

A Mystery Revealed

Do you like mysteries where you have to wait until the end of the book or movie for the mystery to be revealed? Some of us will answer “yes” and some will also say, “and don't tell me the ending, I want to see the mystery unfold and try to determine the ending myself.” But what about mysteries that affect each of us individually?

Job asked the question, *If a man dies, shall he live again?* (Job 14:14) Job did not receive an answer during his lifetime. But God gave mankind hints to the answer over the ensuing centuries. Following the death of the son he fathered with Bathsheba, David said, *I shall go to him* (2 Samuel 12:23a). The Psalmist wrote, *But God will redeem my soul from the grave, for He shall receive me* (Psalm 49:15). Daniel wrote, *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt* (Daniel 12:2). Jesus fully revealed the mystery some 1900 years (plus or minus a few hundred years) after Job asked, *If a man dies, shall he live again?*

Jesus said to his disciples, *To you has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God* (Mark 4:11a). The apostle Paul further explains, *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace---having made known to us the mystery of His will---that in the dispensation of the fullness of time He might gather together in one all things in Christ* (Ephesians 3:7-12). Peter wrote, *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently who prophesied of the grace that would come to you* (I Peter 1:10).

What does this mean to us? It means each of us will write the ending of our individual story! It also means we can rejoice and be content in this life when trials and disappointments occur. Paul said, *I have learned that whatever state I am in, to be content* (Phil. 4:11b). Like those Philippians, we can have *the peace of God, which passes all understanding*, which will guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).

Let us live with confidence in the year 2016. The mystery has been revealed!

For the elders,
Don Denton