us say for illustration, what if I framed only one square inch of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" masterpiece, viewing only a piece of one sunflower and some of the background, and placed this up on my wall? How would any of the guests in my home recognize what I had framed? Could you honestly enjoy and appreciate the scope and beauty of the whole artwork with ninety-five percent of the master's brushstrokes missing? How could that inspire a connection to his masterwork, and to the brilliance of the artist himself?

In The Golden Thread, we view Jesus of Nazareth through the entire Bible (a widescreen version), rather than viewing him from just the Gospels because the Gospels are only a part of the whole portrait of our Redeemer, and then we present to you a most clear and enlarged illustration of him that will enlighten you with opened windows allowing in the fresh air and light to reveal hidden truths that reflect upon his heart and purpose that connects you — to him.

Our endeavor will be to discover for ourselves the comfort provided by *The Comforter* as we come to know the Son of God who will truly link our searching thoughts together with those of — our Creator.

The inlayed thread-mark of Christ has no end, for he is woven contiguously back and forth through the fibrous pages of Holy Writ, ever rejuvenating the human heart with revelations and godly insights. Thus, the revelation of Jesus Christ being the Golden Thread starts at the borders of prophecy as he forms cords of a safety net that secures man's entrance into eternity. As we proceed through the books of the Bible, we will be examining within the Scriptures its inherent story showcased within to discover and enjoy the embrace of the living Christ.

The Golden Thread is written as a layman's commentary to guide the reader through the accomplishments of Jesus of Nazareth for the redemption of searching men and women.

Jesus is the principle figure, holding every fragment of the Scripture together in perfect harmony, for he is "the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:24). Thus, without him there is no spiritual power or wisdom that may be truly gained in regards to heavenly ordained truths that are imparted to believers through understanding the complete Christ of Scripture.

As we discover the Redeemer in the Scriptures, he then reveals true hope and joy within our souls and gives soothing relief from confusion and uncertainty regarding the individual believer's ultimate destiny.

The Golden Thread is not written to cater to any particular set of religious beliefs, but rather crosses religious boundaries and preset dogmas in the exploration to enlighten searching souls with the Bible's inherent narrative of our Savior.

This series highlights the Bible with understandable passages to augment biblical perimeters of thought and provide avenues into Christ's life to portray what he accomplished for the salvation of the world.

The Golden Thread presents Jesus Christ as a true and totally complete Savior and allows his-story to come alive within the heart of one's understanding.

Our goal through the Scriptures is to equip the reader with the keys to make a spiritual connection with the living Christ and the God of heaven and creation.

With the Just One as our guide, we will also find him to be our open Door, and through him we discover heavenly love, peace, joy, grace, and hope as is revealed throughout the Scriptures.

"The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth" Acts 22:14

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Jesus Christ

Judges

Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wonderful Secret

In the Book of Judges an angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and prophesied that she was going to have a son, a Nazarite, "and he shall begin to deliver Israel" (Judges 13:5), and this deliverer would look to God for his strength. This angel was forwarding a message of blessing. The angel who is responsible to deliver these blessed messages from God is Gabriel, the Archangel. Gabriel also goes a step further and teaches one how to apply spiritual knowledge with godly skill so that the message is a thoroughly enjoyed benefit; let us look at an example below from the Book of Daniel.

Daniel 8:15-16:

-15: And it came to pass, when I, *even* I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

-16: And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of* Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this *man* {Daniel} to understand the vision {also See Daniel 9:21-27}.

How did Daniel perceive Gabriel? As being in *the appearance of a man*. Once sent by God to deliver a message to someone, an integral part of Gabriel's mission is to help them understand the visions of godly wisdom which will never be at cross purpose to God's Word. Any message delivered by Gabriel will always be in complete alignment and in concert with the written Scriptures as we studied in some detail in the previous study, **Joshua - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Captain of Salvation.**

Luke 1:19:

And the angel answering said unto him {Zacharias, John the Baptist's father}, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew {or *teach*}

thee these glad tidings {relating to Zacharias' son, John, as prophesied in the Book of Malachi 3:1-3}.

Gabriel was the angel who years after the Book of Judges also spoke to Mary of the greatest news ever given to humanity regarding her Son, The Promised Seed, Jesus of Nazareth, who would become the Deliverer of the world (Luke 1:26-38).

Following are the occurrences of Gabriel appearing to Samson's mother, and then his father, Manoah:

Judges 13:3-5, 10-11:

-3: And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou *art* barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

-4: Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean *thing*: {Do you see the wisdom and profit in the angel's advice, in watching what a pregnant woman would eat and drink, and the result will surely follow, for the angel's advice was personally given to her specifically.}

-5: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor {razor} shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

-10: And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man {i.e., the angel} hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the *other* day.

-11: And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, *Art* thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I *am*.

This son who Gabriel announced was born into the family of Manoah and his wife, and they named him Samson. Samson became an extremely strong man, especially in his believing of God's Word.

It is interesting to note that after the angel Gabriel first appeared to Mary in the Gospels (Luke 1:26-38), God also sent word to Joseph in quite a very similar fashion as the above verses (Matthew 1:19-23).

