

**Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**  
**Revelations at Caesarea Philippi, Part 5**  
**The Kingdom of God**

Caesarea Philippi, a very worldly and pagan place of worship, is a place of revelation of mysteries of God

- truths kept secret from the foundation of the world now being revealed by God in time
- transcending realities in heaven and on earth

<u>Mystery</u>	<u>Matt</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>
Christ	16:13-17	8:27-30	9:18-21
Church	16:18-19		
God's Plan of Redemption	16:21-23	8:31-33	9:22
Salvation	16:24-27	8:34-38	9:23-26
Kingdom of God	16:28	9:1	9:27

Four weeks ago:

1. the mystery of Christ

Three weeks ago:

2. the mystery of the Church

Two weeks ago:

3. the mystery of God's Plan of Redemption  
Jesus Christ MUST be rejected, suffer, be killed, rise again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

Last week:

4. the mystery of Salvation  
Involves denying Self, picking up our Cross, and following Jesus  
Requires a reorientation from Self-first to Self-last

This time...the final revelation at Caesarea Philippi

5. the mystery of the Kingdom of God

And remember, the key, the essentials, to understand the other mysteries revealed at Caesarea Philippi is the dichotomy (separation from, contention between)  
**flesh and Spirit**

We will be in Matt 16, Mark 9, and Luke 9...and many other places

*The Mystery of the Kingdom of God*

## **Matt 16**

v28 not taste death...coming in His kingdom:

“Some standing here” sounds like Jesus is addressing more than His 12 disciples  
We saw last week in Mark and Luke that, in addition to the 12, there is a crowd of people listening to Jesus

And what does it mean

- “taste of death”?
- “see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom” when Jesus has yet to this very day return as King to set up His kingdom on earth?

## **Luke 9**

v27 till they see the Kingdom of God:

In Matthew’s account, “till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom”

In Luke’s account, “till they see the kingdom of God”

## **Mark 9**

v1 the kingdom of God come with power:

“till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”

Taking all 3 accounts...knowing that the Word of God is inspired (God-breathed), inerrant, and infallible...these must be synonymous

- “see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom.” (Matt)
- “see the kingdom of God.” (Luke)
- “have seen the kingdom of God come with power.” (Mark)

In the flow of all 3 Gospels, what happens next is known as the Transfiguration

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John apart up a high mountain

Jesus was transfigured before them...they saw Him in His glory

They witnessed Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah regarding His exodus

Peter spouts off about tabernacles

The Father speaks from heaven, “This is My beloved Son, hear Him.”

It could be understood that

- “see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom.”
- “see the kingdom of God.”
- “have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”

means the Transfiguration...kingdom = glory

But bearing in mind the key Jesus gave us to understanding these mysteries

- truths kept secret from before the foundation of the world now being revealed by God in time
- transcending realities in heaven and on earth

is the dichotomy between flesh and Spirit...

could something else also be in view?

i.e. a mystery being revealed progressively

Acts 17:11

An important clue regarding the kingdom of God may be in Mark's account –  
“with power”

And therefore an understanding of “taste death”, which might seem to be an  
unusual qualification if the complete revelation would be in just 6 days

“with power”

Matt 3:11

the baptism of Jesus vs John

Luke 24:44-49

after Resurrection

Joel 2:28-29

promise: pouring out of His Spirit...upon (*epi*)

John 20:19-22

after Jesus tasted death for us...in, breath of God  
Gen 2:7, born-again

Acts 1:1-8

after John 20:22 (in)...and their fear of the Jews

Acts 2:1-4, 14-18

KoG, promise of Father, baptized HG, power

2 Chron 7:1

gathered in fear of the Jews, then power upon

shadow, kingdom of son of David

Kingdom/glory/baptism of Holy Spirit

1 Cor 6:19

body the temple of HG, in (with 1 Cor 3:16)

Rom 12:1-2

bodies a living sacrifice, reasonable service

2 Tim 1:7

not spirit of fear but of power, love, sound mind  
(no power after “in” but after “upon”)

Acts 11:15-18

Peter telling Jews of Acts 10, comparing to Acts 2

Acts 15:7-11

Matt 3:11

The baptism of Jesus: the Spirit in **and** upon

Acts 19:2

“in” but not “upon”; “when”

As we Acts 17:11, what else does Scripture have to say about  
“the kingdom of God”?

[Matt 25:31-34, 40-41, 46] throne of His glory/kingdom  
prepared from the foundation of the world  
(God’s plan, doing)  
is eternal life for the righteous (Gen 15:6)

- doers
- were His witnesses  
(the power to be is with “upon”)

[Luke 10:9-11] come near, whether received or not

[Luke 11:19-20] come upon, whether received or not  
Holy Spirit driving out unclean spirit

[Luke 12:31-32] given...a gift vs a wage

[Luke 14:15-24] invitation/offer to be accepted (like a gift is)

[Luke 13:27-28]  
[Luke 18:16-17] received by faith

[Luke 17:11-20] healed physically, made whole (alive) spiritually  
by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)...1 Yes, 9 No

[Luke 17:21] within...Spirit vs flesh

[Luke 18:24-30] incomparable wealth, riches, life...by faith

[John 1:11-13]  
[John 3:3-5] “power” vs “right”  
must be born again of the Spirit of God

[Acts 14:22] continue in the faith, much tribulation

[1 Cor 4:20] James 1:22...the power to do/obey

The “kingdom of God” is tied to the Spirit of God, the baptism of Jesus Christ  
“in” born-again, new creature  
“upon” promise of the Father, power from on high to be His  
witness (do/obey, speak with boldness, endure)

Back to [Mark 9:1]

So if

- “see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom.”
- “see the kingdom of God.”
- “have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”

could mean the baptism of Jesus Christ (and the building of the Church by Jesus, approx 20 months future to this teaching at Caesarea Philippi)  
would “taste death” refer to spiritual death (2<sup>nd</sup>, eternal) instead of physical death (flesh)?

