

# God's Plan for the Ages Series

## Lesson #018

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# GOD'S PLAN

FOR THE AGES

DISPENSATIONS

THE CHURCH AGE

**BEGINNING: MYSTERY DOCTRINE**

# The Parameters of the Church Age

- 1. The Church *began* on the Day of Pentecost, AD 33. Acts 2.**
- 2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is what forms the Church, the Body of Christ (Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5). This occurred for the first time at Pentecost in Acts 2 (cf., Acts 11:5–17).**

**Acts 1:5, “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized [future tense] with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**

**Acts 11:15, “And as I [Peter] began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.**

**Acts 11:16, “Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ [Acts 1:5]**

**Acts 11:17, “If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”**

**1 Cor. 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized [past tense] into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”**

**Eph. 4:5, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism;”**

# **The Parameters of the Church Age**

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- 3. The Church was future and not yet present when our Lord spoke in Matt. 16.**



*Pictorial Library Vol. 1: Galilee and the North*

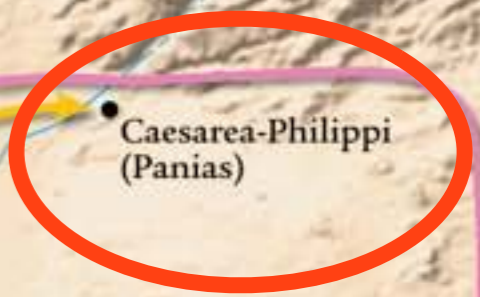




MEDITERRANEAN  
SEA



PHOENICIA



Caesarea-Philippi  
(Panias)

Kedesh

Lake  
Huleh

GAULANITIS

Ptolemais

Merom

Chorazin  
Capernaum

Bethsaida

Gamla

Gennesaret  
(Chinnereth)

Sea of  
Galilee

Esdraelon  
Valley

Jotapata  
Cana

Sepphoris

Nazareth

Nain

GALILEE

Tiberias

Gergesa  
Hippos

Gadara

BOULIS

Dora

Geba

Kishon  
River

River

Yarmuk  
River

River

pharpar  
River



# מערת האל פֶּאָן • THE GROTTA OF THE GOD PAN



This cave is the nucleus beside which the sacred sanctuary was built. In this "abode of the shepherd god," pagan cult began as early as the 3rd century BCE. The ritual sacrifices were cast into a natural abyss reaching the underground waters at the back of the cave. If the victims disappeared in the water, this was a sign that the god had accepted the offering. If, however, signs of blood appeared in the nearby springs, the sacrifice had been rejected.

מערה זו, הנקראת "משכן אל הרועים", היא הגרעין שלצדו נבנה המתחם המקודש כולו. החל מהמאה ה־3 לפסה"נ נערכו כאן פולחנות פגאניים. סבורים כי בעת הפולחן הושלכו הקרבנות אל בקיע טבעי ברצפה בקצה המערה, שהוליך אל מי תהום. אם נבלעו הקרבנות בבקיע, אות הוא שהקרבתן היה לרצון לאל. אם הופיעו סימני דם במעיינות הסמוכים – סימן הוא שהקרבתן נדחה.





ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE SANCTUARY OF PAN

LEGEND

- 1 THE TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS
- 2 THE GROTTO OF THE GOD PAN
- 3 THE COURT OF PAN & THE NYMPHS
- 4 THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS
- 5 THE COURT OF NEMESIS
- 6 THE TOMB TEMPLE OF THE SACRED GOATS
- 7 THE TEMPLE OF PAN & THE DANCING GOATS



הצעת שיחזור למתחם המקודש לאל פאן

מקרא

- 1 מקדש אוגוסטוס
- 2 מערת האל פאן
- 3 רחבת האל פאן והנימפות
- 4 מקדש זאוס
- 5 חצר נמיס
- 6 מקדש קבר העזים הקדושות
- 7 מקדש פאן והעזים המרקדות



THE GROTTO OF THE GOOD MAN (P.O. BOX 100)

THE GROTTO OF THE GOOD MAN (P.O. BOX 100) is a small, simple structure built of stone and mud. It is located in the heart of the village of Grotto, which is situated on a hillside overlooking the sea. The grotto is believed to be the birthplace of the Good Man, a legendary figure who is said to have lived in the grotto for many years before his death. The grotto is a popular site of pilgrimage and is visited by many people from all over the world. The grotto is a small, simple structure built of stone and mud. It is located in the heart of the village of Grotto, which is situated on a hillside overlooking the sea. The grotto is believed to be the birthplace of the Good Man, a legendary figure who is said to have lived in the grotto for many years before his death. The grotto is a popular site of pilgrimage and is visited by many people from all over the world.

