

"And the disciples were astonished..."

© B. K. Chadwell, November, 2009

This is the first teaching of a two-part teaching;

1. *"The disciples were astonished"*
2. *"At Hand"*

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Mark 10:24 *"And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them,..."*

A complex jig saw puzzle has many pieces, and long before every piece is in place and the whole picture can be clearly seen, there are multitudes of opportunities to try and place pieces where they do not fit in. I can remember, as a kid, getting impatient and trying to force fit pieces of a jig saw puzzle in where they really didn't go.

Sometimes, as a jig saw puzzle came together, a group of pieces could be formed, unconnected to the mainland of the puzzle. The small group would be like an island or sometimes several islands. Then, in due time, the islands would get connected, piece by piece, one by one and eventually the whole picture would fill in. Each puzzle piece had its very specific place and no matter how small; each piece was important and never was to be forced in.

The jig saw puzzles I used to fit together normally came out of a box and each box lid was imprinted with a full color picture of the completed puzzle scene. As I sought to place each individual piece, I would often inspect the picture on the puzzle box lid.

Trying to fit a complex jig saw puzzle together without a box top reference picture was very difficult indeed.

Jesus' first disciples were "**astonished**" as Jesus began to introduce them to a totally **new government** that would shortly be introduced into the cultures of God's humanity in the earth.

The disciple's **astonishment** at Jesus' teachings was understandable, because without an exact box top picture to see what this new **government of God** was to look like, they were at a great disadvantage. No previous reference could possibly prepare them for what was coming and a box top picture was not provided to them, by God, in advance. Neither men, nor principalities, nor powers had a box top picture. If the enemies of God had known of God's plan in advance, they would have tried to derail it, at any cost.

1Co 2:7-11 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

The plan for God's new **government** in the earth had been made by God before the foundations of the earth were laid. God made His plans known, **in advance**, but His plans were given and made

known only in a *puzzle or mystery* form to His servants, the prophets.

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth His secrets unto His servants, the prophets"

2Peter 1:19-21(Peshita text)a true word of prophecy; you do well when you look to it for guidance, as you look to the lamp that shines in a dark place until the dawn of day, when the sun will shine in your hearts, Knowing this first, that not every prophetic writing is made clear in its own book. For the prophecy did not come by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke when they were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In retrospect and by the revelations of the Holy Spirit, we know this plan, today, in Biblical language as; "***The Mystery of the Kingdom***". Jesus' disciples had neither the advantage of our position in history, nor did they have the Holy Spirit, at that time. So...."*astonished*" they were, as I believe we would have been in their shoes as well.

God's old Prophets were inspired by the Spirit to speak of things to come in a **mystery form**, with specific conditions for revelation of this mystery designed by God. These prophecies were also to be further illuminated and or expanded by Jesus. Then, eventually illuminated and or expanded by the Holy Spirit, through those disciples who at first were "*astonished*" at His words as he began to unravel "***the Mystery of the Kingdom***" to them. These prophecies were also to be further illuminated and expanded by the Holy Spirit, through other Christians who would follow down through history.

The Mystery of the Kingdom" still remains a mystery today

and will remain a mystery until; in the fullness of God's time **the mystery** will be finished (completed). However, no amount of carnal wisdom or effort by man will ever put this "puzzle" together, force fit pieces of the puzzle, or hurry along the process to its completion. The wisdom of man is never what God requires to access the Keys to the "**Mystery of the Kingdom**".

Rev 10:4 (NIV) And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."

Rev 10:5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.

Rev 10:6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay!"

Rev 10:7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

Joh 16:13 However when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak from Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come.

Christians have been given the puzzle pieces to this greatest of all mysteries; "**The Mystery of the Kingdom**". We now know, according to *2nd Peter 1:19-20*, that every prophetic puzzle piece is not made completely clear in their individual books or writings. We have the advantage that Jesus' first disciples did not have at the time they were so "*astonished*" at Jesus' teachings. We now have the Holy Spirit, who will open our

spiritual eyes in order that we might see the whole picture and thereby be able to correctly place each piece of the puzzle, **without force fitting**. However, only in His time and according to His purposes. This, only if we humble ourselves to Him, seek His will only and will allow Him to work in us to both will and to do His good pleasure.

Luk 11:9-10 And I say unto you: ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

*Eph 1:17-19 I pray 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, **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling**, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power. toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

The "**end**", "**goal**" or "**point aimed at**" is closer now, but still, the picture is not complete, yet. The puzzle has been deliberately designed by God to hide His box top picture **from all** and is to be revealed, by measure, in His time, for His purposes, only to those who are in His closest confidence

By God's design, only born again Christians are able to even **see** this mystery. Then, only those Christians who seek and obey Him have the opportunity to **enter** in and fully participate with Him in this mysterious **government of God or Kingdom life**.

See the e-book titled;
"The Kingdom of Heaven's At Hand",
Chapter 3: Seeing the Kingdom vs Entering the Kingdom.
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I believe that as God continues to reveal "***the mystery of the Kingdom***", to His people, that **we all will, also, find ourselves as "astonished"** as were Jesus' first disciples, when ***the mystery of God*** will be accomplished, just as he announced to His servants the prophets.

Ecc 1:9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

As was before, there is no "box top picture" except by and through the revelations of the Holy Spirit. As before, if the enemies of God could only know now of God's plan in advance, they would most certainly, try to derail it, at any cost.

Oh, the unsearchable wisdom of God.....

Rom 11:34 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor?"

Rom 11:35 Or, "who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?"

Rom 11:36 For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things, to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Rev 10:7(NIV) But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, ***the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.*** "

*Rev 11: 15 (Peshita text) "And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great rumblings of thunders, saying, **The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.***

*Joh 15:4-10 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abide in the vine, no more can ye, unless ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for **without Me ye can do nothing.** If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples. "As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you. Continue ye in My love. **If ye keep My commandments,** ye shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.*

*2Peter 1:19-20 (Peshita text)a true word of prophecy; you do well when you look to it for guidance, **as** you look to the lamp that shines **in a dark place** until **the dawn of day,** when the sun will shine in your hearts*

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