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Hosea 13

(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.

Hosea 13.

Topics.

- When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling; but through Baal he died.
- Israel sins, more and more making idols and offering human sacrifice.
- Israel will be like dew that goes away and like smoke from a window.
- I am the LORD your God and besides me there is no Saviour.
- God is like a lion, leopard and a bear to Israel and will rip them open.
- The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up and his sin is kept in store.
- The pains of childbirth come for Ephraim, but he is an unwise son.
- The LORD wonders why he should rescue Israel from death.
- Israel may prosper, but they will come to ruin.
- The stupidity of worshipping idols.

INTRODUCTION: Hosea has been called the "death-bed prophet of Israel" because he was the last to prophesy before the Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria (about 722 B.C.). His ministry followed a golden age in the Northern Kingdom, with a peace and prosperity not seen since the days of Solomon. Unfortunately, this prosperity led to moral decay, and Israel forsook God to worship idols. So God instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute, whose unfaithfulness to her husband would serve as an example of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Hosea then explained God's complaint against Israel and warned of the punishment that would come unless the people returned to the LORD and remained faithful to him. The book shows the depth of God's love for his people, a love that tolerates no rivals.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

HOSEA 13:1

When Ephraim Spoke, there was Trembling.

- **Hosea 13:1:** When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling; he was exalted in Israel, but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.

Ephraim: became such a leader in the new Northern Kingdom (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) that in addition to their more common name Israel, the kingdom also became called Ephraim. At one time people respected Israel and trembled at their words, but they forsook the LORD, turned to Baal and spiritually died and God instead of blessing them, brought judgment upon them.

Baal: means Lord, possessor, husband, since the Hebrew husband was regarded as the literal owner of his wife Baal was the common term for husband. Most often however, the word refers to the Semitic deity or deities called Baal. Baal is not the name of one god, but the name of the presiding deity of any given locality. Because the worship of Baal was much the same everywhere in Canaan, in time Baal came to represent the idea of one god. The Baalim were believed to be the gods of the land, owning and controlling it and the increases of crops, fruits, and cattle was believed to be under their control. The farmer was completely dependent

upon the Baalim. Some Baal's were believed to be in control of cities and some were considered greater than others. The struggle between Baalism and Judaism came to a head on Mount Carmel when the prophet Elijah met the priests of Baal and slew four-hundred and fifty of them. The cult quickly recuperated, however, and prospered until crushed by Jehu, but Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah, the wife of Jehoram, gave the worship of Baal a new impulse. In the worship of Baal, incense and burnt sacrifices were offered to him and on extraordinary occasions the victims were children offered by their parents. Lascivious rites accompanied the worship. Sometimes priests, dancing around the altar in a state of frenzy, slashed themselves with knives. At first the name Baal was used by the Jews for their God without discrimination, but as the struggle between the two religions developed, the name Baal was given up in Judaism as a thing of sham.

HOSEA 13:2

Israel Sins making Idols and offering Human Sacrifice.

- **Hosea 13:2:** And now they (Israel) sin more and more, and make for themselves metal images, idols skillfully made of their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. It is said of them, "Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!"

Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves: refers to Jeroboam who became the head of Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria). When Solomon died the people met to proclaim Solomon's son Rehoboam king and asked Jeroboam to urge Rehoboam to alleviate their extreme work burdens. Jeroboam asked king Rehoboam, but the request was rejected so the ten tribes revolted from the House of David and made Jeroboam their king in the land of Samaria. Jeroboam was afraid that if his people went annually to Jerusalem to worship, they would be won back to the house of David (the two tribes of Judah at Jerusalem) so he established two worship centres at two extremities of his kingdom, one at Dan in the North and another at Bethel in the South. To do this he set up a "golden calf" in each of the new sanctuaries and quoted to the people the words of Aaron, "Behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (1 Kings 12:28).

Jeroboam's disobedience was in defiance of the commandment of Moses which states that the only altar for burnt-offering was to be at the Temple of God in Jerusalem. The mass of the ten tribes conformed to Jeroboam's new religious ways this was the "Sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin." Jeroboam's introduction of the golden bulls led to the Baalization of the religion of Jehovah. In about two-hundred years the moral and religious corruption of the people had gone so far that there was no more hope for them, and God brought in a heathen power (Assyria) to lead them into captivity. Jeroboam's fear could be likened to a minister who relies on the income of their assembly (the bigger the congregation the greater the income) and therefore deliberately avoids speaking well of another church even though it is teaching the same doctrines for fear someone in their congregation might leave them and join the church they are giving credit to and their income diminishes.

