

*The secret things belong unto the Lord our God.*  
— Deuteronomy 29:29a

# The Secret Things of God

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AS THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FINISHED THEIR FORTY-YEAR JOURNEY THROUGH THE DESERT, Moses spoke to the people about God's covenant promises to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. His words recorded in the 29<sup>th</sup> chapter of Deuteronomy bring to memory the great deliverance from Egypt that God performed. He reminded them that their clothes and shoes did not wax old the past 40 years; how that they did eat manna from heaven; and, how that God had defeated Sihon, king of Heshbon and Og, king of Bashan. Because of the great things God has done for them, they are instructed to keep and observe the laws of God given to them.

The covenant being rehearsed before the people concerns the theocratic government of God over the nation of Israel. God was promising to give them the land of Canaan, to fight their battles, and to provide for them as a nation. However, this covenant was contingent on the obedience of the people to all the law and ordinances. Failure to keep the law and ordinances would result in their national decimation.

Moses concludes this exhortation to the people by stating,

- *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 29:29).*

First, let us note that this verse does not say anything about a secret or mysterious will of God. It *does say* that there are some secret **things** that belong to the Lord. What are these secret things? Has the Lord revealed any of these secret things?

## Secret Things

There are some things about God and His sovereign works of grace that Moses and the children of Israel did not know. What God revealed unto them was a system of laws that would serve them well as they endeavored to possess the land of Canaan. God reserved some bigger, better things beyond His theocratic government that He would reveal to future generations in due time.

Not just anyone was entitled to the revelation of these secret things, though. The Psalmist David gave us one qualification in Psalm 25:

- *“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him: and he will shew them his covenant”.* (Psalm 25:14).

The Lord will show His covenant of secret things to them that fear, or respect, Him. This fear is not one of terror such as the people experienced at Mt. Sinai (Hebrews 12:18-21). In fact, Paul tells Timothy that *“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”* (2 Timothy 1:7).

We find some more qualifications for receiving the revelation of the secret things of God in the Proverbs of Solomon and by the prophet Amos.

- *“For the froward is abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous.”* (Proverbs 3:32).
- *“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”* (Amos 3:7).

The secret things of God are revealed to the righteous man that fears God. Further, Amos clearly states that God will reveal His secret to His servants, the prophets. In the Old Testament, one man stands out with these qualifications. Isaiah had a godly fear and reverence of the Lord, was judged righteous by God, and is certainly one of the greatest servants and prophets of God. If this is the case, then a careful analysis of the book of Isaiah will reveal many secret things of God. Isaiah received one of the greatest and most comprehensive revelations among the Old Testament writers. He believed God revealed things plainly.

- *“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; ... I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.”* (Isaiah 45:18a, 19).

Here are just a few of the secrets revealed to Isaiah:

- *“Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”* (Isaiah 28:16).
- *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* (Isaiah 7:14).
- *“And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.”* (Isaiah 22:22).
- *“He will swallow up death in victory...”* (Isaiah 25:8a).
- *“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief ... Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows ... Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him ... He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied ...”* (Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 10a, 11a).

Who is this person that Isaiah is describing as a foundational rock that can do mighty things, including a defeat of death itself? Although despised and rejected, this man had the power to carry our sins and grief on his shoulders and endure the bruising punishment of the Lord of Israel. What mighty man of God is this?

### **The Gospel Revealed**

It is clear from the verses above that this man is Jesus Christ. The secret things of God are revealed in the gospel message that describes the great things Jesus Christ has accomplished for us. He not only swallowed up death in victory, but the gospel records His life that leads us into peace, joy, and righteousness before the Lord our God. Jesus Christ gave us eternal life and He taught us how to live an abundant life! Matthew records how Jesus Christ taught in parables to His disciples, revealing the secret things of God that were hidden to Moses.

- *“All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter **things** which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.”* (Matthew 13:34-35).

It is the gospel news concerning Jesus Christ that was concealed in the Old Testament, but revealed in the New Testament. Once Jesus Christ and His

apostles declared it, the secret things of God were made known.

- *“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.”* (Romans 16:25).

The children of Israel were required to theocratically serve God through a covenant of ordinances and laws. Jesus Christ entered into a better covenant on our behalf and satisfied all of the terms. In hearing the gospel preached, the terms of the better covenant are revealed to us. Once we understand the great things Jesus Christ has done for us, we serve God with love and gratitude for His great mercy and grace.

If you want to hear about the secret things of God and rejoice in them, then worship with us at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church in Tucker, Georgia.