As Isaac, Samuel, and John the Baptist, Samson was also born from a previously barren woman, yet all these mothers were visited with God's blessings and announced by the angel sent from Him. Samson was the last of the Judges before Samuel who was both a Judge and Prophet of God, and was similar to the man of God — Moses, and they foreshadowed Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Eventually Samson's own people gave him over to the paganistic Philistines (Judges 15:9-13). These ungodly actions of the children of Israel proved they had contemptuous judgments and were totally unable to make a logical decision in favor of their own deliverance. They were very much like the men of Nineveh "wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand" (Jonah 4:11). They handed the deliverer, Samson over to their enemy, and that just on the border of their deliverance, "and he shall begin to deliver Israel" (Judges 13:5), but he never finished delivering them, he only began. Israel had done this with most all of God's Prophets over the years (Matthew 5:12, Luke 11:47-51), including their surrendering of Jesus, their Deliverer, to death (Acts 2:22-23), when they could have received the Covenant of Peace (as we shall study from the Book of Isaiah in detail in The Golden Thread series).

In the story of Samson, we can see vivid correlation between him and that of the Savior who was rejected by Israel and given over to the oppressive Romans who yelled out, "Then answered all the people, and said {to Pilate}, His blood {Jesus'} *be* on us, and on our children" (Matthew 27:25). Can you imagine? Well, that is precisely what all the people said! Our Lord's ministry parallels the Judge Samson. Jesus Christ is called, "The righteous judge" in II Timothy 4:8, and God has "committed all judgment unto the Son" (John 5:22), so it just may be a good idea to walk with your *righteous judge* in your God-given righteousness beforehand so that blessings may abound when "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

Romans 14:11:

For it is written {in Isaiah 45:23}, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Thankfully in grace, we who are saved may be assured that “he that judgeth me {and you} is the Lord” (I Corinthians 4:4), for we have been righteously judged to be as Righteous as our Lord is Righteous, “that we might be made the righteousness of God in him {in Christ}” (II Corinthians 5:21), “by the obedience of one {Jesus} shall many be made righteous” (Romans 5:19).

Samson’s father, Manoah asked the angel what his name was so that when the child was born they may reciprocate honor back to the angel.

Judges 13:17-18:

-17: And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What *is* thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?

-18: And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why asketh thou thus after my name, seeing it *is* secret?

This word *secret* is the focal point to the whole Book of Judges (yet has laid dormant for literally thousands of years). The word *secret* in the Hebrew Text is the word meaning that something is kept as a *wonderful secret*. Every biblical name was always associated with a meaning of importance. For instance, Abraham’s name means “the father of multitudes” and Samson’s name meant “distinguished” and “strong.” But when God named His Archangel Gabriel, God did not define the precise meaning of Gabriel’s name, and although his name has come to mean “Man of God,” there was something else reminiscent of a mystery hidden in his name because the meaning of his name concealed a *wonderful secret* that was to be revealed at a future time. Unlike the Archangel Michael (Jude 1:9, Revelation 12:7), whose name is defined as “him who is like God” and “the one who fights

for God's people"; like God said "my name *is* in him" (Exodus 23:21) because Michael is as God is, a defender of the chosen (See Exodus 23:20-23, Isaiah 63:9, Daniel 10:13, 21, and 12:1). However, all Gabriel knew about his name was that it represented a *wonderful secret* symbolizing something very awesome still to come.

Gabriel was humbly performing his job in relaying a message from God, and no doubt part of his message was to let out some information about this *wonderful secret*, but one thing that he had no need of was for Samson's parents to honor him as they requested because doing God's work and coming to earth and delivering His messages was rewarding enough. I'm sure his heavenly pay is pretty darn good, with everlasting benefits including his perpetual life and his heavenly retreat plan and real healthcare in spades, as we may also receive in Christ (Psalms 107:20, See our E-booklet titled: **He Sent His Word and Healed Them**). "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind" (Colossians 2:18).

Doing honor to angels as Manoah requested can lead to offering angels forms of worship which is something God does not appreciate in the least, extra-especially by His children.

Even Jesus' angel speaking with the great Evangelist and Apostle, John, told him who he should be worshipping, "And I {John} fell at his {an angel's} feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not {NOT}: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God {Who? God!}" (Revelation 19:10).

In fact, John was so astounded with everything he was learning, seeing, and being told by this angel (which was the revelation in the Book of Revelation), that the angel had to tell John twice not to go overboard in gratitude and worshipping him. "Then saith he unto me {John}, See *thou do it* not {NOT}: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God {and that goes for us, too, *worship God*}" (Revelation 22:9). Hey, no condemnation, God's Word is simply saying (as the angel mentioned), "If you are

worshiping angels, then stop it — okay?” An eternal reward is contingent upon getting this one right, so please; *Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility {self-abasement} and worshipping of angels*, therefore — worship God, as Jesus said to Satan, “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:10). And Satan is an angel — a fallen angel who desired worship!

John 4:23-24:

-23: But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

-24: God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

The word (or rather, the name) *Wonderful Secret* is also referred to in Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful {or the *Wonderful Secret*}.” Gabriel knew that his name had a connection to another child — the Son of God, the Promised Seed.

