



## The Mystery of Christmas - The Hope of God for All People

1 Timothy 3:16

Review - *“Great is the mystery of godliness...”*

- The mystery of God made known in human form.  
*“He who was revealed in the flesh...” He is knowable.*
- The mystery of the verification of His audacious claims.  
*“...was vindicated in the Spirit...” He is trustable.*
- The mystery of angelic witness in his birth and life.  
*“...seen by angels...” He is worthy of worship.*

- **The mystery of a worldwide offer of salvation. - *“...proclaimed among the nations...”***  
**He is accessible.**

*By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to mankind, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, Eph. 3:4-6*

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matt. 24:14*

- **The mystery of faith and belief among all people. - *“...believed on in the world...”***  
**He is believable.**

*So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30,31*

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt 28:19,20*

### Discussion Questions

- What was your view of Santa Claus growing up? If it has changed, when and how did it happen? What was your view of baby Jesus in a manger growing up? If it has changed, when and how did it happen?
- Read Psalm 96. Note how many times, “the nations,” “the peoples,” “the earth” are mentioned. Summarize God’s plan for the whole earth in your own words.
- Read Acts 11:1-18. Put yourself in Peter’s place. What did he (and others) have to overcome in order to preach the Gospel to Gentiles? How did they misunderstand God’s intention in Ps. 96:3?
- Christianity is growing faster in China than anywhere else in the world. What implications does that have for Christians in the West?
- What is one Christmas tradition from your culture or family history that you particularly enjoy? Why is it meaningful to you?