Before There Was a World
Matthew 13:35

INTRODUCTION:

A. **Matthew 13:34-35** - “these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

B. A number of Bible passages make it clear that some things were kept secret from the very time the world was made until the time God chose to reveal them. The Holy Spirit called used terms like, “hidden” and “mystery” to refer to this.

1. **Romans 16:25** – “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.”

2. **1 Corinthians 2:7-10** – “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
   But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
   But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

3. **Colossians 1:25-27** – “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
   of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,
   the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.
   To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

C. The things hidden from eternity, remained hidden throughout the Old Testament years, but were revealed to God’s people during the 1st century of the New Testament years.

1. These formerly hidden things are now made plain on the pages of the New Testament.
2. We can now know these mysteries and be blessed by them.
3. It is God’s will that this now revealed mystery be proclaimed throughout the world.

D. In this study, I would like to share four great truths that God put in place in the mystery that would later be revealed. . . . Four great truths established BEFORE THERE WAS A WORLD.

BEFORE THERE WAS A WORLD . . . THERE WAS A SAVIOR.

A. 1 Peter 1:17-21 – “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

   He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

B. Concerning “the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” . . . . .

1. That LAMB WAS SPOKEN OF in Genesis 3:15, immediately after sin entered the world, wherein God began to reveal His plan for the redemption of sinful mankind.
   a. Genesis 3:15 – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
   b. The mystery revealed that God was telling them about Christ.

2. THAT LAMB WAS SENT.
   a. John 1:29 – “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”
   b. When Jesus was born into this world, a little more of God’s eternal plan became visible.

3. THAT LAMB WAS SLAIN when Calvary was accomplished.
   a. That Lamb crushed the head of Satan.
   b. That Lamb shed His blood for our cleansing.
   c. That Lamb was sacrificed in full view of the ages of time.

BEFORE THERE WAS GUILT . . . THERE WAS GRACE.

A. Grace is the unmerited love and favor of God for sinners. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul couldn’t die without talking about grace once more . . . [God] “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ
SALVATION—Before There Was a World

Jesus before time began.”

1. **BEFORE MAN EVER STRAYED**, there was grace to bring him home.
2. Isaiah 53:6—“we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

3. **BEFORE MAN EVER SINNED**, there was grace to make him clean.
   a. Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
   b. Man’s predicament was dire. Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
   c. But God prepared grace in His heart for us. Titus 2:11—“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.”

BEFORE THERE WAS THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH . . . THERE WAS THE PROMISE OF LIFE.

A. **GOD MADE A WAY OF LIFE** to replace the way of death.
   1. 1 Corinthians 15:22—“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”
   2. John 14:6—“Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
   3. John 10:10—“... have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

B. **GOD CALLED MANKIND TO THAT WAY OF LIFE**.
   1. He called him to be holy. 1 Peter 1:15—“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.”
   2. We are “. . . the called of Jesus Christ.” Romans 1:6
   3. We are “. . . called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28
   4. We are called through the gospel. 2 Thessalonians 2:14—“To which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
   5. We are called to eternal life. 1 Timothy 6:12—“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

BEFORE THERE WAS A HELL . . . THERE WAS A HEAVEN.

A. Heaven is:
   1. God’s dwelling place. Psalm 11:4—“The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD’s throne is in heaven.”
   2. The place where the righteous and righteousness will dwell. 2 Peter 3:13—“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”
   3. A prepared place for a prepared people.
B. Hell was created as a dwelling place for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41 – “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'”

C. Heaven is a real place . . . An eternal place.
1. Heaven is a place FOR REDEEMED PEOPLE. (Saved people)
   a. Redeemed people are saved people.
   b. John 14:1-3
   c. 1 Peter 1:3-5 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
2. Heaven is a place FOR RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE. (Perfected people)
   a. Not our righteousness . . . but God’s righteousness in and through us.
   b. Philippians 3:9 – “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”
3. Heaven is a place FOR RECONCILED PEOPLE. (Forgiven people)
   a. Romans 5:10 – “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”
   b. Colossians 1:21-22 - “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.”
   c. Ephesians 1:7 – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
   d. Psalm 103:12 – “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

CONCLUSION:

A. We have observed:
   1. Before there was a WORLD . . . There was a SAVIOR.
   2. Before there was GUILT . . . There was GRACE.
   3. Before there was the PUNISHMENT OF DEATH . . . There was the PROMISE OF LIFE.
   4. Before there was a HELL . . . There was a HEAVEN.
B. Listening friends . . . There is more:

1. 1 Corinthians 2:9 – “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’”

2. Romans 8:16-17 – “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

C. Do you want what God is offering you today? Yea . . . This very hour?

D. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation