

THE FIRST MENTION PRINCIPLE IN THE STUDY OF YOUR BIBLE:

- 1. Definition:** "That principle by which God indicates in the first mention of a subject, the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God." – Hartill, Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics

QUOTES: Newton: "I find in Scripture this principle of interpretation, which I believe, if conscientiously adopted, will serve as an unailing guide to what was in the mind of God. This is the keystone of the whole matter."

Dr. A.T. Pierson: "This is a law we have long since noted, and have never yet found it to fail. The first occurrence of a word, expression, or utterance, is the key to its subsequent meaning (in the Bible), or it will be a guide to ascertaining the essential truth connected with it."

- 2. The first time a thing is mentioned in Scripture it carries with it a meaning that will be carried all through the Word of God. – Ibid.**
- 3. There is only one speaker in Scripture, although there are many mouths; only one providing, governing, controlling mind. No matter how, when or where the message is given, God is the speaker, and since there is only one speaker, and since that speaker knows from the beginning what He is going to say, He can shape the first utterances as to forecast everything that is to follow. – Ibid.**
- 4. A few examples:**
 - a. Satan: Gen. 3:1** The first time he is mentioned he is referred to as "subtle." All through the Bible you will find him characterized like this.
 - b. The first words of Christ:** "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" He uttered these words when he was just 12 years of age and they were prophetic of His ministry, until on the Cross He cried out "It is finished!" His Father's business was complete.
 - c. Faith – Gen. 15:6** The first occurrence of these words determine their meaning throughout the Bible. Faith is simply heart belief in God and He rewards faith with justification and righteousness.
 - d. The Spirit of God: Gen. 1:2** "Moved" means "to brood" as a bird broods over a nest of eggs. It is translated "moved" because when a hen broods over her eggs, there is a constant movement of her breast which creates heat. The hen broods to bring life out of death, to bring light out of darkness. So the Spirit broods over the chaos of the sinner's life. As the Spirit brooded over the original unfinished creation, so He broods over the unfinished life of a man. He broods and moves over every lost sinner. He broods over us to give us life; He brings us out of darkness.
 - e. Jerusalem: Judges 1:7,8** Here is the first time Jerusalem is mentioned as a city. "The men of Judah smote it with the edge of the sword and set it on fire." We have here the history of the city of Jerusalem. It is a picture of the city's future in miniature, and all its subsequent history. Jerusalem has been besieged twenty seven times and burned three times.
 - f. Babylon: Gen. 11** The first mention of Babylon is that it began with rebellion against God. The times of the Gentiles began with a king in Babylon. It was an idolatrous place. It was built by Nimrod the rebel against God. Often the word is Babel signifying confusion. It originated with man at the Tower of Babel which was built with bricks instead of stone, and put together with slime instead of mortar. It will arise again as a mock kingdom with a mock ruler. The building of Babel was self-glory, rather than God's glory. Idolatry is a system introduced into the world by Satan at Babylon through the person of Nimrod.

