

Reading Ephesians 3:1-12 Common English Bible (CEB)

Paul, apostle to the Gentiles

3 This is why I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ for you Gentiles.

²You've heard, of course, about the responsibility to distribute God's grace, which God gave to me for you, right? ³God showed me the mystery of Christ in a revelation, as I mentioned briefly before (⁴when you read this, you'll understand my insight into the mystery about Christ). ⁵Earlier generations didn't know this mystery that God has now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. ⁶This plan is that the Gentiles would be coheirs and parts of the same body, and that they would share with the Jews in the promises of God in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.

⁸God gave his grace to me, the least of all God's people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles. ⁹God sent me to reveal the mystery that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, who created everything. ¹⁰God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. ¹¹This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out;

and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.