

**THE MYSTERY IN A NUTSHELL**  
**(1 Timothy 3:16)**

**I. God was manifested in the flesh.**

- A. God came to earth in the form of man (John 1:1, 14; Philippians 2:5-7).
- B. He did so in the person of Jesus the Christ.
- C. Paul speaks to the deity of Jesus hear and calls Him God.
  - 1. God Himself attested to this fact (Matthew 17:5).
  - 2. Jesus was truly God incarnate.
- D. Jesus came to this earth to more fully reveal God to us.
- E. If Jesus was not God in the flesh, there is no way heaven would have revealed to Peter what it did (Matthew 16:15-17).
- F. If Jesus was not God in the flesh there is no way He could have truly answered Philip as He did (John 14:8-9).
- G. John summed it up in the first two verses of his first epistle (1 John 1:1-2).
  - 1. The apostles saw Him and touched Him.
  - 2. The One they saw and touched had been with the Father and the only way this was possible was if Jesus was deity Himself.

**II. He was justified in the Spirit.**

- A. The Holy Spirit attested to the fact that Jesus was God in the flesh.
- B. He did so at His baptism (Matthew 3:16).
- C. He attested to Jesus as the Son of God by the miracles performed by Jesus and those blessed with gifts to perform miracles (Matthew 12:28; Acts 3:2-6).
- D. He attested to Jesus by the things He imparted to the apostles after the ascension of Jesus.
  - 1. John 14:26; 16:13-14.
  - 2. Acts 2:1-4; Ephesians 3:3-5.
- E. He attests to Jesus as the Son of God even today as He works on the hearts of men through means of the gospel.
  - 1. The words of the Bible that still prick the hearts of men are given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. Thus, even today, the Holy Spirit justifies the claims of Jesus as the Son of God.

**III. He was seen of angels.**

- A. Angels announced the birth of our Lord (Luke 2:13-14).
- B. Angels looked out for the good of Jesus.
  - 1. An angel warned Joseph to flee to Egypt (Matthew 2:13).
  - 2. They ministered to Him in the wilderness (Matthew 4:11).
  - 3. An angel ministered to Him in the Garden (Luke 22:43).
  - 4. An angel rolled away the stone for Jesus (Matthew 28:2).
  - 5. An angel announced His resurrection (Luke 24:4-7).
  - 6. Angels announced the fact of Him returning one day (Acts 1:10-11).
- C. When Jesus does return it will be with His angels (2 Thessalonians 1:7).
- D. Why would the angels be so interested in the life of this man if He was not the Son of God?

**IV. He was preached to the Gentiles.**

- A. This is important because it shows the gospel message is for all mankind, not just the Jews.
- B. God wants all men to be saved, including the Gentiles.
- C. It was prophesied that the one coming would be sought after by the Gentiles (Isaiah 11:10; 42:1-6; 60:3).
- D. What this shows is the equality of all men spiritually speaking.
  - 1. We are all in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23).
  - 2. We are all equal at the foot of the cross.
- E. This shows that the message is for all men and that is what Paul preached to the Ephesians (2:14-15).

**V. He was believed on in the world.**

- A. The gospel message went out across the known world in the time of Paul (Colossians 1:27).
- B. That message, the mystery about which Paul wrote to Timothy, resulted in the conversion of many in the world.
  - 1. It resulted in 3,000 being saved on Pentecost.
  - 2. It resulted in about 5,000 being saved in Jerusalem.
  - 3. It resulted in a number of the priests being saved.
  - 4. It resulted in Cornelius and his house being saved.
  - 5. It resulted in souls in Antioch being saved.
  - 6. It resulted in souls in Thessalonika, Lystra, Corinth, Ephesus and every other city into which it went being saved.
- C. Everywhere the gospel has gone, lives have been changed.
- D. This mystery that brings about godliness causes people to believe in Jesus all over the world.
  - 1. The idea of "believed" here is that of a part put for the whole.
  - 2. Believed stands for all the commands of the gospel being obeyed.
  - 3. The people mentioned did not stop at belief but kept going, obeying all the commands of Jesus.
- E. The fact is, this aspect is still being fulfilled today.
  - 1. The gospel is going out all over the world and people are still believing it.
  - 2. A friend is on a mission trip to Tanzania and wrote back about two souls believing the gospel.
- F. People are still being made godly by this great mystery.

**VI. He was received up into glory.**

- A. Our Lord, once He was done with His work on earth, ascended back into heaven (Acts 1:8-11).
- B. Paul plainly taught this (Ephesians 4:8-10).
- C. The gospel accounts teach this (Mark 16:19).
- D. Jesus said this would take place (John 14:12; 16:16; 20:17).
- E. This is a vital part of the mystery because it gives us encouragement to be godly.
  - 1. We are promised that He has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).
  - 2. It gives us hope beyond this life when tied to the resurrection.
  - 3. He promised to come back, therefore He had to go.
  - 4. Thus, we have motivation to be godly through obedience to the mystery about which Paul here speaks.