

# Law of First Mention

One of the most valuable principles in Bible study is the Law of First Mention. This principle teaches that the first time a word, doctrine, person, or theme appears in Scripture, God often establishes a foundational truth that helps us understand that subject throughout the rest of the Bible. While later passages expand the meaning, the first mention frequently reveals God's original intention. Since God is a God of order and consistency, the foundations He lays in Genesis often become patterns that are repeated throughout Scripture. Understanding these foundations can bring clarity and depth to our study of God's Word.

The apostle Paul frequently demonstrates this principle in the book of Romans. Rather than building doctrine on human reasoning or experience, Paul continually returns to the beginning. When explaining righteousness, he points back to Abraham. When discussing sin, he traces it back to Adam. When teaching on faith, he returns to God's covenant promises found in Genesis. Paul's approach reveals an important truth: if you want to understand God's perspective on a matter, look at where He first introduced it. The roots often explain the fruit. What God establishes at the beginning frequently reveals His intention throughout the rest of Scripture.

The Law of First Mention ultimately teaches us something important about the nature of God and His Word. God is not random in how He reveals truth. He establishes foundations and then builds upon them throughout Scripture. This principle encourages us to become diligent students of the Word, tracing themes back to their origin to discover God's heart concerning a matter. Whether studying faith, grace, worship, love, sacrifice, blessing, or redemption, the first mention often provides a lens through which the rest of Scripture can be understood. While every doctrine must be established by the whole counsel of God's Word, the Law of First Mention serves as a valuable tool that helps us uncover the consistency, wisdom, and intentional design woven throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.