

The Genesis Foundation

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' " (John 1:29)

- When Apostle John wrote Revelation
 - assumed audience had = knowledge of OT
 - Used concepts that would have been well-known to them
- Not dealing merely w/ideas = Revelation [like Christianity itself]
 - anchored firmly in historical events
 - has ancient roots that go back to Genesis
- Genesis packs highlight-reel of approximately 2,000 years in just first eleven chapters = then provides close to 300 years of dramatic life sketches of patriarchs = 2300 yrs
 - Genesis covers more than half / history of entire Bible
 - more than all other books combined.
- While passages thru/out Bible = increase understanding of REV

[LESSON QUOTE] Nearly every key concept mentioned in Revelation appears—in some form—in the opening chapters of the Bible.

This week, we are going to study a handful of big concepts at the core of Revelation. There are many, and so we will choose a few to illustrate the all-important point that understanding the ancient foundations behind Revelation enables the student to see countless nuances in the text, each of which can yield important lessons about the nature of humanity, of God, and of the conflict being waged in our universe and, thus, in our lives, as well.

John 5:46–47 ⁴⁶For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

SUNDAY

The Principle of "First Mention"

- Most academic programs begin w/ general survey course (often given the number "101"),
 - course covers broad and basic principles that will form BASIS for further study as you dig deeper into the subject.
- Likewise, when you read thru entire Bible, you quickly discover that God also has a general survey course in book of Genesis
 - where He introduces ideas that will be examined in more detail throughout the rest of the Bible.
- Generally speaking = first time a concept / symbol is mentioned in the Bible—particularly if in the opening chapters of Genesis
 - you will discover that it establishes
 - general understanding of that concept
 - which will help you understand how it's being used later on.
- Some Bible students refer to this as "law of first mention," although it would more properly be labeled a principle (or a pattern) rather than a law, because it is certainly not iron-clad, and there are many exceptions to the rule.

[LESSON QUOTE] Both in general Bible study and in Bible prophecy, is that God slowly feeds His children information over time, beginning with a basic concept and then enlarging on it many times over the years, or even the centuries.

Malachi 3:6 "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, **But the word of our God stands forever."**

[LESSON QUOTE] When God establishes truth, however, He does not change His mind. Once He begins teaching His people truth, we can

count on the fact that repetitions of the same biblical principle or theme do not change its meaning but, in contrast, shed further light on that meaning. It makes great sense in studying prophecy, therefore, to develop a good understanding of the book of Genesis, where you find many key concepts explained for the first time, and then take that foundational understanding with you as you explore the rest of the Bible. **END QUOTE**

- Bible = progressive revelation of God's plan of salvation
- God carefully constructs / written history of His interactions
 - w/ humans to provide us w/ greatest clarity
- First, He uses = narrow viewfinder to frame a close-up view for our original focus
 - Then = reframing the picture w/ wider viewfinder
 - He enlarges our field of vision to include more detail.
- This process is repeated until we have panoramic view in our minds.

- The Lord foretells future = in fluid/ continuous manner = from Genesis to Revelation =, using process of repeating what He expressed in the past / and enlarging it w/ additional details
 - This = "repeat and enlarge" principle
- By adding additional detail to something He has already foretold
 - the Lord expands our understanding
- Must recognize this to avoid confusion/error as we interpret Bible
- In nutshell = repeat/enlarge principle is that
 - each subsequent prophecy builds on the previous prophecy
 - and must be in agreement w/ the prophecy before it.
- Principle of First Mention & Principle of Repeat/Enlarge
 - go hand in hand