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Firstfruits for God and the Lamb

(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.

Firstfruits for God and the Lamb.

Topics.

- The first-fruits for God and the Lamb.
- Jesus and firstfruits.
- The called, converted and firstfruits.

The first-fruits for God and the Lamb: this expression, “the first-fruits for God and the Lamb,” is an allusion to the firstfruits offering of the lump of the harvest under the Levitical law, that was sanctified and represented the full harvest, it signified that the full harvest was coming.

- **Revelation 14:4:** It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,

Jesus and Firstfruits: Jesus was the firstfruit to be raised to God:

- **1 Corinthians 15:20:** Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The called and converted and firstfruits: refers to all those called and converted under the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and the Gospel, and embraces the following groups of believers:

1. The converted Jews who received the firstfruits of the Holy Spirit, on the day of Pentecost

- **Acts 2:1–3:** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

2. Those who responded to Peters message:

- **Acts 2:14-21:** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

3. Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

- **Romans 16:5:** Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

4. **The whole global body of Christ:** the expression, “those who have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb (Rev. 14:4), also applies to the whole body of Christ who have been faithful in their walk with the Lord, and attain to the first resurrection. The firstfruits in this context embraces all who will be redeemed from mankind and make up the abundant harvest of the whole global body of Christ who will be raised to reign with Christ; the firstfruit who was raised from the grave to heavenly glory.

Paul, in the book of Romans tells us that:

- **Romans 8:23:** Not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Rom. 8:23).

How marvellous and awe-inspiring is this, not only will we receive immortality and eternal life, but all of creation which at this present time is like our mortal bodies on a path of decay, will itself be restored to its former glory.

The closet I can come to mentally and emotionally comprehending this reality, is when I think of the enormous labour pain a woman suffers just prior to giving birth, and that miraculous moment when a new life appears, and she is holding that new born child in her arms. In that miraculous moment her facial expressions of agony and pain suddenly change, and her eyes and her smile instantaneously radiate tears of overflowing joy and love, such will be that miraculous day when God reveals to us all the wonder, and majestic splendour of everlasting life and eternal glory.

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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