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OF
GRACE**

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The
Forehead
and
Being Marked

(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 Forehead and Being Marked.

Topics.

Being marked/branded during ancient eras.

A negative mark on the forehead.

A positive mark and the forehead.

The great, mother of prostitutes and the forehead.

Names upon the forehead of 144,000.

On that day there shall be inscribed, "Holy to the LORD."

INTRODUCTION

Having a name on their foreheads denotes, absolute ownership, it can be likened to, an author writing their name on their books, farmers branding their cattle, and masters branding their mark on their slaves, because all these examples denote absolute ownership, however, it should be noted, likening the mark on the forehead to the practice of marking slaves is fitting for the beast empire, but not for God, since He does not mark anyone by force or deception.

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BEING MARKED/BRADED DURING ANCIENT ERAS

During the Roman era:

1. Robbers and runaway slaves were marked/banded with the letters FGV, which is an abbreviation for fugitives.
2. The foreheads of workers in mines, and convicts condemned to fight in gladiatorial shows, were marked/branded for identification.
3. During Constantine 1 reign, it was not permitted to disfigure the face, so any mark/band was on the hand, the arm, or the calf of the leg.
4. Romans, European, American, and other colonial slave traders and owners marked/branded millions of slaves during the period of trans-Atlantic enslavement. It was logical for them to mark their slaves just like cattle, because humans are more able to escape than cattle.
5. Marking/branding with a hot iron was a common way of shaming and humiliating criminals, especially if it was marked on a visible part of the body, such as the forehead.

Later periods of history:

1. In the 16th century, German Anabaptist were marked/branded with a cross on their foreheads for refusing to recant their faith and join the Roman Catholic Church.
2. In North-American Puritan settlements of the 17th century, men and women who were sentenced for:

- Adultery where marked/branded on their chest with an A.
 - Drunkenness marked/branded with a D.
 - Blasphemy marked/branded with a B.
3. During different periods of history harlots, were marked/branded on their foreheads as a sign of shame, while others to gain more customers and thereby more money, openly put their names over their doors, and others on their foreheads, so men seeking such women would easily know who they were.

A NEGATIVE MARK ON THE FOREHEAD

The forehead is used negatively in the following list of verses:

- I know that you (Israel) are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your *forehead brass*. (Isaiah 48:4).

Here the forehead is used in connection with Israel's hardness of heart and stubbornness.

- Therefore, the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come; yet you (Israel) *have the forehead of a whore*; you refuse to be ashamed. (Jer. 3:3).

Here the forehead is used in connection with Israel's idolatry and unfaithfulness.

- In the shadow of Heshbon fugitives stop without strength, for fire came out from Heshbon, flame from the house of Sihon; it has *destroyed the forehead of Moab*, the crown of the sons of tumult. (Jer. 48:45).

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Here the forehead is used in connection with Israel's extreme arrogance, wickedness, and idol worship.

- The house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have *a hard forehead and a stubborn heart*. ⁸Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and *your forehead as hard as their foreheads*. ⁹Like emery harder than flint have I made *your forehead*. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." (Ezek. 3:7-9).

Here the forehead is used in connection with Israel's hard and stubborn heart.

- It (a beast with two horns rising up-out of the earth, with two horns like a lamb) causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be *marked on the right hand or the forehead*. (Rev. 13:16).

Here the forehead is used in connection with the ungodly beast system.

- Another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and *receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand*, ¹⁰he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (Rev. 14:9-10).

Here the forehead is used in connection with those who have completely given themselves over to the beast system.

- On *her forehead was written* a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:5).

Here the forehead is used in connection with people given over to worldly sinful pleasures and immorality.

- I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not *received its mark on their foreheads* or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4).

Here the forehead is used in connection with people given over to the ungodly beast system.

OVERVIEW: the forehead is spoken of negatively, in connection with:

- Israel's hardness of heart, stubbornness, unfaithfulness, extreme arrogance, wickedness, idol worship and stubborn heart.
- The ungodly beast system, and those who have completely given themselves over to it.
- People given over to worldly sinful pleasures and immorality.

A POSITIVE MARK ON THE FOREHEAD

The forehead is used positively in the following list of verses:

- The LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and *put a mark on the foreheads* of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." (Ezek. 9:4).

Here the forehead is used in connection to those who grieve over Israel's abominations.

- Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have *sealed the* servants of our God *on their foreheads*. (Rev. 7:3).

Here the forehead is used in connection with the faithful being sealed (i.e., set apart) for God.

- They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have *the seal of God on their foreheads*. (Rev. 9:4).

Here the forehead is used in connection with God's protection.

- I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his *Father's name written on their foreheads*. (Rev. 14:1).

Here the forehead is used in connection to believers being completely given over to God.

- They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (Rev. 22:4).

