

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

January 27, 2019

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:21—22:7

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *What Are The Mysteries We're To Be Stewards Of?* Part 6 (I Corinthians 4:1)

Announcements:

Sue Klepper is recuperating at home after a recent surgery.

Northern Grace Youth Camp Brochures are here! They offer a 50% discount & our church pays half the other half.

February 10 we will have a special luncheon observing Pastor's 40th anniversary at our church. See Lori for details!

Steve Schwieger will fill in for Dave next Sunday.

Midweek Bible Study: this Wednesday at 7 with Steve.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone
ICo.4:1 *What Are The Mysteries We're The Stewards Of* 5

We are to be stewards (ICor.4:1) of “the mystery of iniquity” (IIThes.2:7,8), a mystery that was already working in Paul's day, one that would lead to the appearing of the Antichrist. Till then someone “letteth” or *withholds* him from coming. Some good teachers think this is God's Spirit, but He won't be “taken out of the way” when Antichrist is here. He'll resist him (Isa.59:19), and tell believers what to say (Mt.10:18-20).

So I believe *the Body of Christ* is withholding the Antichrist. Not by our *own* power or might, of course, but because God has promised that Antichrist can't be revealed until we are gathered to the Lord in the Rapture (IIThes.2:1-4).

But Paul saw something working in his day that would lead to the appearing of the Antichrist, something he called the mystery of iniquity. But a mystery is something that wasn't revealed until Paul (Eph.3:3-5), and the prophets often talked about how Antichrist would someday appear. Daniel describes him in great detail. So when Paul says that after the mystery of iniquity is done that Antichrist will be revealed, and that the mystery of iniquity was already in the works, he must be describing something that was happening in his day that the prophets didn't know anything about, something *in the mystery* that would lead to the Antichrist.

And the thing he had in mind has to do with Ephesians 2:2. Satan always worked in the children of disobedience, but “now” worked in them as “the prince of the power of the air.” The Lord called him “the prince of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). The world didn't include Israel at that time (Num.23:9; John 1:10,11). Satan was the prince of all the other nations (Dan.10:20) but *Michael* was Israel's prince (Dan.10:21).

Satan worked in *individuals* in Israel, of course. Men like Korah, Balaam and Ahab and his wife Jezebel. But he

worked *in the nations* through their wicked princes, and God worked in Israel *through Michael*. But when Israel stoned Stephen, Satan became their prince too!

Satan is still “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4), but “god” is a religious title, whereas “prince” is a political title. And the “world” now includes Israel, since they lost their favored nation status with God when they stoned Stephen.

So in the dispensation of grace, Satan is the religious and political prince of Israel, and that will last until the middle of the Tribulation when Michael “stands” for Israel (Dan.12:1). Standing is often associated with judgment (Isa.3:13). The Lord sat at the Father’s right hand when He ascended (Mark 16:19), but *stood* to judge Israel (Acts 7:56-59)—then God interrupted the prophecy of Psalm 110:1 with the dispensation of the mystery. But in the end of the Tribulation the Lord will again be standing to judge (James 5:9).

But in the *middle* of the Tribulation *Michael* will stand to judge Satan (Rev.12:7,8). The “place” that Satan’s host will lose then is *their place in the government of heaven* (cf.Dn.2:35; John 11:47,48). Right now, the places of government in heaven are filled by wicked spirits (Eph. 6:12). But that will change when Michael evicts Satan. Michael will become Israel’s prince again in that day, and the other nations will be freed as well (Rev.11:15).

But from Paul’s day until now, Satan is working in all the nations—including Israel, the nation that should have been *withholding* Antichrist! This is where “the mystery of iniquity” comes in. When the people of Israel were obedient to the law of Moses, God was their God, and He was working in them through Michael their prince. *They* were the ones who were withholding the appearing of the Antichrist. But God predicted this would end (Lam.2:3).

You see, when Israel was obedient to God, He protected them from their enemy, but warned them that He wouldn’t if they disobeyed Him (Lev.26:14-26). That’s what happened when they stoned Stephen! And suddenly it looked like nothing could withhold the Antichrist from

being revealed—but that’s when God revealed the mystery, that *we* would now withhold him. We must be good stewards of this mystery to stem the tide of post-tribulationism and mid-tribulationism and the pre-wrath position, etc.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

January 27, 2019

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

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