

§ 2 • Paul's God-Given Role With Respect to God's Plan

§ 2.1 • Description of Paul's Role

PART 6

12 For this cause I, Paul, am a prisoner for Messiah Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles. 2•You know this, if indeed you have heard of the distribution of God's grace that was given to me for you—most notably that, in relation to a revelation (as I have written about before in brief), the secret was made known to me. 3•By it, if you read it, you should be able to appreciate my insight into the secret concerning the Messiah. 4•This secret was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed, by the Spirit, to his sanctified apostles and prophets—its upshot being that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body and fellow beneficiaries of the promise that, in view of the gospel, is in Messiah Jesus.

3:1–6

13 Of this gospel I became a servant in accord with the gift of God's grace that was given to me, consistent with the working of his power. 2•To me, the very least of all the sanctified ones, this grace was given: (a) to convey to the Gentiles the good news about the incalculable treasure of the Messiah, and (b) to bring to light what is his plan for distributing his blessing to all (since from long ages past the secret had been hidden in God, in the one who creates all things). 3•My bringing this to light was so that the multifarious wisdom of God pertaining to his *ekklesia* (which is in accord with the purpose that he formed for the ages, to the benefit of Messiah Jesus, our lord) might now be made known to the leaders and authorities in divine matters.

3:7–11

14 In the Messiah, we have the freedom to approach God due to our reliance upon him through belief. 2•I ask, therefore, that you not lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf. 3•This imprisonment is your glory !

3:12–13

§ 2.2 • Paul's Prayer on the behalf of His Gentile Readers

PART 7

15 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father—by whom every people group “under the skies” and “upon the land” is given its name—asking

2•that, in accord with the inexhaustible abundance of his glory, he would grant you to be strengthened by his Spirit with power in your innermost self so that, through belief, the Messiah would dwell in your hearts,

3•that, being rooted in and founded upon his love, you might be able to obtain, with all the sanctified ones, what is its width and length and height and depth, even that you might come to know the love that is beyond knowing, the love of the Messiah, and

4•that you might be made full within the “All”—the *pleroma*—of God.

3:14–19

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- 16 Now with respect to him who is able to do far beyond all that we ask or imagine, in keeping with the miracle being worked in us, may praise be to him for the *ekklesia* and for Messiah Jesus throughout all the generations through the final age of ages. Amen.

3:20-21