



THE MYSTERY OF SECRET PLACE

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JEAN TSHIBANGU

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JEAN TSHIBANGU

DEDICATION

To My wonderful wife, partner, and best friend.

To My children and grandchildren.

To My sons and daughters-in-law.

To All my children begotten in the Lord, members, and supporters of the CAREMS ministry, for whom I am proud to belong to the great family of Christ.

May you find in the book the expression of my gratitude.

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FOREWORD

I still have the privilege of prefacing one of Pastor Jean TSHIBANGU's books, and I thank him very much for the trust he has always shown in me. It is with immense joy that I allow myself to lay down these few lines as the preface to present the courtesies and appreciations of this man whose spiritual fineness is well established. When I first received the manuscript, the thrilling title created the interest that prompted me to read it word by word to discover its deepest contents.

When the Holy Scriptures are not well understood, one falls into misinformation and misinterpretation which surely leads to the destruction of the faith of many?

How do people understand Christ's statement: "The Father who is in the secret place"? What does the author mean about the title: "The Mystery of the Secret Place"? How can we understand what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman in his Gospel conversation: "It will not be on this mountain or in Jerusalem, but the hour is coming, it has already come when the true adorers will adore me in spirit and in truth?" (John 4:21).

Many questions arise and require appropriate answers. Jean TSHIBANGU decoded the Holy Scriptures to shed light on the mysteries in the Mystery, Christ, and the Word of God. The light he brings through this book will affect the Christian life and will not fail to correct the errors so decried in the Christian world. Therefore, I cannot help recommending it to readers, friends of biblical wisdom and truth.

THE MYSTERY OF SECRET PLACE

Valentin MbuyiMuluila



INTRODUCTION

Understanding the mysteries is an indispensable key to maintaining an effective relationship with God. So, let us start at the beginning. The first mystery that imposes itself on our reflection is the creation. Creation is an incredible event that can only be explained by the Word of God. Everyone's story begins with birth, the union of two people, man and woman, a child is born, he grows up to become a man or a woman in a multi-faceted environment that he/she discovers as measurement of its progress. The spiritual world is a world of mysteries that require sovereign revelation from God for best understanding.

We live in a world of untruths which impose themselves as truths precisely in the world of religion. The proliferation of sects as well as that of doctrines in Christianity and even several religions is caused by the ignorance of the mysteries of creation.

In the Gospel of Matthew 13:11, Jesus Christ tells his disciples that it has been given to them to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven which is denied to others. We understand here that the mysteries are a

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privilege of a category of people, those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and who follow him as disciples, the Great "Mystery", given in the centuries and the generations.

The portion of the text of Matthew 6 under examination reveals that Jesus Christ disapproves of the behaviour of the Pharisees whom He describes in chapter 23 as hypocritical and ostentatious in recommending discretion in three areas: almsgiving, prayer and fasting. He emphasizes that the Father who resides in a secret place appreciates all that man does out of human sight. "Our Father, who is out of human sight, listens in secret." What does that mean? Why does Jesus Christ stigmatize those who act publicly? Is it a sin to pray solemnly, to give alms in public and to carry sackcloth while fasting? What about those who openly decree times of fasting and prayers during which members observe certain practices such as depriving themselves of food, or bodily care, and congregate in the same place?

God has a plan of happiness and peace for his children, but the fulfilment comes through knowing and obeying his Word. We can only know the will of God when we approach Him in perfect intimacy. This intimacy is what Christ recommends in the aforementioned text. Not a locatable secret place called the house of God, or even a room that is physically and geographically located in a given space.

Concerning his dwelling place, God says that the hands of men cannot build his house and God does not dwell in such a house, and He lives in a place where the natural man cannot reach, a mystery! Such an affirmation raises questions such as, if the human being cannot reach the house of God, how to meet Him? What is our understanding of the secret place?