Who there in Caesarea Philippi on that day of revelation did not “taste death” before seeing the Kingdom of God?

- 11 of the 12 disciples (not Judas)
- unknown others in the crowd

### The Totality of what happened at Caesarea Philippi...

a place of revelation of the mysteries of God

1. the mystery of Christ, of “God with us”, of the Incarnation
2. the mystery of the Church, a spiritual Body of purchased people
3. the mystery of God’s Plan of Redemption, death and resurrection of Christ
4. the mystery of Salvation, God’s work and man’s response (deny etc)
5. the mystery of the Kingdom of God, the promise of the Father, power from on high, baptism of Jesus Christ

These mysteries of God are not clearly seen in OT

NT is Jesus’ and the Apostle’s doctrine/teaching (Acts 2:42, John 15:26) that reveals these truths, these transcending realities in heaven and on earth

That revelation and doctrine starts here near the end of Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> year of ministry at a most pagan place, Caesarea Philippi

That place is part of the lesson

Caesarea Philippi is 25 miles north of Bethsaida

[ Map ]

- at the base of Mount Hermon...a massive rock formation
- site of the headwaters of the Jordan River

[ Temple of Pan ]

[ Caesarea Philippi Cave ]

- previously known as Paneas or Panium, the center of worship for the Greek god Pan, the lord of the underworld
- site of an immense cavern/cave  
(pagan belief: caves were gateways to the underworld)
- the cave at the rear of the temple was considered the ‘Gate of Hades’ because it was believed that the lord of the underworld would enter and leave the underworld through it
- the Roman city was originally built by Herod the Great and dedicated to Augustus Caesar (beginning of Caesar worship)
- later enlarged by his son Herod Philip, and dedicated to Tiberius Caesar
- Philip’s capitol
- the city sits at the foot of Mount Hermon, which was known as the ‘Rock of the Gods’, referring to the many shrines built against it
- a very pagan site on the Via Maris (Egypt to Mesopotamia), the road to Damascus
- was a center of Caesar worship...and all other gods of the nations

[ Caesarea Philippi Grottos ]

**Matt 16:13-28**

An incredible amount of highly condensed/concentrated truth

Key to understand: Spirit vs flesh

All the mysteries of God are intertwined

1. the mystery of Christ, of “God with us”, of the Incarnation  
in a pagan center of Caesar worship and all other gods of the nations
2. the mystery of the Church, spiritual Body of purchased people  
standing on a massive rock, the church will be built by Jesus on a Rock,  
an immovable Rock  
in this place of spiritual darkness and degeneracy, the Lord announced  
His intention to build His "Church" (or "congregation")  
Ps 127:1a      Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that  
build it

looking at a cave, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it

And it was at this "Hell hole" that He gave us the assurance, "The Gates of Hell"  
will NOT prevail against it."

3. the mystery of God's Plan of Redemption, death and resurrection of the Christ  
In a place where there were many

- gods
- ways to god
- ways to worship/please god...

The Plan is God's way...the ONLY way...  
not any of man's many ways

4. the mystery of Salvation, God's work and man's response  
on the great trade route the Via Maris connecting Egypt and Mesopotamia,  
those who seek to save their life will follow Jesus on a road that denies the  
things of self, man, and the world (flesh) in favor of the things of God  
(Spirit)

The way/road to eternal life is narrow and few find it,  
the way/road to eternal destruction is broad and many walk it

Acts 2:21

Acts 4:12

Rom 5

5. the mystery of the Kingdom of God, the power of God, baptism of Jesus  
the power is God's, not Rome's or the devil's  
The power (of God) to "Just Say No" (to sin) comes from the baptism of  
Jesus Christ

They are all connected, intertwined

Taken as a whole...what is God's appeal to us/mankind?

God is not pleased with man's religion...man's ways/will/work attempting to be pleasing to Him  
Therefore God must become a man and do what man cannot do for himself...  
be reconciled to God

Our Maker wants a relationship with each of us, with every person in all generations  
A relationship takes 2 willing volunteers

Matt 16:16    God willingly set aside His glory and became a man,  
to be mankind's Kinsman-Redeemer

Matt 16:18    God willingly began a new work to build a spiritual body of whosoever  
will believe/trust in Him

Matt 16:21    God willingly suffered and died  
once

For 2 reasons

1. to pay for our sin (finished, on Cross)
2. to defeat him who had the power over death,  
the devil

Heb 2:14-15

(finished, at Resurrection)

“paid for the invitation”, doing everything He could to make  
reconciliation possible

Laid His life down, has the power to take it up again

Matt 16:24    He willingly saves, we must willingly

Deny self...accept the re-orientation from Self-first  
to Self-last

Die...daily

Follow Jesus vs world, man, Self

Accept the invitation

By faith

Phil 3:3b

Repentance, change of heart, mind, and behavior

Each of us have 2 points in time

1. birth
2. death

In between those 2 points in time we have the opportunity/choice  
to accept God's invitation or not

If make wrong choice, death is the reward

If make the right choice, death is taken away and life is the reward

Amos 3:3

Matt 16:24

Don't strive to get ahead

Strive to get behind...deny self, pick up cross, follow Jesus

Matt 16:28    He willingly gives us the power from on high to obey and follow  
We must willingly accept His offer

Pray: Salvation, baptism of Jesus Christ

If have received “in” but not “upon”, do not want all Father is offering?

Know frustration in your walk...or victory?