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GRACE**

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**The First
and
The Last**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The First and the Last.

First: comes from the Greek word (*protos and pro*), it means foremost (in time, place, order, or importance) and carries the idea of being before, being the beginning or the best and the first, of all. The word *pro* means to be above (i.e., superior to) or before (i.e., in time, position, place or authority) and of being first in time, rank, influence or honour (i.e., the chief or principal one).

Last: comes from the Greek word (*eschatos and echo*), it carries the idea of being the farthest or final (of place or time), the end of, the last, the latter and uttermost end (of the earth).

The expression, "The first and last," in this context is referring to Christ, it carries the idea that Jesus is the first and only one of his kind begotten (or born) of God the Father, he is the beginning and end of God's plan of salvation and the new covenant of grace. In Christ is the entire beginning and end of God's eternal foreordained plan of eternal salvation for mankind that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the world began. It means that there will never be another Saviour or another plan of salvation. The words, "The first and last" means that in Christ is God's entire foreordained plan that He purposed from the beginning it means all things together concerning God's eternal plans for the earth, the world, the universe, and mankind's eternal salvation are brought together in Christ.

The cleansing power of Jesus blood not only flows over all the faithful of the New Testament, but also flows back over all the faithful of the Old Testament so that all who have been faithful to God and His Promised Messiah the Christ are made clean in the blood of Christ and saved by faith in him. In the book of Peter, it is written:

- Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you. (1 Pet. 1:18–20).

And in the book of Revelation:

- All who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. (Rev. 13:8).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Though Old Testament Israel offered animal sacrifices to God they were not saved by them, they were a type and shadow of Christ the Lamb of God without blemish the Saviour to come, and it is his blood that cleanses them.

This is because the cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary does not just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like a spiritual invisible river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ. This shines a glorious spotlight on the truth that whether a man or woman is of the Old or New Testament we are all saved by the same

cleansing power, the same cleansing blood and the same Redeemer, King, and Saviour. This is because God in his eternal mind planned and purposed before time began that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ would be the Saviour of all mankind for all eternity. Truly, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Heb. 9:22).

Jesus is the only Saviour God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundations of the world who would be the Saviour of mankind, there is no other nor will there be any other. It is in this sense that Jesus is the first and the last. He is the only Saviour and redeemer from the beginning of time to the end of time, to come to this earth for the salvation of all who come to him.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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