Isaiah 9:6 is a reference to Jesus Christ, and in Judges, when Gabriel said of his name *it is secret*, he was saying that his name represented something that none of the angels of heaven’s throne could know (I Peter 1:9-12), nor is it further defined for us in the Old Testament. However, the Savior was connected to the name and he would reveal the dynamics and realities of this *Wonderful Secret* to humanity, and he has in these current days of the age of divine grace.

In Psalms 139:5-6, we read, “Thou {God} hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me {made a real heartfelt connection}. *Such knowledge is too wonderful* {this is the same Hebrew word for *Wonderful Secret* used in Judges 13:18} for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it.” The Psalmist (as all the Prophets of God) searched out just how marvelous the secret was to be once known, and yet in the Old Testament they could not attain into it, but they knew something marvelous was coming, and that something was to be revealed between the sufferings and the glory of Christ. It would be like today, we know that we are “the sons of God,” we

know that Christ is returning and taking us home to heaven, yet how awesome that will be (“it doth not yet appear what we shall be”) is as the Psalmist wrote, “it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it,” but what the *Wonderful Secret* is – we, in grace now have – within!

I John 3:2:

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be {a future secret}: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him {so it will be pretty awesome}; for we shall see him as he is {because we will be just *as he is*}.

Today in grace, the *Wonderful Secret* that Gabriel was speaking of is a revealed “mystery” about the Son of God, and is known to us as the true counterpart and prototype of Gabriel.

Gabriel was the *Wonderful Secret* – preserved – in the Old Testament. Christ Jesus is the *Wonderful Secret* – unsealed – in us!

Gabriel was the *Wonderful Secret* – concealed – in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ is the *Wonderful Secret* – revealed – in the New Testament.

Colossians 3:4:

When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Recall the Psalmist wrote, Thou {God} hast beset me behind and before,” but now in grace something even greater is underfoot, “as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (II Corinthians 6:16). Here we learn that God is not just *behind and before* as He was in Old Testament times, but now also within which is quite wonderful! You see, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Corinthians 3:16), and Christ is also “formed in you” (Galatians 4:19); in other words “Jesus Christ is in you” (II Corinthians 13:5)!

In past ages, men and angels desired to know what it was that might be coming; they knew that it was something between the sufferings and the glory of Christ but they were unable to clearly see and understand what it really was, and although they desired and searched, the truths did not come out until the New Testament Epistles revealed them to God's chosen children. In Ephesians 3:10 we read that "now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God," and this *manifold wisdom* is related to the mystery — to the realities of our Wonderful Secret! Now Gabriel's name is defined in Christ's personal presence and all of his messages, so much so that even heavenly *principalities and powers*, which include Gabriel and all the angels, can finally realize the awesome details along with men and women whom God has called to reveal His Son in them.

The believers in the Old Testament times had the hope of the Messiah's coming, and although they did not fully understand everything about his coming, God continued revealing more and more to His Prophets, and His Prophets would receive revelations and write them down in God's Word for posterity. The angel in Judges 13 ascended up into Heaven after having revealed a glimpse of the coming *wonderful secret*; the hope of all humanity — Jesus Christ and through him people would come to know the details of what was hidden in Gabriel's name:

I Corinthians 2:7-8:

-7: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world {ever began} unto our glory:

-8: Which none of the princes of this world {the rulers of darkness} knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

This mystery was *ordained before the world* began, but for whose glory? For *our glory!* Yet, the secret of *our glory* was not revealed until after Christ was raised up from the dead, after Jesus ascended as Gabriel foreshadowed. If any of the details of God's *wonderful secret* were ever known to the powers of darkness, to Satan and his realm of evil, then *they would not* {NOT} *have*

crucified the Lord of glory, Jesus Christ. Take a moment and consider this: If the princes of this world knew what we are looking at — at this moment in time, then Jesus would not have been crucified! And what they did not know was any of the details of the wonderful secret that God concealed in Gabriel's name, yet in grace, "the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God," is now revealed — in us.

Colossians 2:2-3:

-2: That their hearts {believers, yours and mine} might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

-3: In whom {in Christ, and Christ is — in you} are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The *mystery* relates to the hidden and past secret wisdom of God, the *Wonderful Secret* that is now revealed in this age of grace and recorded in the New Testament. This *mystery* can be completely understood and even enjoyed to a greater dimension than even Gabriel could have dreamed of it in times past because our understanding comes to us through the risen Christ who is not only the subject of the *Wonderful Secret* but he is our *Wonderful Secret* — revealed within.

Without the crucifixion of Jesus there would be no age of grace. In that scenario we would have remained eternally unredeemed and apart from receiving his glory, forever unsaved and severed from him, and destined to eternal damnation without our God and without the hope of receiving his gracious glory in this world (Ephesians 2:13-14). So a lot of the future hopes of God and man were hanging in the balance, riding on God keeping this a *Wonderful Secret* — secret until this new age of grace commenced.