This was Jeroboam's fear, he should have been happy if people under his leadership did choose to stay at Jerusalem to worship since this is the city of God and the Temple of God and was the proper place to offer sacrifices to the LORD, but he was more interested in building his own religious empire. Likewise, if a member of a church does attend another church and they find it better suits their circumstances while still advancing their spiritual well-being then we should be happy for them and not try to possess them for our own gain.

HOSEA 13:3

Israel will be like Dew and Smoke from a Window that Goes Away.

- **Hosea 13:3:** Therefore they (Israel) shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.

Morning mist, dew, chaff that blows away in the wind and smoke from a window all have one thing in common, they all vanish and disappear, such is the impending future of Israel.

HOSEA 13:4

I am the LORD your God and Besides Me there is no Saviour.

- **Hosea 13:4:** But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior.

Because this verse states, "Besides God there is no saviour," a great majority of traditional Christianity use it to support the mistaken theory that Jesus is God. They reason there can only be one Saviour therefore Jesus must be God because he is called our Saviour in the New Testament, but this reasoning is incorrect. God is the Saviour in the sense that He is the source of all life (mortal and eternal) and the creator of all things, so without God there is no life, but humans, being sinners cannot stand before God who is absolute Holiness without being destroyed so God planned and purposed that through faith Jesus would be mankind's redeemer and their righteousness, so in this sense Christ is the Saviour of us all.

Before time began, God planned mankind's eternal salvation to be through His beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ, but though God planned Salvation, Christ is the way to it, so both God and Jesus are our Saviours. Without Gods eternal plan of salvation and without Christ there would be no salvation so both Jesus and God are Saviours in different ways. Jesus does not become the Father and the Father does not become the Son. God's eternal plan works beautifully through the love of our Heavenly Father and the death and resurrection of His treasured and perfect Son.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe

that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

HOSEA 13:5-6

Israel's Pride caused them to Forget God.

- **Hosea 13:5-6:** It was I (the LORD) who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought; ⁶but when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me.

When Israel was in trouble they looked to the LORD, but when they prospered, they became prideful of their success, their wealth and their abundant material possessions that they forgot God. This principal is often seen in the secular world, those who give God no thought while life is charmed and all is good often cry in prayer to Him when trouble comes, but their prayers like Israel's hollow and empty, because they are not praying to know God or because they care about Him in any way, but simply to be delivered from their troubles and once life is again sweet God is forgotten (of course there are exceptions there always is to the general rule of everything), but as a whole this principal fits the mass of the secular population. Christian also have to be careful that the riches and material possessions and many non-sinful and enjoyable attractions (i.e., sport, travel, concerts hobbies, romance and social life etc.), do not supersede the place of love and devotion that God should have in the heart and the mind or consume all their time so that there is no time to give to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

HOSEA 13:7-8

God is like a Lion, Leopard and a Bear to Israel and will Rip them Open.

- **Hosea 13:7-8:** So I am to them like a lion; like a leopard I will lurk beside the way. ⁸I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.

The lion, leopard and bear: refer to Assyria and her allied nations.

A lion represents: majesty, chief and kingship.

A leopard represents: swiftness, speed, agility, depicting the skill of Assyria's fierce armies.

A bear represents: strength and something that is unstoppable and ferocious.

These foreboding words of Hosea were fulfilled through Assyria. God uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. He used Assyria and her armies to bring judgment on Israel. Many times, God through the prophets warned Israel that they would be invaded and destroyed because of their gross sin and rebellion against the LORD. But they set their hearts diamond hard against the word of God's prophets they rebelled against the LORD they turned to other gods and entered into gross sin so the LORD used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (who He called His servant (Jer. 25:9) to bring the curses of the covenant upon them. The fierce armies of Babylon invaded the land of Judah, laid their farm land waste, attacked Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) and

pillaged the temple. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken in chains there with him (around 587 B.C.). Later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods and were under Babylonian rule for the next seventy years. Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

Now here is the good news: while in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar, Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) and took by His right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer the Empire of Babylon gave written permission for Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again).

Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel with triumphant joy and rejoicing. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a time of prosperity and peace followed. Sadly, Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when, the Lord returns in glory:

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

HOSEA 13:9-12

The iniquity of Ephraim, is Bound up and his Sin is kept in Store.

- **Hosea 13:9-12:** He (Assyria) destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me (the LORD), against your helper. ¹⁰Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities? Where are all your rulers—those of whom you said, "Give me a king and princes"? ¹¹I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath. ¹²The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store.

Because Israel has rejected the LORD, God is going to use Assyria to destroy them and they have no-one to help. God's words, "Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities?" Of whom you said, "Give me a king" (v10) refer to Israel's cry for King Saul. This shines a spotlight on the truth that God's plan for Israel and for mankind's salvation is eternal and that He is longsuffering. No one should think God has forgotten them, He is patient desiring that all would be saved. At this present time, it could be said that we are living in three very long days firstly, the long day of death, secondly, the long day of grace and thirdly, the long day of God's patience and longsuffering. But an awesome and breathtaking day will come when Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish Gods Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth and the long day we are now living in will come to a sudden end and the faithful who have endured through this long day will be raised to glory and everlasting joy.

