

HIDDEN / TO HIDE

(κρύπτω = 'kripto')

Hidden, to hide, to be hid, to escape notice, to conceal (that it may not become known)

Matthew 11:25, *At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes."* "Hidden", in Greek 'kriptos' means, "to conceal or hide." This particular usage of the word is in a tense that signifies this as being something God began to do at a specific point in time (in the past), and continues it into the future. God doesn't reveal everything all at once, and to any specific generation. The particular starting point of "hiding" God's Word from people can be seen with Adam and Eve. After the Fall of Man, and his expulsion from the garden for disobedience, God only revealed a portion of His Word to Adam (just like He did before the Fall because God did not give him all revelation).

God revealed more of His plan to Noah, concerning the flood; He revealed more to Abram (Abraham) concerning the coming Seed, of which Abram would be a blessing; He revealed more to Moses, concerning the Law; He revealed more to Joshua concerning the Land; He revealed more to David concerning the temple, and etc., all the way up to Christ. Each time, God revealed more of His plan to each individual. It is like turning pages in a book; the more you turn and read, the more information you receive about a specific subject. God was revealing bits and pieces to each of His chosen people, and each time He did this it built upon the former and established the Covenant of Grace progressively. And this revelation was completely revealed when Jesus came.

Yet even when Christ came, God was still hiding other things as well. He chose Mary and Joseph to watch over the baby Jesus - them and them alone. The shepherds were informed in the fields, and they were only able to witness to a few people in the city about what had happened. A few Magi came from the East and worshipped the child in secret. There was no cosmic billboard. There was no huge advertisement - just a glimmer here and there to a few chosen people. Even when Jesus began His ministry He repeatedly told people to keep quiet about Him (Mark 1:44). Even the demons, which knew who Jesus was, were commanded by Him to keep silent (Mark 1:23-25).

God is "hidden" until He decides to reveal Himself to you. He opens your mind by His Spirit, and changes your heart, and enlightens your understanding about Himself. The Son desires to reveal the Father in a special and personal way in which it will not always be the same. Paul's experience in Acts 9 on the Damascus road was far different than Lydia's conversion in Acts 16. The belief of some of the Jews on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was radically different than the outpouring upon Cornelius' house in Acts 10. The arguments about Paul's conversion, which hardened Felix, almost convinced Agrippa to be saved. God reveals Himself personally, uniquely and specially to each person. God shrouds Himself in a "hidden" place and reveals Himself only to those the Son wills to reveal Him to. God surrounds Himself in a cloud of glory and allows only His "elect" to enter in to see Him. **Psalm 91:1**, *"He who dwells in the secret (hidden) place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."*