Now, because of the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ Jesus, we have received the spiritual life of Christ within our very hearts along with his strength and power (John 14:12, Philippians 4:13), and we have received our entrance into the salvation of eternity — being forever redeemed is today completely secured.

With Christ within we can daily enjoy God's *Wonderful Secret* that is now known throughout the New Testament Epistles, believed on in our hearts, and enjoyed in our daily adventures.

Colossians 1:25-28 (The Amplified Bible):**

-25: In it {the church of God's grace} I {the Apostle Paul} became a minister in accordance with the divine stewardship which was entrusted to me for you [as its object and for your benefit], to make the Word of God fully known [among you] —

-26: The mystery of which was hidden for ages and generations [from angels and men], but is now revealed to His holy people (the saints) {i.e., you and me},

-27: To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ within {you personally} *and* among you {collectively as a body of believers}, the Hope of [realizing the] glory {your glory, which is Christ in you}.

-28: Him {Christ in you} we preach *and* proclaim, warning *and* admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One).

Christ in you, places him every place "you are," for you are in his stead today — this is part of the greatness of the *Wonderful Secret* now revealed in you! *None of the princes of this world knew* that today in grace, Christ is everywhere you are, not symbolically but spiritually and thus — eternally (II Corinthians 4:18).

They crucified one Jesus (who was literally a nightmare to Satan, twenty-four/seven), and he was buried, but in resurrection the harvest was (and still is) immense, for now the rulers of darkness contend with Christ in us the world-round, and we can beat Satan down and defeat his purposes in multiple places over and again.

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them {Satan and his evil realm}: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4). Thus Jesus said, “the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do” (John 14:12). When we get further ahead into the New Testament – great attention will be given to this *Wonderful Secret* – so definitely the secret will be out in the open for us to enjoy in this age of grace.

In Hebrews 1:6 God said, “Let the angels of God worship him {Christ}.” The word *worship* here means to give reverence, respect, and preeminence. This is why when Manoah, Samson’s father asked Gabriel, whose name should I honor? Gabriel directed him not to look at the *messenger*, but to the hope of all humanity, to Christ who is the *message*. Jesus would not only “begin to deliver Israel,” as Samson had done but was prophesied to deliver and redeem all men and women who will believe on him. Before the first coming of Christ, only the Israelites could receive salvation as well as the occasional proselyte such as Ruth – but since the resurrection, anyone in the entire world may be saved for eternity through Christ.

Jesus Christ is the message we have to share and is something more wonderful than Gabriel was able to speak, for we “shine as lights in the world {having Christ within}; Holding forth the word of life” (Philippians 2:15-16).

Gabriel’s missions are always to deliver messages and impart spiritual understanding; whereas in grace we may, “know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ” (I John 5:20).

Ephesians 2:17-18:

-17: 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:

-18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches

of the glory of his inheritance in the saints {which is CHRIST IN YOU}.

As the Book of Judges makes known Jesus Christ to be a *Wonderful Secret*, we today have the God-given right, along with His blessings and His permission, to speak of truths that have never been known by angel or man until our age of grace.

The Two Prayers in Ephesians

First prayer - Ephesians 1:16-23:

You - IN Christ (The fullness of Christ who fills all in all with all blessings):

Prayer (offered on your behalf), addressed to "The God of our Lord Jesus Christ"

(Based on Ephesians 1:1-15, and further illustrated from Ephesians 2:1-22)

1) You in Christ (your heavenly standing, i.e., your heavenly sonship with God):

16: Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17a: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. . .

2) He may give (grant) unto you . . .:

17b: . . . the Father of glory, may give {grant} unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18a: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened {a spiritual enlightening of the new man in Christ}. . .

3) The purpose of this indwelling knowledge of God

(a personal relationship with Him):

18b: . . . That ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19a: And what is the exceeding greatness {surpassing greatness} of his power to us-ward who believe. . .

4) According to (the standard of) God's mighty power in Christ:

19b: . . . according to the working of his mighty power,

20: Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

5) Result - Christ's (everlasting) fullness established throughout the church:

22: And hath put all things under his {Christ's} feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23: Which is his body {you are a member of "his body" and all things under your feet - this is "the riches of His grace" enjoyed, 1:7; 2:7}, the fulness of him {Christ!} that filleth all in all {Amen}.

Second prayer – Ephesians 3:14-21:

Christ IN – You (The fullness of Christ who fills you with all the fullness of God):
Prayer (offered on your behalf), addressed to “The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

(Based on Ephesians 3:1-13, and further illustrated from Ephesians 4:1-6:24)

1) Christ in you (your earthly state, i.e., your earthly fellowship with the Father):

14: For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15: Of whom the whole family in heaven {you in Christ} and earth {Christ in you} is named,

2) He would grant (give) you . . . :

16: That he would grant {give} you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened {a spiritual strengthening} with might by his Spirit in the inner man {Christ in you};

3) The purpose of the indwelling Christ (a personal friendship with him):

17: That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18: May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge {surpassing beyond knowledge}, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

4) According to (the standard of) the Father’s power within you:

20: Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

5) Result – Christ’s (eternal) glory established throughout the church:

21: Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end {you are called into eternity – never to be in any condemnation – this is “the riches of his glory” realized, 1:18; 3:16}. Amen.