The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up: means Israel's sin is entrenched within the nation; following is a list of sins that permeated the land of Judah, Israel and Jerusalem throughout their generations and eventually became like a contagious virus running rampant throughout the land of Judah, Israel and Jerusalem. They defiled God's Holy name and their own land by their lifestyle, deeds and actions. They committed gross idolatry and Baal altars were set up throughout their land. They worshipped the goddess of love and fertility (her worship was sexually indecent). Worse than this they worshipped Moloch and sacrificed their sons to him in the Hinnom valley. They worshipped a golden calf at a religious centre at Dan and at a religious centre at Bethel.

Altars were set up in the temple court for planetary worship and the worship of the host of heaven (i.e., the sun, moon and stars) and worship of idols and altars had been built under shady trees on their hills throughout their land. Added to this innocent people were killed and cheated out of justice, leaders oppressed others for their own selfish gain and drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality was rampant. The rich cheated the innocent out of justice, and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor and instead of relieving their economic distress they devised new means of depriving them of their property. Is it any wonder the LORD compares Israel's ways to the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity? (Ezek. 36:17) and poured out His wrath upon Judah, Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

The lesson for today: by wicked behaviour Israel defiled the name of God which resulted in the surrounding nations mocking and despising God. This shines a light on the following truth: the behaviour of everyone who confesses the name of God and Christ His Son will determine to some extent whether outsiders are drawn to God or to despise Him. We are not witnesses to the Lord only when we are sharing our faith with another person our entire life is a witness to our faith and of God it can be a good witness or a bad witness.

The iniquity of Ephraim and his sin is kept in store: (v12) these foreboding words shine a light on the truth that God's judgment is not random it has its own appointed time. At the moment we are living in the long day of death and the long day of God's grace, judgment is delayed until the right time. No one should think as Israel and Judah did that just because God's judgment cannot be seen in the world at this present moment in that many of the ungodly and wicked prosper while many of the innocent and righteous suffer that they can do as they please and act corruptly and wickedly and escape God's judgment.

NOTICE: God is referred to as Israel's helper if Israel had done right by God He would have blessed everything they put their hand to, their crops, fruit, livestock, businesses, would have all prospered, sickness would flee and God would have made them the head of all nations and not the tail, but they foolishly turned to other gods and trusted in them. For many this maybe enormously difficult to understand, why would a nation turn from such a powerful God who only wants to do good for them? The answer to this question is: God calls those who follow him to a certain standard of lifestyle that honours God's name and that treats others with decency and respect which means they cannot use others for their own advantage and own gain, in contrast to this those who believe in idols and pagan gods are free to do as the flesh desires and live as they please without any conviction of wrongdoing from the god they are believing in. This is one of the appealing attractions to believing in other gods.

HOSEA 13:13

The Pains of Childbirth come for Ephraim, but He is an Unwise Son.

- **Hosea 13:13:** The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb.

The pangs of childbirth come for Ephraim: refers to the pain of childbirth and the labour pain a woman experiences when she is about to give birth. These pains are warnings that the child is about to be born. They give the woman time to call an ambulance and get to a hospital for safety. In the context of this verse the pangs of childbirth refer to the fierce Assyrian armies destroying the cities surrounding them and approaching the borders of their land. Israel should have seen the pain these nations were suffering and seen that this same pain was about to come upon them and heeded the warnings of Hosea, repented, forsaken their gross wickedness and turned to the LORD for protection, but they were foolish and unwise to the extreme since they ignored the signs and the warnings.

HOSEA 13:14

The LORD wonders why He should rescue Israel from Death.

- **Hosea 13:14:** Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

The LORD asks, "Why should He rescue Israel from their impending destruction and death." Israel has become so grossly corrupt God cannot find a just reason to save them from certain death. This is tragic, God longs to save His people, His treasured possession and the son he raised up in the wilderness, but how will other nations judge God if He does not judge His own children when they are so grossly wicked. God is a God of love, but love does not do away with justice and judgment these two pillars of God's throne are acts of love since they protect the innocent from harm and hurt.

O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?

Means because Israel have offended God so much, He feels no compassion for them and because of the lack of compassion death and the grave don't seem to hold the horror that they normally would. It is similar to a person who is deeply in love with someone who is facing death, because they are so full of compassion for their friend the thought of death and the grave will have a tremendous impact on their emotions and what they will do to save the dying person, but if a person is with someone who has caused them enormous grief, i.e. sacrificed their children, they are not going to be emotionally troubled when they hear that they are facing death. This is what God is expressing when He says, "O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes."

