

Short Studies for the Skeptic Series – Part 3

This Saying Was Hid From Them

How can this possibly be?

For those who are familiar with the scriptures it seems inconceivable that Jesus' Apostles understood none of the things the Lord was conveying to them. After all, from the seed plot of Gen 3:15 through that... "which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Lk 24:44) seems crystal clear to us! On top of that, Jesus wasn't quiet about His divine death destiny during His earthly ministry and their response was always the same... **Mark 9:31-32** For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and **they shall kill him**; and after that he is killed, **he shall rise the third day.** ³² **But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.**

And when John & Peter entered the empty tomb... "For **as yet they knew not the scripture**, that he must rise again from the dead." **John 20:9**

The key to understanding this incomprehension of Jesus' statement is in the word '**hid**'... "and this saying was **hid** from them."

There are two ways God hid things in the scriptures. First, passages simply existed, as with Isaiah 53, without explanation as to its determination at that time. Second, explanation of purpose may often only be explained by those to whom the determination is exposed. Such a case is found between Philip & the Ethiopian eunuch... **Acts 8:30-35** And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, **Understandest thou what thou readest?** ³¹ And he said, **How can I, except some man should guide me?** And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. ³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: ³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. ³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, **I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?** ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and **began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.**

The purpose of Christ's death, burial & resurrection being '**hid**', in the first place, is best explained by Paul... **1Cor 1:23-24** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the **Jews a stumblingblock**, and unto the **Greeks foolishness**; ²⁴ But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God**, and the **wisdom of God**. **1Cor 2:7-8** But we speak the **wisdom of God in a mystery**, *even* the **hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory**: ⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: for **had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**. **Rom 16:25** Now to him that is of power to stablish 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**,

In Part 4 of this series, we're going to ask a question that you've probably never heard asked before. What was the 'gospel' under the Old Testament preceding the gospel of the kingdom?