The two prayers, a repeated alternation structure, compare corresponding numbers 1)&1) etc.

1) *You in Christ (your heavenly standing, i.e., your heavenly sonship with God):*

2) *He may give (grant) unto you . . . :*

3) *The purpose of this indwelling knowledge of God (a personal relationship with Him):*

4) *According to (the standard of) God’s mighty power in Christ:*

5) *Result – Christ’s (everlasting) fullness established throughout the church:*

1) *Christ in you (your earthly state, i.e., your earthly fellowship with the Father):*

2) *He would grant (give) you . . . :*

3) *The purpose of the indwelling Christ (a personal friendship with him):*

4) *According to (the standard of) the Father’s power within you:*

5) *Result – Christ’s (eternal) glory established throughout the church:*

“The wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge!” Job 37:16

A Bonus Chapter

He is called Faithful and True

(Note: All bonus chapters relate to the subject of *The Golden Thread*)

In Revelation 19:11, Jesus Christ is called “Faithful and True” because he was (and is) always *Faithful* to the Word of God and he was always *True* to his heavenly Father. In Revelation 19:13, Jesus is called “The Word of God” because he is the epitome and the manifestation of everything that God’s healing Word represents. Jesus is the incarnate and living personification of the written Word of God.

John 1:14:

And the Word {of God} was made flesh, and dwelt among us {in the first century}, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

What a wonderful verse of Scripture! Jesus Christ, being *Faithful and True* to the Word of God, always made God known to anyone who would listen to his teachings that were *full of grace and truth*. John 1:18 states, “No man hath seen God at any time; {however} the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he {Jesus} hath declared *him* {the Father}.” Even today, Jesus continues, “declaring” the Father, for “Jesus Christ {is} the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).

John 17:25–26:

-25: O righteous Father {Jesus is praying}, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these {his Apostles and disciples} have known that thou hast sent me {for God sent His Word,— Psalms 107:20}.

-26: And I have declared unto them thy name, and will {continue even to this very day to} declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

God sent Jesus Christ who is called *Faithful and True*, to make known to us the true characteristics of God Himself. Jesus Christ continues even today declaring everything that the name of God means personally to men and women through the Scriptures; Paul called this “the revelation of Jesus Christ” in Galatians 1:12. *The revelation of Jesus Christ* can and will declare in our own hearts the love that God in Christ has for us.

Psalms 119:138:

Thy {God’s} testimonies *that* thou hast commanded *are* righteous and very faithful.

The *testimonies* of God are *righteous* – so Jesus Christ is as *righteous* as God is, and as the *testimonies* of God are *very faithful* – so Jesus Christ is as *faithful* as God is – this is why Jesus Christ cannot be separated from the Scriptures, and why he is called the Word of God in both John 1:14 and Revelation 19:13. Jesus is the subject of the Word, and he was God’s plan of Redemption on the senses level for mankind’s eternal salvation. As Jesus is the living Word of God, he can become for us the uplifting of our hopes and dreams proportionately to the Scriptures becoming real in a spiritual revival in our hearts. (See our E-booklet in this series titled: **Ezra - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Spiritual Revival.**)

God is Spirit, Love, and Light, but Jesus Christ was flesh and bone, blood and sweat, with a soul and feelings, “made like unto *his* brethren” (Hebrews 2:17). Jesus lived in the full gamut of the real emotional experience that all men and women live every day of their lives. Jesus subsisted on God’s healing Word as an example for us to follow; he was (and still is) called *Faithful and True*.

Throughout God’s Word, Jesus continues showing us the clear path that leads directly to the actual throne at the right hand of God.

I Peter 2:21:

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

We can follow the steps of Christ straight up to the right hand of God because Jesus *suffered* so we would not have to, and so we could easily follow him with joy. Jesus through divine prudence brought man back to the Creator of Life and Light by virtue of his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, being our forerunner to the right hand of God. Without Jesus Christ we could not really fully understand how *righteous* God really is, men and women could not believe how *faithful* God really is, and humanity could not fully believe to receive the promises promised them throughout God's very faithful Word.

Titus 2:13-14:

-13: Looking for that blessed hope {which is Christ's return for us}, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; {who can even now appear in the understanding of our inner hearts}

-14: Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

A *peculiar people*, does not represent that Christians are strange, awkward, or weird people; rather *peculiar* means that we are a people who have been united together by our heavenly calling, making us uniquely uncommon as we "walk by faith, not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7). You see, with *faith* we enjoy a unique standing before God as His dear children "for all *men* have not faith" (II Thessalonians 3:2). That absent *faith* is "the faith of Christ" (Philippians 3:9) and was given to us at the moment of our salvation (Galatians 3:26, Ephesians 2:8-9), making us uniquely uncommon to the worlds populous who do not have this spiritual *faith*. We are in "Christ's stead" (II Corinthians 5:20), and being so we may share the Word by opening our mouths like Paul wrote "that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:19), and as we do others may receive for themselves, allowing them to also be uniquely uncommon as they begin enjoying that precious faith and knowledge of God that we have received. We are those *peculiar people* who do enjoy the good life, and "have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come" (Hebrews 6:5), making us uniquely uncommon to the

world's belief systems. We have eternal life, having tasted the spiritual water offered us by Jesus (John 4:14). We also have access to "exceeding great and precious promises" written in God's Word that have been given to us — the children of God making us uniquely uncommon.