HOSEA 13:15-16

Israel may prosper, but they will come to Ruin.

- **Hosea 13:15-16:** Though he (Ephraim) may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing.
¹⁶Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.

The east wind: (v15) refers to Assyria. The east wind in Palestine comes from Arabia and the Far East, over large tracts of sandy waste and brings a parching and scorching heat. If it continues for a long period of time the fruits, vegetation and crops are parched and famine follows so that both man and animals suffer. It was a common practise for the Orientals to compare life to the east wind. In the following verses Job, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Jonah all speak of the east wind and show that it carries the idea of destruction, foolishness, death and suffering:

- Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind? (Job 15:2).
- The east wind lifts him up (mankind) and he is gone; it sweeps him out of his place (as a storm hurleth him out of his place in the KJV). (Job 27:21).
- By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish. (Psalm 48:7).
- Measure by measure, by exile you contended with them (Judah and Israel) he removed them with his fierce breath in the day of the east wind. (Isaiah 27:8).
- Like the east wind I will scatter them (Israel) before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity. (Jer. 18:17).
- When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live. (Jonah 4:8).

By extension the east wind also carries the idea of:

- Unpleasantness, hardship, suffering, destruction and emptiness
- Calamities and consuming fires of affliction.
- A self-destroying course that a person or nation sets themselves upon.
- Following after vain plans and purposes such as alliances with foreign nations and their idols and pagan gods.
- Labouring in vain, and getting nothing after all the pain of trying to succeed and produce.
- Feeding on vain hopes of man's help, when at enmity with God.
- Prayers going into the air and not being heard because they are prayers to idols and Baal's.

The east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing (v15) carries the idea of pursuing:

- What is unsatisfying, unproductive and destructive.
- Things vain and things pernicious and things that is greatly detrimental.
- Those things that have no power to give people what they are seeking after.
- Malicious, harmful and spiteful courses that will bring damage rather than benefit.
- After idols, Baal's and pagan gods and seeking their counsel and help.
- The vain confidence and the hope of good things promised to themselves

Simply put pursuing after the east wind carries the idea of sowing to the wind, and reaping a whirlwind (i.e., everything that has been done is destroyed). The great tragedy and sorrow in Israel's rebellion against God is that because they disown him He lifts His hand of blessing and protection from them and without God they are left helpless to defend themselves against the fierce and brutal armies of Assyria, so cruel that they slaughter children and with their swords rip Israel's pregnant women open (v16). How God must have grieved to see such horror inflicted upon His people. May it be the heartfelt prayer of all who belong to the Kingdom of God that we never become so grossly sinful that we cause God's heart such sorrow and grief.

Sins of Israel: Israel's religious rituals and observances embraced gross idolatry Baal altars, child sacrifice and worship of pagan gods, drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality. The rich corrupted justice and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor, and instead of relieving their economic distress seemed bent upon devising new means of depriving them of their property. The indiscriminate, indulgent and excessive luxurious living of those in privileged positions of authority resulted in the division and decay of social unity. For further information concerning sins of Israel see the notes titled Baal following (Hosea 13:1) (above) and the notes title "The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up," following (Hosea 13:9-12) (above).

The stupidity of worshipping idols.

- **Habakkuk 2:18:** "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!"

This is a good example of the stupidity of worshipping idols. The Living Bible: says something like this: "A man cuts down a tree and chops some of it up to build a house, some he uses for furniture, some for cooking and some for fire wood to keep himself warm, and then from the same wood makes an idol and bows down and worships it, "O Stupid man can't you see it's just a block of wood."

Deception, images of the mind and imagination: deception is powerful because whatever image a person beholds in the mind whether real or false, will affect their emotions and feelings accordingly. This is because the human nervous system does not have a mind or brain of its own and therefore cannot tell the difference between a real image engraved on the imagination of the mind and a false one. The imaginary images imprinted upon the mind create real emotions and feelings according to the images. If it is an image of a loving, graceful and caring God the image will create emotions and feelings of peace and calm throughout the bodies nervous system, but if the image is of a judgmental and legalistic God the images will create feelings of fear and these feelings in turn reinforce and convince those who believe false teachings that they are true and convince those who believe in other gods that they do exist.

This is why when a person is deceived, they don't know they are deceived (that is the power of deception) so they speak with absolute confidence and authority totally convinced that what they are saying is true. Their listeners perceive their total conviction and sincerity to what they are saying and therefore believe it to be true, but it is a deception even though it is spoken in absolute sincerity. This is why deception is so powerful. Even if a man or woman who is absolutely convinced and fully believes something to be true, that is actually not so are tested by a lie detector it will not register that they are lying, because they believe they are telling the truth even though it is not so. For further information concerning this see the titles:

- Demons.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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.