

# Since the World Began

*That which was Spoken vs. That which was Kept Secret*

“... which God hath spoken... since the world began.” – Acts 3:21

“... the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.” – Romans 16:25

## 1. Zacharias Prophecies That Which Had Been Spoken – Luke 1:67-79

- a. Context: Zach is a law-abiding Jewish priest prophesying about Israel – Luk 1:5-6, 8-9
- b. God’s people is Israel – John 1:11, Psa 135:4 (“God of Israel” > 200x’s in the bible)
- c. Salvation from what? Oppression, enemies – Luk 1:74; Ps 106:10,47; Deu 26:18-19
- d. God’s mercy to the fathers is that he will do what he promised – Deut 4:31, Neh 1:5
- e. To Abe (Gen 12:3, 17:7-8), Ike (Gen 26:4), Jake (Gen 28:14), Moses et al. (Exo 19:3-6)
  - i. Israel as a nation above the nations – Deut 14:12, 28:1
  - ii. Israel in their promised land – Deu 30:20, 11:9
  - iii. The world blessed through Israel – Gen 12:3, 22:18
  - iv. Peculiar people, holiness/righteousness – Ex 19:5-6, Lev 26:40-42, Deu 6:25

## 2. Peter Preaches That Which Had Been Spoken – Acts 3:12-26

- a. Context: Pete is Holy Ghost-filled Jew healing & preaching in the temple – Acts 3:8
- b. Peter’s audience is Israel (Acts 3:12, 3:25); he’s talking about Israel (Acts 3:13)
- c. Preaching Jesus’s death as a bad thing – Acts 3:15, 19, 23; Acts 2:36-37
- d. Proclaiming the fulfillment of Israel’s covenants (land, blessing, rise)– Acts 3:25
- e. They must turn from their sin in order to serve God & be in his covenant – Acts 3:26

## 3. Paul Explains That Which Was Kept Secret – Rom 16:25

- a. The Mystery of Christ not revealed until Paul– Eph 3:3-5, 8-9; Col 1:25-26
- b. Hid in God *before* the world began – 2Tim 1:9-10, Titus 1:2-3, 1Cor 2:7
- c. What is the mystery of Christ?
  - i. Israel is fallen before God – Rom 11:11, 11:25-32, 3:22-23; Gal 3:28
  - ii. A new creature/ body of Christ... – Eph 5:32; 1Cor 12:13; 2Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15
  - iii. ...to fulfill God’s heavenly purpose – Eph 1:3, 2:6, 3:10; 1Thes 4:17
  - iv. Salvation freely to all... – Rom 3:24, 4:5, 5:8; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7
  - v. ...apart from Israel, their law/covenants – Ro 3:21, 6:14; Eph 2:12-15; Col 2:14
  - vi. The good news of Christ’s cross... – Eph 6:19; 1Cor 2:8; Gal 6:14; 1Cor 9:17
  - vii. ...for present possession of salvation by grace – Rom 5:1-2, 11; Col 2:13; 2Cor 5:21