

Romans 16:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel—Τῷ δέ δυναμένῳ ὑμᾶς στηρίξαι κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου). Paul's doxology (vv. 25-27) crowns Romans with worship. **Dynamenō** (δύναμαι, being able) emphasizes God's power—He is capable. **Stērixai** (στηρίζω, establish/strengthen) was Paul's pastoral goal (1:11, 'that I may impart some spiritual gift to establish you'). **Kata to euangelion mou** (κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου, according to my gospel) doesn't mean Paul invented a new gospel but that he proclaims the apostolic gospel entrusted to him (Galatians 1:11-12, 'received by revelation of Jesus Christ').

And the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery—Καὶ κήρυγματος Ἰēsou Christou, kata apokalypsin mystēriou (καὶ κηρύγματος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, κατὰ ἀποκάλυψιν μυστηρίου). **Kērygma** (κήρυγμα, proclamation) is the heralded message. **Apokalypsis mystēriou** (ἀποκάλυψις μυστήριου, revelation of mystery) refers to God's hidden plan now disclosed: Jew and Gentile united in Christ (11:25-26; Ephesians 3:3-6, 'Gentiles fellow heirs'). **Mystērion** (μυστήριον, mystery) isn't esoteric secret but previously hidden truth now revealed through the gospel.

Historical Context

Mystery (*mystērion*) religions were popular in the Greco-Roman world—Eleusinian mysteries, Isis cult, Mithraism—offering secret knowledge to initiates. Paul redefines 'mystery': not hidden gnosis for elite but God's plan revealed publicly through Christ's death-resurrection and proclaimed to all. This 'mystery' was hinted in OT (prophets foresaw Gentile inclusion, Isaiah 49:6) but fully revealed in the gospel age. Romans unpacks this mystery: Jew-Gentile unity through faith in Christ, apart from law. The doxology celebrates God's wisdom in orchestrating salvation history to climax in Christ.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God is able to 'establish you according to my gospel' (*kata to euangelion stērixai*)—how does gospel truth stabilize believers?
2. How is the 'mystery' (*mystērion*) of Jew-Gentile unity in Christ central to Paul's gospel and Romans' argument?
3. What 'mysteries' of God's plan have been revealed through Christ that were hidden in the OT—and how does this shape your reading of Scripture?

Interlinear Text

Τῷ δὲ δυναμένῳ ὑμᾶς στηρίξαι κατὰ τὸ^{G3588}
Now to him that is of power you to establish according^{G3588}
G1161 G1410 G5209 G4741 G2596 G3588

εὐαγγέλιον μου καὶ τὸ κήρυγμα Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ^{G3588}
gospel to my and the preaching of Jesus Christ^{G3588}
G2098 G3450 G2532 G2782 G2424 G5547

κατὰ ἀποκάλυψιν μυστηρίου χρόνοις αἰωνίοις^{G166}
according to the revelation of the mystery since the world began^{G166}
G2596 G602 G3466 G5550

σεσιγημένου
which was kept secret^{G4601}

Additional Cross-References

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:

Romans 2:16 (References Jesus): In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Ephesians 1:9 (Parallel theme): Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

2 Thessalonians 2:14 (References Jesus): Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3 (Parallel theme): But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

Ephesians 3:9 (References Jesus): 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:

Acts 9:20 (References Christ): And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 20:32 (Parallel theme): And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

1 Corinthians 1:23 (References Christ): But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Matthew 13:17 (Parallel theme): For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

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