When we look to Jesus who is called *Faithful and True*, he will reveal to our hearts God's "exceeding great and precious promises: {so} that by these {promises} ye might be partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1:4).

As Jesus partook of our human nature, we now may be *partakers of the divine nature*, being in him, "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him" (II Thessalonians 1:12).

Since Jesus completely identified with all humanity, we may now identify with our risen Savior. Partaking *of the divine nature* is having and knowing that God in Christ spiritually lives within and experientially come to know this reality with a joyful heart.

A Second Bonus Chapter

Taught of God!

I Thessalonians 4:9:

But as touching brotherly love {*philadelphia*} ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

The one Greek word *philadelphia* can be translated into *brotherly love* or brotherly kindness or love of the brethren. The Apostle Paul is stating that he had no need to explain how to *love* our brothers and sisters or our dear friends, for we have known instinctively how to since childhood because the *philadelphia* kind of *love* is an innate quality of life.

The word *love* in the second phrase *ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another* is the Greek verb *agapao* meaning *active spiritual love*, and this kind of *love* from God reveals a new, intense quality of *love* that God Himself teaches to His beloved children. This word for God's *spiritual love* is often translated in the King James Version as the word *charity*, as in I Corinthians chapter 13. When we utilize God's *love*, we literally will become pupils of God, being *taught* by Him the true joys and virtues of how to *love* others His way.

God's *love* is not given to keep to ourselves, or only to be shared with the people we like such as our families and friends (that is *philadelphia* love), but God's *love* is for the benefit of all people. Hebrews 13:1 records, "Let brotherly love continue," and II Peter 1:7 encourages us to add "charity" which is God's *love* along with our "brotherly kindness {*philadelphia*}."

God's pure *love* teaches believers to reach out and *love* others, like the unlovable, which includes — you, as God continues to replenish His *love* in us so we are never left empty. God's *love* NEVER imagines, "we should only *love* those in our group," or "only *love* people who are nice to us," or

“only *love* people who have taken the right Bible classes,” or “*love* only those who will *love* us in return,” no, because God’s *love* is for everyone and we are His students. “For if ye love them which love you {i.e., “scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours,” is this kind of love}, what thank{s} have ye? for sinners also love those that love them” (Luke 6:32); in other words, God’s love the He teaches will extend out much further than just *philadelphia* love. Jesus said, “And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:45). So indeed we learn that those who are taught of God to love others do indeed come to Jesus, and with him we come to know and experience him as our continued guide into true spirituality that God’s love reveals.

Believers who will reach out with God’s *love* will be *taught of God to love one another*. I cannot think of anything better in this whole world than to be a pupil of God who is receiving His instructions on one of the greatest attributes of God Himself – His *Love*.

I Thessalonians 5:17 encourages us to, “Pray without ceasing.” You see, prayer is a great connecting point that lovingly draws us into a very personal relationship with God our Teacher, which further helps us form a one-on-one connection that facilitates our love for Him to blossom into something very meaningful as we learn to reach out with His love. Christ is our golden thread that helps us make the connection with “the God of love” (II Corinthians 13:11), and it is Christ’s name that we use in prayer to open God’s treasure chest that was always reserved — for us!

John 14:13-14:

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

Prayer can be likened to raising our hand in class and asking God how we can love in specific situations, such as, “How can I love this person?” or “How can I possibly love in this particular situation?” and we may be assured of receiving an instructive answer. When we walk out on our believing-faith and we love someone with God’s love, we become

“labourers together with God” (I Corinthians 3:9), and so we are never alone in the school of life. In other words, when we take His lessons with us, we will come to know in our hearts that we are *with God* as we continue reaching out with His inseparable and inspiring love.

We read, *for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another*. What grade do you suppose that you would receive from your Teacher at this moment in time? Teachers often give homework to their students so the student will learn the prACTical applications of the assignment that would lead to knowledge and understanding and wisdom. How can we know if we are gaining a passing grade? Well I John 3:14 clearly gives us the answer, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.” Learning to walk in love day to day can be likened to doing a lifelong field study as we walk out on our believing in the assurances of I Corinthians 13:8, “Charity never faileth,” meaning that when we reach out with love we will always receive an A-plus, because love never fails!

I Thessalonians 4:10:

And indeed ye do it {*love one another with God’s love*} toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more.

In verse 10, we learn that God’s assignment is to keep your God-given *love* active, to *increase more and more*, and to further discover how far-reaching the charity you have received will be applicable in your own life. With your intent focused toward acting on what you are being taught, you will begin to master the *love* of God. God instructs in Colossians 3:14, “And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” We have read that, “Charity never faileth,” which means that there is enormous profit and personal benefits to be gained in the use of God’s *love* and thus, Jude 1:21 encourages “Keep yourselves in the love of God,” and I John tenders some of the benefits for being respectful students with the outreach of God’s *love*.

