

THE ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD - ELM 1990

The revelation of the Mystery in 63 A.D.

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

The 'Revelation of the Mystery' which was progressively given to Paul, James and John around 63 A.D. defines what the true Gospel and real Christianity are actually all about.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ began a completely new era, and everything completely changed for all human beings in our relationship to God and Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons (Gr. Teknon – children) of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

This applies to male and female, Jew and Gentile. At the resurrection we shall be changed in a twinkling of an eye into the same spiritual material, physical, and character of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, grace, and Christ's life and sacrifice for humanity.

Those who are in Christ are **now** children of God, although at the moment we are 'foetal' in this physical form, awaiting our spiritual birth. Children have a lot to learn. That is why we are commanded to study.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Rightly dividing means to sort what God wants us to know from the "here a little, and there a little" so we do not get stuck in kindergarten but move forward in our spiritual education, and grow in Grace and knowledge.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

We do not have a commission like the apostles and prophets of old did, but we certainly do have a responsibility to be a 'light' and to share the good news of our potential future with others who are open to it.

God is male/female, singular and plural, all at once. We are like God as we are made in his/her image. Although God could make us mature in an instant, that is not how He does things, just look at human babies, the animal kingdom, and nature, everything develops over time. Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Isaiah 66:7 Before she (our "Mother, the Heavenly Zion) travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.
8 Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Spiritual 'Zion' in heaven is our 'mother', which at the time of the resurrection, will bring forth a whole nation of new Spirit beings without travail which will need training to use their new bodies and their new powers.

There are indications in the scriptures that there will be a period of learning for those resurrected on how to be God beings. Thirty years or so to become 'mature', plus forty years of more education, will probably be seventy years in all at the beginning of the millennium.

During this time, the nations, the 'few men left' will be in various stages of desolation after all the destructive forces that will be unleashed on the world around the time of Christ's Second Advent.

We are currently in the 'womb' as human beings, in the dark, but when resurrected we will be in the 'light', and like a human baby, we will need to grow in grace and knowledge and develop in our new state.

Isaiah 61:2 a) To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and b) the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

There is a two thousand year gap between the a) part and the b) part of verse 2!

When Jesus comes, He comes with His angels.

Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. 2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. 3 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word. 4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. 5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; **because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.** 6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, **and few men left.**

Jeremiah 4:22 For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children (drunken, intoxicated with their own 'wisdom'), and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

John 10: 30 I and my Father are one. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law (Psalm 82:6), I said, Ye are gods? 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

We are gods, but at present only in foetal, begotten form, but we shall be born again as Spirit Beings at the resurrection.

The 'Mystery' revealed to Paul and the others around 63 A.D. was a brand new gospel brought into being by our High Priest Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

After four thousand years of being immature "children" under the schoolmaster and the death and physical penalties of the law, Christ

brought in grace, forgiveness, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a completely new dimension of life.

Hebrews 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

This transition is not understood by the religions of this world. They may quote sections of it, but the importance of the need for a change in the law they do not understand at all, especially those who cling to elements of the Mosaic system thus denying the power of Christ's sacrifice.

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.
23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

As long as we are 'under the law', or put ourselves under the law, we are shut up to the faith which Christ brought.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all (**now!** I John 3:2) the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

How plain is that? The law was our schoolmaster, and we are no longer under a schoolmaster, but are the very children of God! No wonder the book of Galatians is largely ignored by those who are still determined to put themselves under the law.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Like the princes born to Queen Elizabeth, as long as they were below the age of maturity they were under tutors, and cannot function as royalty although they had the rank of heirs to the throne.

Galatians 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world (angelic powers): 4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (full grown children). 6 And because ye are sons (children), God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

We are no more children under the schoolmaster, or under servants, we are heirs of the 'King'. We are "Royalty" and need to learn to think and behave like princes and princesses.

Galatians 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. 11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

The Mosaic commandment keepers observe all these elements, or rather attempt to do so and actually fail miserably, and worse insist their poor hapless adherents to do so, which denies the whole meaning of faith and salvation brought in by Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear (understand) the law? 22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

We are "born" of the freewoman by faith.

Galatians 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai (The Law), which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. 25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26 But Jerusalem (Zion) which is above (heaven) is free, which is the mother of us all.

The heavenly Zion is going to be the Mother of us all when we are changed into fully fledged God's children at the resurrection.

Isaiah 54:1 Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

Our 'birth' into the Kingdom will be without the 'travail' humans experience in childbirth.

Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

Isaiah is telling them you are going to need larger living quarters for the large number of new children that are about to be born.

Where the word 'church' (pagan worship 'Circe') is used in the KJV, change it to 'assembly'. There are no "churches" in the New Testament era. The "ranks" given were not "ranks" but responsibilities.

Galatians 5: talks about marriage and the responsibilities of the husband to the wife and vice versa. These instructions reflect the way God treats His 'wife' and children.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation (conduct) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together (now in allegory!) in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

There are 'works' for us to perform, as indicated in Matthew 25, and the parable of the talents etc. These 'works' do not save us as we are already

saved, but they do count towards the development of our character and possibly degree or position in our later development.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We are His workmanship, and it is God's works in us 'both to will and to do', (Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure), and Christ's perfect workmanship while He was a man on earth that perfects us. However...

