

The Difference Between “Sigao” and “Musterion”

Article 1
September 2009
(Copyright)

There are two dimensions regarding the hidden aspect of the Great Secret which we need to sharply understand and firmly set in our minds. Firstly, in times past, such as during the Old Testament period, the Great Secret was completely hid in God and not available to any man; and secondly, today, the Great Secret is no longer completely hidden in God but rather it is a secret that is being revealed to the initiated ones, to those who are ready to receive the true knowledge of Jesus Christ. These two aspects are different, and mean different things. Let's take a look at these more closely.

“Sigao” means to keep something secret in total silence.

The Bible tells us that, in all times past before it was given to the Apostle Paul, the secret was totally “hid in God”. It was kept secret.

“Now to him that is of power to establish 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, But now is made manifest (Romans 16:25-26a)

The words “kept secret” are translated from the Greek word “sigao” and mean a concealing by total silence. God kept the Great Secret or the Great Mystery to Himself. Literally, He kept the Great Secret secret by not speaking one word about it. He was silent. Therefore, the Great Secret cannot be found in the Old Testament.

Paul uses a different word in Ephesians, and builds upon what is stated in Romans:

“.... the mystery, which from the beginning of the world, hath been hid in God” (Ephesians 3:9)

When the Bible tells us that the Great Secret was “hid in God” in times past, the word “hid” is translated from the Greek word “apokrupto”, which means to conceal away from everybody. We know from Romans that God concealed it in total silence. In other words, before the Great Secret was revealed to the Apostle Paul, it was entirely hid in God.

Therefore, there is no whisper or mention of it in the Old Testament for God had hid the secret in Himself, and He achieved this hiding through total silence. Some theologians say that the Great Secret was mentioned in the Old Testament or at other times before Paul. God simply says that He had hid it in Himself and kept it in total silence. We will believe God.



These times of concealment in God include the times when Jesus was on earth, and the times of the Old Testament and all times even prior to the Old Testament. When God conceals something in Himself, it is simply past finding out until He decides to reveal it. No man can possibly find it.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Before it was revealed to the Apostle Paul, man simply had no idea about the Great Secret. If God had revealed it before it was given to Paul, then the Bible’s statements in Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:9 that it was hid in God would become untrue. However, God did keep it hidden in Himself. He did not hide it in the Old Testament scriptures. He hid the Great Secret in Himself.

However, there is another aspect of concealment which is relevant to us living today in this Age of Grace. The Bible tells us that since the time it was first revealed to Paul, the Great Secret is now a mystery or secret (“musterion”) that is concealed from everyone on earth except those who have been initiated into its wonderful truths. This is different from being hid (“sigao”) in God in times past. Then, it was total concealment in silence; today, it is concealed only from the uninitiated. Today, it is revealed to the “musters”, the initiated ones (i.e. those who can be initiated into its truths). The Greek word “musterion”

which is translated mystery in our Bibles refers to being initiated into a secret knowledge. In our context, it refers to the Great Secret of Christ and the Church, which is his body.

The difference between “sigao” and “musterion”

Whereas “sigao” means completely hidden in silence, “musterion” means a secret that can be revealed and is available to know today. No one can be initiated into something which is “sigao” but we can be initiated into something which is now “musterion”. Today, our heavenly Father is not silent regarding the Great Secret. He is revealing it to the initiated. Today, God’s will is to make known this Great Secret to everyone in the Body of Christ who is ready to receive it.

“To whom God would make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery.....” (Colossians 1:27)

Today, God certainly wants to make known the riches of the glory of this secret. Although this is God’s will, it is not necessarily done on earth among the church. Despite the word “musterion” meaning a secret that people can be initiated into, the truth is that most Christians today have not been initiated into the Great Secret.

The majority of our brothers and sisters in Christ have not even heard that there is a Great Secret. The reason for this is because it is not taught by the majority of Christian leaders. And the reason for this is that the majority of Christian leaders do not even know it themselves because the Adversary has infiltrated Christianity to the point where the counterfeit of the truth has now become the norm within the minds of many Christians. As we saw in volume one of ‘Unveiling the Great Mystery of the First Century Church’, the decline started with the adversary back in the first century.



Nevertheless, it was in the Old Testament times that God kept the Great Secret hid in total silence. Today however, since first revealing it to Paul, God is not silent. It is now a “secret” that God desires to make known among the initiated ones. God is speaking the Great Secret today. Today, we are also speaking the Great Secret among the spiritually mature in Christ.

“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which god ordained before the world unto our glory” (1 Corinthians 2:6-7).

In Old Testament times, the knowledge of the Great Secret was not available to any man or angel. Today, it is available to all Christians who humble themselves before God and want to know the truth.

(Mark Atkinson copyright 2009).

