

WHEN THE UNCLEAN COMES HOME TO ROOST

Isaiah 34:11 “But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.”

Genesis 1:2a “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep...”

Revelation 18:2 “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”

Habitation: *the native habitat or home of an animal or plant. A dwelling place.*

God, in His creation acts, first created a habitation or environment, then He placed certain life forms within those habitations. God, for instance, created the waters into which He placed marine life – hence this was to be their native habitat. This is also true concerning plant life as there were specially created environments where they lived, thrived, and reproduced and still do so today.

This divine placement of matching the lifeforms to certain habitations is the reason we expect to see, and rightly so, certain creatures (or plants) in certain areas and not in others. We expect to see fish in the sea and fowl in the air – each in their own native habitat.

A habitat, however, can possibly go through a transformation process that changes it from one type of habitation to another. For instance, a forest can be transformed into a lake by either the manipulation of man or perhaps through some seismic event. When one of those scenarios takes place, there is also a resulting change of lifeforms in the area that was transformed – fish now swim where deer had once roamed.

This “habitation-development” is not only true in the physical world, but it is also a trait observed in the spiritual realm. Notice how scripture speaks of the dwelling place of God, a God Who is “holy, holy, holy,” in Revelation 21:27, “But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

Also, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Then we are made to see the difference between a holy habitation as we view it and an unholy one, such as in Isaiah 59:4-15, “No one calls for justice; no one pleads a case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil. They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider’s web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched. Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. They pursue evil schemes; acts of violence mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace. So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead. We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away. For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.”

We witness a change of habitat when God speaks of the ruin of Babylon and states, “But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it...” In some translations, the word for "cormorant" is rendered a "pelican," as in Psalms 102:6. They were both unclean fowls according to the law. “[T]he owl also and the raven shall dwell in it...”, which were likewise unclean creatures; and these, with the former, and the other creatures mentioned, desire to dwell in desolate and ruinous places; and so, Babylon being destroyed, will become a cage of every unclean and hateful bird (see Revelation 18:2). And the land of their dwelling will become *"tohu"* and *"bohu,"* which are the words used in Isaiah 34:11 to express the confused chaos, the unformed and empty earth (see Genesis 1:2).

Scripture uses birds that are classified as unclean, as the creatures that come to make their habitation in divinely cursed lands. “Birds” signify creatures of swiftness – demonstrating that the fall of Babylon was not to be a slow encroachment of evil but rather a swift, on-the-wing invasion. Since Babylon chose to live in wickedness, then it would attract unclean creatures, which would find it to be a place suitable for habitation.

Sadly, we witness this exact spectacle transpiring in America. As America drifts ever nearer the edge of no return, she becomes a land whose habitation only vaguely resembles its former days as a “God-fearing” nation whose very foundation was one of Biblical principles. Today, every core ideology of decency has been gutted of any and all godly principles creating a new habitation and has become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Like some perverted flood that transforms an area of promising and stately timberland into a sloughing and disease-ridden swamp, so has America lost her original prevalence as a Christian nation and become a land turned into hell by forgetting God. The American family of half a century ago is no longer envied but rather despised presently. The nuclear family of husband, wife, and children has become ravaged by today’s far-left extremists.

The insanity of so-called “gender dysphoria” seems to know no limits as its filthy claws hungrily reach for our children. Places of “higher learning” have simply become places of “low living.” All the while, politicians sink to new levels within the quagmire of the swamp of greed and graft. Is it then no wonder, with such an aura of evil, that a new habitation is born which is conducive to every unclean spirit of hell? America should not be surprised that the unclean has come home to roost!

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” (Romans 1:21-23 ESV)

“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” (Romans 1:24-25 ESV)

“For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.” (Romans 1:26-27 ESV)

“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.” (Romans 1:28-32 ESV)

Yet, an even sadder spectacle is the habitat change happening in some one-time holiness churches. Before and after snapshots now bear little resemblance to one another. Since Truth preaching is the only vehicle God designed to maintain the sanctity of a church, it becomes sadly apparent when Truth preaching becomes only teasing palaver.

The tell-tale signs are the loss of holiness-minded lifestyles, the acceptance of worldly entertainment, the collapse of salvific doctrine, and the evaporation of godly worship and prayer. This shift creates a new habitation, which soon becomes inhabited by unclean spirits. The flapping wings of the unclean announce their arrival as they come home to roost.

“Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find *it*. “Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds *it* unoccupied, swept, and put in order. “Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.” (Matthew 12:43-45)

Holiness is still, and always will be, the proper habitat for God’s people!

“The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died, and the Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.’ (Leviticus 16:1-5 ESV)

“And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.” (Isaiah 35:8 ESV)

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