I John 2:5; 4:7, 12, and 16:

-5: But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

-7: Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

-12: No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

-16: And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

I Thessalonians 4:11 then goes on to instruct, “And that ye study to be quiet.” Often we as students of the Word are either too talkative or living in a daydream and unable to realize the instruction that comes from our heavenly teacher: “Be still, and know that I *am* God” (Psalms 46:10). When we learn to focus on His lessons throughout our days we will be good students who practically apply in our lives the instruction “let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (I John 3:18). The context of this word *study* in I Thessalonians 4:11 is to follow through with all that you are learning about the *love* that God is teaching you, first by His example of loving you Himself (John 3:16), as you become a well-versed student in the prACTical applications of His *love*. The word *quiet* means to live and conduct your own life with tranquility on life’s path, being content, and the contentment comes to God’s children as they continue on their assignment of loving — *that ye increase more and more*.

Colossians 2:7 shows that we may become, “Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” *As ye have been taught* relates to your lovely assignment that commenced with the foundational truths that God loves you, that Jesus loves you and that as you reach out and *love one another* while becoming good students, you will find yourself *abounding therein with thankfulness!*

The Psalmist prayed (as we can), “Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path” (Psalms 27:11), and the *plain path* is to live a lifestyle that is

being continually built up on *love* — so we may be in *love* with God. Paul taught us that “if any man love God, the same is known of him” (I Corinthians 8:3), meaning the same *love* is known of him or her because he or she will become known to God and Christ as lovers in the spiritual sense of the word.

I Peter 3:10:

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

The greater teaching that comes from God is that as we learn from Him to *love* others, we will be experiencing the compassionate *love* God has for us individually, in that He, in *love*, sent His only begotten Son for our salvation which is the greatest act of *love* - ever. A great reciprocal response for receiving this wonderful gift is for us to *love* in return as we are Taught of God!

In conclusion we allow His words to teach:

Psalms 119:96-100 (The Amplified Bible):*

-96: I have seen that everything [human] has its limits *and* end [no matter how extensive, noble, and excellent]; but Your commandment is exceedingly broad *and* extends without limits [into eternity].

-97: Oh, how love I Your law {The Word}! It is my meditation all the day.

-98: You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies, for [Your words] are ever before me.

-99: I have better understanding *and* deeper insight than all my teachers, because Your testimonies are my meditation.

-100: I understand more than the aged, because I keep Your precepts [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying them {as an obedient student with the ultimate goal — to enjoy love in the university of life’s outreach programs}].

John 3:16 (The Amplified Bible):**

For God so greatly loved *and* dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

I Corinthians 3:9 (The Amplified Bible):**

For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with *and* for God; *you* are God's garden *and* vineyard *and* field under cultivation, [you are] God's building {i.e., His classroom}.

I John 3:18-19 and 4:7 (The Amplified Bible):**

-18: Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory *or* in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity).

-19: By this {spiritual *love* of God} we shall come to know (perceive, recognize, and understand) that we are of the Truth, and can reassure (quiet, conciliate, and pacify) our hearts in His presence.

-7: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is (springs) from God; and he who loves [his fellowmen] is begotten (born) of God and is coming [progressively] to know and understand God [to perceive and recognize and get a better and clearer knowledge of Him].

(In the light of Jesus Christ, the *Wonderful Secret*, and being *taught of God*; in the next chapter from this series **Ruth - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Redeemer**, we have somewhat of a continuing narrative in relation to the *Wonderful Secret* and being *taught of God* from the bonus chapter, titled: **Destinations between the Old and New Testament, Law vs. Grace.**)

Reference Table:

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The Embryo of The Golden Thread Series

Between the dates of November 13, 2000 and January 8, 2001 we posted the first of fifty-eight short Bible Bytes illustrating Jesus Christ as The Golden Thread on our website, biblebyte.org. Every day we posted another instalment until we went through all the books of the Bible. Below is the Byte we posted about Judges on Sunday, November 19, 2000, and for nostalgia and preservation of the original, the Byte appears just as it was posted without any additional edits or corrections. We had such an enormous response from our readers at that time that we were encouraged to begin the groundwork for the complete study of The Golden Thread series. We have used our original Bytes for our pattern and guide to make the fuller text of the series for you to enjoy.

Judges – Revealing Our Wonderful Secret

In the book of Judges an angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah and his wife and prophesied that they were going to have a son, a Nazarite who would look to God his whole life. The son was Samson who was a very strong man, especially in his believing. Eventually he was given over to the Philistines by his own people. In Samson we can see the correlation between him and the Saviour who was rejected by Israel. Manoah asked the angel what his name was so that when the child was born they may honor the angel.

Judges 13:18 - And the angel of the LORD said unto him {Manoah}, Why asketh thou thus after my name, seeing it *is* secret?

