

101.3 No Place for the Dove

I am sure you are familiar with the narrative of Noah and the worldwide flood. **Genesis 6:5-7** (NKJV) gives us the backstory of the event:

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

God called Noah to build the ark in preparation for saving mankind and the animals from the flood. Noah readied the craft, and God sent the flood, which destroyed all the living creatures apart from those on the ark. In so doing, God removed the corruption that had grieved Him to the point that He regretted creating humans.

We cannot grieve if we do not love. I have had a distinctive experience as a preacher officiating numerous funerals. In most of those memorials, I did not grieve. I felt sympathy or empathy for the families in their loss and tried to minister as they grieved, but I did not suffer because I did not love the deceased person as they did. I might add I have had a variety of emotions at funerals, from joy to anger, depending on the situation.

I have grieved the loss of my own loved ones, and so did God. He grieved when He saw mankind turn to the adversary. He grieved His loss because He loved. This is the reason for Jesus' coming, according to **John 3:16-17** (NKJV):

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Once the forty days of rain and flood ended, the ark found a resting place on Mt. Ararat. Notice **Genesis 8:6-12** (NKJV):

⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ⁷ Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸ He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. ¹⁰ And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹ Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf *was* in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. ¹² So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

I want to key in on verse 9, “**But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself.**”

We associate the Holy Spirit with the dove because when Jesus was baptized by John, the Holy Spirit descended on the Lord as a dove to be a witness to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. The Spirit found a place to rest on Jesus. God is looking for a place for His Spirit with people today, but just as in the days of the dove and the flood, He can find nowhere to land. Listen to the privilege we can have from Jesus in **John 14:17** (NKJV):

¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

When Noah sent the raven from the ark, the carnivore was delighted, finding all the decaying flesh it could eat. There was no reason to return to the ark, moving from one floating carcass to the next. The dove was different. When the waters receded, the gentle bird brought an olive branch to Noah, and he knew the time was near to leave the ark and occupy a newly transformed world.

We realize we have a corrupt world where men do not think of God but devise evil schemes daily. People in power kill and control people at their every whim, and the people go along to get along. These power mongers are responsible for aborting babies, mutilating children, introducing the vilest of evils, and enhancing the worship of wickedness. There is no place for God's dove in this environment. Instead, the black raven lives unrestrained on the decaying lives of men and women.

Evil has invaded every area of our culture, from the schoolhouse to the White House to the church house. I recently read that the FBI is infiltrating churches. Why not? Churches, especially those with a biblical worldview, represent God to their communities, and HE is the great enemy of their wicked Marxist plans.

Many Christian Americans are unconcerned about having God's Spirit in their lives. They are content with shallow "fast food" from church services that lack nutritional value.

The Founders understood our need for the Holy Spirit to find His place in our lives. In the Tuesday section of his Prayer-book, **George Washington** wrote:

And O kind Father continue Thy mercy and favor to me this day, and ever hereafter; prosper all my lawful undertakings; let me have all my directions from Thy Holy Spirit, and success from Thy bountiful hand. Let the bright beams of Thy light so shine into my heart, and enlighten my mind in understanding Thy blessed Word, that I may be enabled to perform Thy will in all things, and effectually resist all temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil.

God removes the corruption from our lives through the blood of Christ and prepares a clean place for His Spirit in our hearts. David described this in **Psalm 51:10** (NKJV) when he said, "**Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**" The raven wants to "steal, kill, and destroy," but the Holy Spirit wants to bear His fruit in us. What a privilege for the Spirit of God to take His place in our hearts and impact us for the pure and holy.

Keep The Light of the Spirit's Place in Our Lives Burning!

GodNAmerica.com

GodNAmerica@gmail.com

405.361.3123