

**PARTICULAR LAWS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
PART 1-THE LAW OF “FIRST MENTION”**

In addition to the great **GENERAL LAWS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION**, a number of **SPECIAL LAWS** or **PARTICULAR LAWS** must also be considered when **INTERPRETING** the **WORD OF GOD**. We will consider the most important of these beginning with—**THE LAW OF “FIRST MENTION.”**

I. The Law Stated:

“The first mention of any given subject gives important keys to its subsequent understanding in other places in the Scripture.”

Essential truth connected with any word, expression, or teaching is to be guided by its first mention in the Bible.

The first place a given subject is mentioned usually establishes important truths that are necessary for proper interpretation throughout Scripture.

We may expect the first mention of a subject or truth to forecast its treatment throughout Scripture.

II. Examples Of This Law:

A. The First Mention of SATAN.

The first mention of Satan in **Genesis 3** reveals that:

- 1. SATAN Is SUBTIL (or SUBTLE)! *Genesis 3:1 Sly, cunning, crafty, deceitful, treacherous.***

*2 Corinthians 11:3—“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve **through his subtlety**, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

*2 Corinthians 11:14—“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an **angel of light**.”*

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*Revelation 12:9—“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*

- 2. SATAN Is PROACTIVE. *Genesis 3:1 Creating or controlling a situation by taking the initiative. This is the opposite of being “passive.”***

He came to Eve in **Genesis 3:1** and he came to the Lord Jesus Christ in **Matthew 4:3—“And when the tempter came to him. . .”**

He is not passive today! He still takes the initiative to bring us down!

1 Peter 5:8—“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

- 3. SATAN Is DOUBT INDUCING. *Genesis 3:1, 4 Job 1:9—“But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.***

Satan’s whole deal with Job was to try to induce doubt about the goodness of God.

- 4. SATAN Mixes TRUTH WITH ERROR. *Genesis 3:4, 5 Matthew 4:6—“And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”***

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5. SATAN TEMPTS In Three Areas:

(Cf. Genesis 3; Matthew 4)

1 John 2:16—“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

a. Lust of the Flesh.

b. Lust of the Eyes.

c. Pride of Life.

B. The First Mention Of BABYLON.

The first time the city of **BABYLON** is mentioned—*Genesis 10:10; 11:9*—it is depicted as a city of **REBELLION** and **CONFUSION**.

BABYLON never becomes anything else throughout the **BIBLE**, and in *Revelation 17 & 18* it is still the **MODEL** or **PATTERN** of **EVIL**.

C. The First Mention Of TONGUES In The CHURCH.

This is found in *Acts 2:4-11*, and establishes the important fact that speaking in **TONGUES** meant speaking in other known and understandable by someone **LANGUAGES**.

Applying this fact to the other New Testament references presents no difficulty, and refutes any notion of “*gibberish*” being the **TONGUES** of the **BIBLE**.

D. The First Mention Of THE DAY OF THE LORD.

Isaiah 2:12 first mentions the term and reveals it to mean **the DAY OF THE LORD’S COMING** in **WRATH** and **JUDGMENT!**

Again, the meaning of this term does not change—subsequent **SCRIPTURES** reveal the same significance.

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See Isaiah 13:6; Joel 2:1-11, 28-32; Amos 5:18-20; Zechariah 1:14-18.

E. The First Mention Of JERUSALEM.

The ancient city—the name of which means, “*City of Peace*”—is first mentioned in *Judges 1:7-8*.

Its name has been and is an *oxymoron* and will be so until the **PRINCE OF PEACE** reigns from there in **HIS MILLENNIAL REIGN!**

The city is associated with conflict—a fact also mentioned in *Luke 21:24*.

Conclusion

With this law, we can understand how that the **BOOK OF GENESIS** is so important, for many major doctrines are first mentioned in this **BOOK**. **GENESIS** has been termed, “*The Seed Plot Of The Word Of God.*”

The **SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE** makes excellent use of this **LAW** by beginning numerous “*chain references*” with the **FIRST-MENTION PASSAGES**.