

**Paul's Rapture, 2 Corinthians 12:2-4; Ephesians 3:3-6; Galatians 1:11-12**

Further, we know from the context of the two references by Paul that this information was not revealed by Christ during the Incarnation.

A few of the mystery doctrines were only implied during the Incarnation. Their complete and detailed revelation is found only in the New Testament epistles. This is especially true of the Rapture, or the exit resurrection of the Church. Therefore, Paul is revealing in these two epistles information which was spoken to him in a teaching situation.

Jesus transferred the contents of a portion of the Eternal Logos deposit into the dual cache of Paul's stream of consciousness and neural network.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15 - For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that ...**

In 1 Corinthians 15:51, Paul writes, "*Behold, I tell you a mystery,*" and then begins to give details about the Rapture.

The details include the two-phase sequence of resurrections for, first, the dead and then the living believers, their instantaneous occurrences, and the atmospheric reunion of all resurrected believers with Christ. Therefore, it is obvious that when a person is raptured at the termination of the Church Age, he receives a resurrection body.

When a believer dies prior to the resurrection of the Church, his perishable body remains behind and returns to the elements in some fashion while his soul and spirit go immediately into heaven.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7 - Dust will return to the earth as it was and the spirit will return to God who gave it.**

However, in the case of Paul's rapture, he is not certain nor can we be of whether he entered into heaven as soul and spirit only or his human body was transported into the third heaven as well. If the former case a resuscitation was necessary upon Paul's return to Planet Earth. If the latter, then God must have circumvented the laws of nature as we know them to accommodate a human body in the eternal state.

A third possibility is that Paul received an interim body, the kind of body issued to believers when they die prior to the Rapture. But the point is, Paul didn't know, and as a result, we don't know. Only God knows according to:

**2 Corinthians 12:2 - I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up [*harpazo*: raptured] into the third heaven.**

Paul is a certifiable genius in terms of human IQ, however, it was not his genius which enabled him to understand the mystery doctrines of God.

**Ephesians 3:3 - Through revelation the mystery doctrine was made known to me just as I have already written briefly [Galatians 1:12; 2 Corinthians 12:2-2 Corinthians 12:4] for your benefit,****Ephesians 3:4 - By reading this you ought to be able to understand my technical knowledge about the mystery of Christ****Ephesians 3:5 - which was not made known to mankind in other dispensations so that it has now been revealed to His holy apostles, even the prophets, by the Holy Spirit,**

**Ephesians 3:6** - that Gentiles are fellow heirs and members together of the same body and sharers together of the same promises in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

The other reference to which Paul refers is found in:

**Galatians 1:11** - I would have you know, fellow believers, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

**Galatians 1:12** - For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

One of the required credentials for being an apostle is to have received theological training face-to-face with the Lord.

It is important that Paul document that he did not receive any of his theological training from any of the eleven original apostles.

**Galatians 1:15** - When God, Who had set me apart, even from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace [the deposits on the Damascus Road], was pleased

**Galatians 1:16** - to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

**Galatians 1:17** - nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia and again I returned to Damascus.

It was while Paul was in Arabia that he was raptured into the third heaven and went under the didactical teaching of Jesus Christ.

In our three major passages we are able to identify the Heavenly Deposit transferred to Paul.

- a. 2 Corinthians 12:4 refers to it as, "*inexpressible words.*"
- b. Ephesians 3:3 uses the term "*mystery doctrine.*"
- c. Galatians 1:11 calls it the "*gospel.*"

The didactical process used by the Lord to teach Paul is also mentioned in these passages:

- a. 2 Corinthians 12:4 says that Paul "*heard*" the inexpressible words.
- b. Ephesians 3:3 informs us that "*through revelation the mystery doctrine was made known to me.*"
- c. Galatians 1:12 tells us that Paul learned mystery doctrine "*through a revelation of Jesus Christ.*"

From all these passages we may summarize the following:

Soon after his salvation on the Damascus Road, Paul was raptured into heaven from somewhere in the Arabian Desert. We do not know how long he remained there or whether he was in soul and spirit only, soul and spirit in an interim body, in his human status quo, or in resurrection body. God knows. While there the Eternal Logos was revealed to Him by the Living Logos, Jesus Christ.

The major content of the Eternal Logos which Christ chose to communicate to Paul was the mystery doctrines of the Church Age. This face-to-face transfer of divine thought from the neural network of Christ to that of Paul is what we call the Heavenly Deposit.