

Romans 16:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

Analysis

Which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest—
Chronois aiōnios sesigēmenou, phanerōthentos de nyn (χρόνοις αἰώνιοις σεσιγημένου, φανερωθέντος δὲ νῦν). Chronois aiōnios (χρόνος αἰώνιος, eternal times) means ages past—God's plan existed eternally but was hidden. Sesigēmenou (σιγάω, kept silent) uses perfect participle—having been silenced, kept secret. Phanerōthentos de nyn (φανερώ δὲ νῦν, but now made manifest) marks the eschatological 'now'—Christ's coming inaugurated the age of revelation. What prophets longed to see (1 Peter 1:10-12) believers now understand clearly.

And by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith—
Dia te graphōn prophētikōn, kat' epitagēn tou aiōniou theou, eis hypakoēn pisteōs eis panta ta ethnē gnōristhentos (διά τε γραφῶν προφητικῶν, κατ' ἐπιταγὴν τοῦ αἰώνιου θεοῦ, εἰς ὑπακοὴν πίστεως εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη γνωρισθέντος). Graphōn prophētikōn (γραφή προφητικός, prophetic Scriptures) grounds the gospel in OT witness (1:2, 'promised before by his prophets'). Kat' epitagēn (κατ' ἐπιταγή, according to command) indicates divine commission. Eis panta ta ethnē (εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, to all nations) fulfills the Abrahamic promise (Genesis 12:3, 'all families of the earth blessed'). Eis hypakoēn pisteōs (εἰς ὑπακοὴν πίστεως, for obedience of faith) echoes 1:5—the gospel's goal is faithful obedience from all peoples.

Historical Context

Paul's theology integrates OT and gospel: the mystery was 'kept secret' yet 'witnessed by the law and prophets' (3:21). Israel's story anticipated Christ—types, prophecies, promises pointed forward. Yet only in Christ's death-resurrection did the full meaning emerge: Gentiles included without becoming Jews (Acts 15), justification by faith apart from law (3:21-31), Israel's hardening serving Gentile salvation (11:11-12), ethnic hostility abolished (Ephesians 2:14-16). Church fathers (Irenaeus, Tertullian) defended Christianity against Marcion (who rejected OT) by showing gospel continuity with prophetic Scriptures. Romans ends as it began (1:2): the gospel rooted in OT, revealed in Christ, proclaimed to all nations.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the gospel as 'kept secret...but now manifest' (sesigēmenou...phanerōthentos) shape your reading of OT prophecy and promise?
2. What role do 'the scriptures of the prophets' (graphōn prophētikōn) play in establishing the gospel's credibility and continuity with God's eternal plan?
3. How is 'obedience of faith' (hypakoē pisteōs) both the goal of the gospel (v. 26) and its beginning (1:5)—what does this teach about conversion and sanctification?

Interlinear Text

φανερωθέντος δὲ νῦν διά τε γραφῶν προφητικῶν
is made manifest But now by and the scriptures of the prophets
G5319 G1161 G3568 G1223 G5037 G1124 G4397

κατ' ἐπιταγὴν τοῦ αἰώνιου θεοῦ εἰς
according to the commandment of the everlasting God for
G2596 G2003 G3588 G166 G2316 G1519

ὑπακοὴν πίστεως εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη γνωρισθέντος
the obedience of faith for all nations made known
G5218 G4102 G1519 G3956 G3588 G1484 G1107

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:5 (Faith): By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Romans 15:18 (Word): For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

Galatians 3:8 (Faith): And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Isaiah 40:28 (Eternal Life): Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Colossians 1:26 (Creation): Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Romans 15:4 (Word): For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 1:2 (Word): (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

1 Timothy 1:17 (Eternal Life): Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 1:10 (Creation): But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

1 John 5:20 (Eternal Life): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

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