

## The Mysterious Theatrical Church Eph. 3:1-13

### **When God's mysterious program was revealed:**

*(made known not in the OT, but a mystery revealed in NT)*

- ≈ 3:2-13 is a long digression interrupting Paul's prayer that began in v.1.
- ≈ This mystery gets Paul imprisoned, 13, Acts 22:21ff., Col. 1:24-27, 4:3.
- Mystery: 27x in NT and most frequently occurring in Ephesians (6x).*
- ≈ The Church was planned long ago, v. 9, 11, Col. 1:26, Rom. 16:25.

### **Who first learned of God's mysterious program:**

*(revealed initially only to Paul, apostles, and prophets to be spokesmen)*

- ≈ The prophets, like the apostles, are of the NT, see 2:19,20).
- ≈ Paul ever highlights his surprising selection as one to whom the mystery of the church was revealed, 2,3,8, I Cor. 15:9, I Tim. 1:12-16.

### **How God's mysterious program impacts cosmic powers:**

*(provides insight for the powers /rulers / authorities in heavenly places)*

- ⊃ ≈ Who are the powers? See 1:21, 6:12, Col. 1:16, 2:15, Job. 1:6-12.
- ⊃ ≈ These powers do pay attention, I Pt. 1:12, I Cor. 11:10, I Tim. 5:21,
- ⊃ ⊃ and the evil ones directly oppose us (6:12).
- ⊃ ≈ What *manifold / multifaceted wisdom* of God is on display to these various powers through the church . . . through you and me?

Shakespeare quipped "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players;" How well are you playing your part?