1 Corinthians 6: 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

If we are or become profligate and persist in sin, we can miss out on the Kingdom of God and the first resurrection; but if we are always doing our best, pray that our sins will be forgiven and continually ask for the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives, this will not happen.

In our formative years as Spirit Beings, we shall be taught by our Faculty Member, Yahweh, Christ, in the ways of being God. Of course God could do it in an instant, but that is not the way He does things. Time is always involved in the development of God's Creation.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation (citizenship) is (now) in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together (now) in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

1 Timothy 2:5 4 Who will have **all** men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

That is every human being, all will be saved ultimately.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Nobody, regardless of their position in a church or religious organization has any power over us at all. We have only one over us, and that is our High Priest Jesus Christ.

Because we are “in” Christ, we have been given the ‘eyes to see’ and ‘ears to hear’ the faults and failings and the pathetic state of all religions on this earth. Very few people on earth at this time experience this level of understanding, it is a priceless gift.

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

Here we are coming along ‘last’ in history, and yet we are some of the ‘first’ to know the secret of the mystery which was hidden from the foundation of the world. This reality of the glory of this secret does not appear to be understood by any religious organization on earth. Why not?

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Everything Christ went through as a man, He went through for us, and passed every test with flying colours, and never once sinned because of who He was. We have inherited the benefit of this perfection. When Christ was tempted and overcame Satan, so did we. When He was baptized by John, so were we. When he was crucified so were we; when He was resurrected, so were we. When He was judged by God and found righteous, so were we.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

We are not yet ‘born’ only begotten, but and if we do sin (and we do), we can rely on the grace Christ offers us to wash it away. Everything that went before was annulled when Christ died and was resurrected.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

This is the new commandment Christ gave us, to love God and our neighbour as ourselves, this is the whole law. It is God who makes this possible by working in us through the Holy Spirit.

Christ lived as a Gentile for eight days before He was circumcised. Lazarus was probably single, otherwise his wife would have made arrangements for his body to be disposed of. Lazarus came out of the grave after being dead for four days, and stank. On Christ's command he came forth, but when he came forth he did not stink, as when he or anyone is resurrected to human or spiritual life their new body is perfect.

When Christ was resurrected, he was no longer circumcised, nor was the flesh hanging off his body as it was when He went into the tomb. He was remade whole, but still with the signs in His hands and feet that he needed to convince the disciples.

Now we are 'in Christ' our citizenship is in heaven, and we are above all religious requirements of the old system. And we are certainly expected to obey the more strict spiritual law to the best of our ability with God and Christ's help.

Remember, the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Now we are in Christ, we are 'gods', and are now 'sons' of the most High God, the weekly Sabbath no longer applies to us. We have entered into a continual 'rest' or Sabbath in Him as it says in Hebrews 4.

When we are changed, what about our family, our wives or husbands who were not called, our children and grandchildren who are not of the age to be called or yet been given the gift of understanding?

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Clearly we are to become immortal, when we become instantly 'born' as God's Spirit children, and we shall be like Him as He is.

Philippians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

At the time of the resurrection Christ will come down to the earth, which will be in a terrible state of desolation, and His feet will touch down on the Mount of Olives. But not everyone on earth will be changed.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. 31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. 34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. 35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Jesus said that not all our family members would be gifted with understanding.

Matthew 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

1 Corinthians 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. 12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. 15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? 17 But as

God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

Husbands are sanctified (set apart) by believing wives, and vice versa. Does that mean that the mate is unclean? Not at all, set apart, but not called, even holy, but not necessarily changed into Spirit.

Psalm 90 begins the fourth division of the Psalms, and talks about the millennium. Remember the “few left”? Who are they? Quite probably there will be some who are our relatives, and they will need protection in the environment of desolation on parts of the earth.

Psalm 90:3 Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. 4 For a thousand years (the millennium) in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Psalm 91:1 He (those) that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Those who are human family members of the Royal Family of God, will be taken care of by God. This is not some “Petra” situation, but if God decides to care and protect someone in His own way, it is going to happen.

Matthew 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Becoming child-like is a requirement for entry into the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

A “little one” appears also to be anyone who is an immature person in their understanding of the truth. We have a huge responsibility to those who are fledglings in their pursuit of responding to the Truth.

Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me (this is the Work), it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

The “work” is not some religious organization that claims they are doing the ‘Work of God’, they are not! That is not what Christ said!! It is so much simpler than that.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them: This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

That is it! When we are called, our response is that we believe, that is all!!! Of course other responses are involved, but it is belief and faith that count most of all.

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! 8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. 9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. 10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you: That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

What a wonderful thought! Every child has their own angel who looks after their welfare, but in our Godless age, this does not always seem to apply, in a world where children are subject to abuse and cruelty beyond belief. But this is a different time talked of in Psalm 91.

Psalm 91:2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Our human family members are ensured God’s protection.

Psalm 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. 14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

The children of the saved are going to have long, protected lives at the beginning of the millennium while we are being trained to become fully fledged mature members of the Royal Family of God.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

So Christ went to heaven after He was resurrected, and is now at the right hand of the Father, and we are in Him. That where He is, we may be also! But clearly we are not in heaven now! Nor will we be if we die before the resurrection, we will be dead in 'hell' in a hole in the ground. But when we are resurrected, we will be wherever Christ is, whether He is here on earth or in heaven at the right hand of the Father, and that will depend upon what Christ is doing at the time.

God speed that day!