**Matt. 16:13, “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’**

**Matt. 16:14, “So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ”**

**Matt. 16:15, “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’**

**Matt. 16:16, “Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ [*haMeshiach*], the Son of the living God.’ ”**

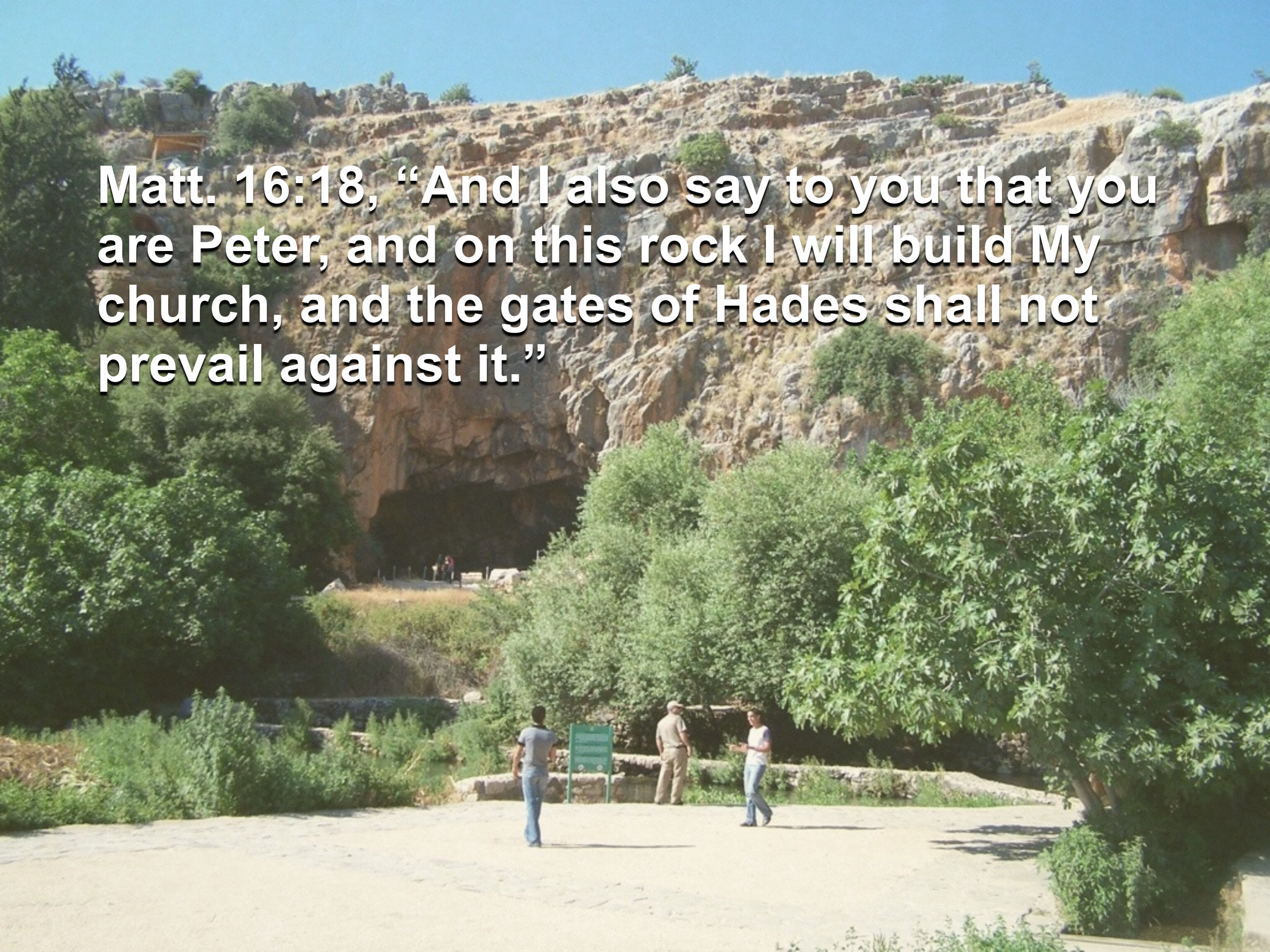
**Matt. 16:17, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