The word “secret” in the Hebrew text is the word meaning a wonderful secret. This word is also used in Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful.” This is a reference about Jesus Christ, and in Judges when the angel said of his name “it *is* secret” he was saying that his name represented something that would be a wonderful secret (even the angel did not fully comprehend its meaning). However, the Saviour would reveal the dynamics and realities of this wonderful secret to humanity in the ages to come.

In the Old Testament the believers had the hope of his coming, although they did not fully understand everything about his coming. God continued revealing more and more through His angels to His Prophets, and His Prophets would receive

revelation and write down His Word for posterity. The angel in Judges 13 ascended back to heaven after having revealed the name of the hope of all humanity: the “wonderful secret.”

I Corinthians 2:7-8:

-7: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world {even began} unto our glory:

-8: Which none of the princes {the rulers of darkness} of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The mystery, the hidden and secret wisdom of God was ordained before the world began for our glory, yet it was a secret that was not revealed until Christ was raised from the dead. If God’s “wonderful secret” was ever known to the powers of darkness, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory, Jesus Christ. Without the crucifixion and sacrifice of Jesus for us, we would have remained eternally unredeemed, forever unsaved, and destined to eternal damnation, and without God and without hope in this world. But because of the death of Jesus Christ we have received the spiritual life of Christ within our very hearts, and our entrance into the salvation of eternity, being forever redeemed.

With Christ within we can daily enjoy God’s “wonderful secret,” that is now manifested in our own lives. I would like to close with the God-inspired words of Paul:

Colossians 1:25-28 (Amplified*):

-25: In it {the Church of God} I became a minister in accordance with the divine stewardship which was entrusted to me for you [as its object and for your benefit], to make the Word of God fully known [among you] –

-26: The mystery of which was hidden for ages and generations [from angels and men], but is now revealed to His holy people (the saints),

-27: To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ within *and* among you, the Hope of [realizing the] glory.

-28: Him {the Christ in you} we preach *and* proclaim, warning *and* admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One).

The Golden Thread - Chapter Titles

The Old Testament:

1. Genesis - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed
2. Exodus - Reveals Jesus Christ as the True Passover
3. Leviticus - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Offering and the High Priest
4. Numbers - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Bright and Morning Star
5. Deuteronomy - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Prophet
6. Joshua - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Captain of Salvation
7. Judges - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wonderful Secret
8. Ruth - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Redeemer
9. First and Second Samuel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Deliverer
10. First and Second Kings - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Still Small Voice
11. First and Second Chronicles - Reveals Jesus Christ as the King's Son, and Eternal Answer
12. Ezra - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Spiritual Revival
13. Nehemiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Pardon
14. Esther - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Good Day
15. Job - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Arbitrator
16. Psalms - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Song in the Night
17. Proverbs - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Path of Righteousness
18. Ecclesiastes - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wholeness of Man
19. The Song of Solomon - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Beloved
20. Isaiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Refuge from the Storms of Life
21. Jeremiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Righteous One
22. Lamentations - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Hope
23. Ezekiel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Covenant of Peace
24. Daniel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Power and Wisdom of God
25. Hosea - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Ransom
26. Joel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Standing
27. Amos - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sure Salvation
28. Obadiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Day of Deliverance
29. Jonah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sign of Resurrection
30. Micah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Breaker and the Spiritual Strength
31. Nahum - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Stronghold
32. Habakkuk - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Joy in God
33. Zephaniah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Eternal Rest
34. Haggai - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Desire of all Nations
35. Zechariah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Total Forgiveness
36. Malachi - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Messenger of the Covenant and a Delight

The Gospels:

37. The Gospel of Matthew – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Shepherd King
“A righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper”
38. The Gospel of Mark – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Servant
“I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH”
39. The Gospel of Luke – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Man
“Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH”
40. The Gospel of John – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Son of God
“In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious”

Parchments of Transition

(Treaties from the Beloved Physician to “YOU” the Beloved of God):

41. The Book of Acts – Reveals **Our** Timeless Spiritual *Love* in Christ
An upward calling – reaching, appreciating, and enjoying the mystery of God in Christ in you!

The New Testament:

42. Romans – Reveals **Our** Justification in Christ
43. First and Second Corinthians – Reveals **Our** Sufficiency in Christ
44. Galatians – Reveals **Our** Liberty in Christ
45. Ephesians – Reveals **Our** Standing in Christ
46. Philippians – Reveals **Our** Joy in Christ
47. Colossians – Reveals **Our** Completeness in Christ
48. Thessalonians – Reveals **Our** Comfort of Hope in Christ
49. First and Second Timothy – Reveals **Our** Faithful Witness in Christ
50. Titus – Reveals **Our** Promise of Eternal Life in Christ
52. Philemon – Reveals **Our** Forgiving Love for the Individual in Christ
53. Hebrews – Reveals **Our** Substitute for Sin in Christ
54. James – Reveals **Our** Believing Faith in Christ
55. First and Second Peter – Reveals **Our** Pastoral Stewardship of Grace in Christ
56. First, Second, and Third John – Reveals **Our** Fellowship in Christ
57. Jude – Reveals **Our** unCommon Salvation in Christ
58. Revelation – Reveals the Revelation of Jesus Christ and **Our** Destiny in Christ