Here the forehead is used in connection to faithful believers who God fully accepts.

OVERVIEW: the forehead is spoken of positively in connection with:

- God's protection.
- Faithful believers given themselves completely over to God, and being sealed (i.e., set apart for God and fully accepted).

THE GREAT, MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND THE FOREHEAD

- **Revelation 17:5:** And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

It appears that this name is written as a circlet around her forehead, but it is not literally written, but expressed this way, because her abominations before the eyes of God were prominent and unmistakable, that it was fitting for the writer to highlight her ungodly character by stating in blazing capitals that the name MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH was written on her forehead. The allusion is most likely to harlots during the Roman era who openly put their names over their doors, and on their foreheads, so that men seeking such woman would easily know who they were.

It should be noted: before the eyes of the world this prostitute woman and ten-horned beast, will not appear as an evil creature, but one that appeals to a great portion of the world.

NAMES UPON THE FOREHEAD OF 144,000

- **Revelation 14:1:** Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Having the Father's name and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ written on their foreheads, carries the following ideas:

- They are not ashamed of their faith, and openly make a bold confession of their belief in God and in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
- It is clear to all they are devoted to God, to His laws, and to His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and are redeemed, sanctified, justified, devoted and faithful.
- It is clearly visible to all the world that they are children of God.

The following verse also shows that having God name written on the forehead not only identifies the one sealed as belonging to God but also protects them from His judgments of wrath.

- Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." (Rev. 7:3).

When believers pray in the name of Jesus, it means far more than simply stating his name. To pray in the name of Jesus, means to pray in his character, meaning they come before God praying in love, kindness and compassion etc. This is because the name embraces, personality and character, so, to write the name of God upon the forehead, carries the following ideas:

- God's people being like him in person and character (i.e., love, kindness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness etc.),
- God is the uppermost thought of their mind, they are always consciously aware of Him by love, passion, and thought.

Sadly, our present imperfect fallen state, to be holy like God, is impossible no matter how hard we try, which is why, we are saved by faith and by grace and not by our own works or self-righteousness. John understanding this truth wrote:

- Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2).

In contrast to this, in the New Jerusalem all hindrances and obstructions to outwardly manifest God's holiness will be removed and we will manifest Him in glory as we stand as the resurrected Sons and Daughters of God.

ON THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE INSCRIBED, "HOLY TO THE LORD"

- **Exodus 28: 36-37:** You (Moses) shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.'³⁷ And you shall fasten it on the turban (Mitre in KJV) by a cord of blue. It shall be on the front of the turban (Mitre in KJV).³⁸ It shall be on Aaron's forehead,
- **Exodus 39:30:** They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription, like the engraving of a signet, "Holy to the LORD." (Exod. 39:30).

Years later Zechariah wrote:

- **Zechariah 14:20-21:** And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar.²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day. (Zech. 14:20-21)

Every pot refers to all the common domestic vessels of pottery that were in the houses of the poor in the city, will be given the high esteem that the sacred vessels of the temple were given. The kitchens of Jerusalem and the common places will be as places of worship as is the Most Holy Place of the temple. No longer will the priests be the only ones that can eat sacrificed meat cooked in the holy vessels but all will be able to freely eat as the high priest and priesthood ate. The vision carries the idea, that everyone in the millennial Jerusalem will be Holy before, the LORD of hosts and when the heavenly Jerusalem descends to earth there will be no distinction between the priests and the common folk, all will be sacred, and all may wear the crown, "Holiness to the LORD."

Prior to Christ's return and the resurrection, holiness at this present time is not just about living morally and righteously, but must first begin with surrendering ourselves to God and accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and King. At this present time, we become holy not by our own works, but by faith in Christ and his righteousness that is imputed (i.e., credited) to us, when we endeavour to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and trust in his righteousness to save us.

It can be rightly said, "we have begun to write upon our foreheads, "Holiness to the LORD," and then we continue to walk with the Lord, giving him the supreme and sovereign place in our innermost being, we are then writing more to the inscription upon our foreheads, and as we go on to fill our minds with deeper levels of joyful submission to God's truth, and carry Christ in the hidden corners of our consciousness, while we go about the business of life and our daily work, we are then making the letters "Holiness to the Lord, shine even brighter for the more we surrender our

will, heart and mind to God, the brighter our faith and light will outwardly shine. The inward character and lives of those who dwell in the heavenly Jerusalem will no longer be blurred by inward imperfections, selfishness, lack of love for others or by outward behaviour and sin, for their righteousness and holiness will be as easy to see, as if the name, "Holy to the LORD," was inscribed in blazing capitals upon their forehead, in the same way that the golden plate with the words, "Holy to the LORD," was engraved upon the high-priest mitre that he wore over his forehead.

- They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (Rev. 22:4).

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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