**Matt. 16:18, “ ‘And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

**Matt. 16:19, “ ‘And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ”**



**Matt. 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**



**Matt. 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**

**Πέτρος Petros**  
**Noun**  
**nom masc sing**  
**(proper)**  
**Peter; a small**  
**fragment of a**  
**stone, a pebble**

**πέτρα petra**  
**dat fem sing**  
**rock, a very**  
**large rock, a**  
**boulder**

# SHEOL, HADES

Luke 16:19–25

## PARADISE

ABRAHAM'S  
BOSOM

Old Testament  
Believers

To third heaven  
2 Cor. 12:1–4

F  
I  
X  
E  
D  
  
G  
U  
L  
F

## TORMENTS

Unbelievers  
From all  
dispensations

## TARTARUS

2 Pet. 2:4

“chains of  
darkness”

# HADES/SHEOL

**PARADISE**

Moved to heaven  
2 Cor. 12:4; Rev. 2:7

**F  
I  
X  
E  
D  
  
G  
U  
L  
F**

**TORMENTS**

**Matt. 16:19, “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound [have been bound] in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed [have been loosed] in heaven.”**

**Rabbinical idiom expressing authority**

**Acts 4:10, “let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.**

**Acts 4:11, “This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ ”**

**1 Pet. 2:4, “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,**

**1 Pet. 2:5, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

**1 Pet. 2:6, “Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, *‘Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ ”***

**1 Cor. 3:11, “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**



**Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**

**Eph. 2:21, “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,**

**Eph. 2:22, “in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”**

# **The Parameters of the Church Age**

- 4. The Church is said to be a mystery (Romans 16:25, 26; Ephesians 3:1–6; Colossians 1:25, 26). A “mystery” is something that was hidden in the past in the Old Testament period but is now revealed. The Church was never revealed in Old Testament times.**

**Rom. 16:25, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,**

**μυστήριον *mustērion* gen neut sing “mystery, secret”**

**Rom. 16:26, “but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;”**

**Rom 16:25, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,**

**σιγάω *sigāō* perf pass part neut sing gen to keep silent**

**Rom 16:26, “but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;”**

**Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—**

**Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you;**

**Eph. 3:3, “that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.”**

**μυστήριον *mustērion* gen neut sing “mystery, secret”**

**Eph. 3:4, “By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,**

**Eph. 3:5, “which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”**

**μυστήριον *mustērion* gen neut sing “mystery, secret”**

**Eph. 3:6, “to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,”**

**Eph. 3:25, “Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,**

**Eph. 3:26, “that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,”**

**1. The mystery revelation reveals that there would be a time when believing Jews and Gentiles would be united together in equality in one body. Eph. 3:1–6**

**Eph. 3:4, “By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,**

**Eph. 3:5, “which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”**



**2. Paul defines this body as the Church which is the mystery (Col. 1:18, 24–27).**

**Col. 1:24, “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,**

**Col. 1:25, “of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,**

**Col. 1:26, “the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.”**

**3. This plan for a unique spiritual body composed of believing Jews and Gentiles alike, was known and planned for in God's mind from Eternity past, "from the ages" (Eph. 3:9) and is part of God's eternal purpose.**

**Eph. 3:9, "and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;**

**Eph. 3:10, "to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,**

**Eph. 3:11, "according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,"**

**4. Paul declared that this knowledge concerning the Church had been kept hidden from man in past ages (Eph. 3:4–5, 9).**

**Eph. 3:9, “and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;”**

**5. Paul states that God did not reveal this until the time of the New Testament prophets (Eph. 3:3–5; Col. 1:26).**

**6. One of God's purposes for revealing this mystery was to be evidence to the angels (Eph. 3:9–10).**

**Eph. 3:9, “and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;**

**Eph. 3:10, “to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,”**