

Matthew 13:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Analysis

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet—Matthew quotes Psalm 78:2 (attributed to Asaph, called a prophet here though technically a psalmist). **I will open my mouth in parables** (παραβολαῖς, parabolais); **I will utter things which have been kept secret** (κεκρυμμένα, kekrymmena—perfect passive participle, meaning 'having been hidden') **from the foundation of the world** (ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου, apo katabolēs kosmou).

The kingdom mysteries were not unknowable, but unrevealed until Christ's coming. God's redemptive plan, hidden in ages past, is now disclosed through Jesus's teaching (cf. Romans 16:25-26, Ephesians 3:5-6, Colossians 1:26). The parabolic method reveals these secrets to those with ears to hear while fulfilling the prophetic pattern of concealment from the proud.

Historical Context

Psalm 78 was written by Asaph during Israel's monarchy, recounting God's acts from the Exodus through David's reign. Matthew, writing around AD 60-70 to a Jewish-Christian audience, consistently demonstrates Jesus as fulfilling Old Testament patterns—even the teaching method was prophesied.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What 'hidden things' about God's kingdom surprised you when first revealed through Scripture?
2. How does recognizing that parables both reveal and conceal affect your approach to teaching Scripture?
3. Why would God hide mysteries 'from the foundation of the world' only to reveal them in Christ's earthly ministry?

Interlinear Text

ὥπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τὸ προφήτου
That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by which the prophet
G3704 G4137 G3588 G4483 G1223 G3588 G4396

λέγοντος Ἀνοίξω ἐν παραβολαῖς τὸ στόμα μου
saying I will open in parables which mouth my
G3004 G455 G1722 G3850 G3588 G4750 G3450

ἐρεύξομαι κεκρυμμένα ἀπὸ καταβολῆς
I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation
G2044 G2928 G575 G2602

κόσμου
of the world
G2889

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:2 (Parallel theme): I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Ephesians 3:9 (Parallel theme): And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:7 (Parallel theme): But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

John 17:24 (Parallel theme): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Amos 3:7 (Prophecy): Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Matthew 25:34 (Parallel theme): Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Ephesians 3:5 (Prophecy): Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Isaiah 42:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Revelation 13:8 (Parallel theme): And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 13:14 (Prophecy): And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: