

## ICHABOD

### THE GLORY IS DEPARTED

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*(Message given March 10, 1991)*

1Sam 4:21 *“And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.”*

Judgment will linger for a while. Injustice will seem to prevail. Sin might look powerful and unconquerable, but sooner or later, the jaws of judgment will close, and men and devils will be unable to stop the hand of God. *Eli* was a Levite and the high priest of Israel. There was no sin recorded in his life, except the sin of honoring his sons above the honor that he gave to God. His sons were running wild in the temple, committing heinous atrocities against God, and actually turning the house of God into a brothel. He had been warned by a man of God with a direct word from the Lord, and yet he did nothing about it. The word was direct and specific; it did not leave anything to the imagination. It spoke directly of the Covenant that God had with the whole household of the tribe of Levi and the immediate household of *Eli*.

1Sam 2:31-33 *“Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father’s house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house. And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever. And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.”*

It is difficult to conceive of, that a priest of God who knows the voice of God, could receive such a sure warning and then knowing in his heart that he is hearing the voice of God Almighty, that he would not take heed.

Eli was like a sitting duck waiting for judgment. It would be inconceivable to believe if we were not at this very moment looking at the same condition persisting in the present-day Church.

Eli sat there on top of this powder keg of God's judgment. This must have continued over twelve years, since the child Samuel, which God had now given to the priesthood through the faithfulness of Hannah, was now about twelve years old. Samuel, the child, then became the next messenger to Eli.

It should be noted here that God never sends a message to us when it is too late to be saved. When the message comes, there is ample time for deliverance.

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Samuel, the child, heard the voice of God for the first time, and he thought that it was Eli calling him. After the third time, Eli told him to answer, "*Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.*" When he did this, then the Lord told Samuel the same message to Eli that He had given the man of God many years before. In the morning, Samuel was afraid to tell Eli this message, but Eli forced him to do so, and he did. The amazing answer of Eli is exactly the answer that the men of God of today are giving. Surely history does repeat itself:

1Sam 3:18b "*...It is the Lord: Let Him do what seemeth him good.*"

Amazing! Presumptuous! In effect, he was saying, "Do your worst, God, you can only kill me, for I will not do what you want, which is to put my sons before Israel for judgment." This would have turned back the wrath of God and saved not only his family but all of Israel. Eli had come to a point where he was insensitive to his responsibilities to the people of God and was willing to allow judgment to strike all of Israel, even though it was mainly because of his sin. Sin anesthetizes its victims before it kills them.

Man's stupidity in dealing with matters of God is a constant source of amazement. In 1 Samuel 4 we read of Israel going out to war against the Philistines during the days of Eli. In spite of the knowledge of God's displeasure with Israel, their armies went out to fight against the Philistines, and they expected God, the Holy God (Whose Word is immutable), to be with them. They were beaten by the Philistines, and four thousand were slain.

This was only a warning. At this point, was there not a man in the camp who could see that God was not with them, and punish *Hophni* and

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*Phinehas* (the two sons of Eli) for their sins in the temple, and turn back the wrath of God then and there? No! They still expected God to be with them. Someone, among all those thousands of men, should have known that God CANNOT go with us when there is sin in the camp.

**GOD CANNOT GO WITH US WHEN THERE IS SIN IN THE CAMP.**

They were offering their sacrifices, and God apparently was accepting their sacrifices, but He had said clearly (in 1 Samuel 3:14) that no sacrifice will ever clear the transgression of the house of Eli. Other transgressions were being cleared, but not the transgression of Hophni and Phinehas. They had turned the house of God into a harlot's house. Because God's judgment had tarried so long (year after year after year, from even before Samuel was born) Israel had lapsed into accepting this situation, and then into following their example. This thing had become popular and fashionable, and the root was corrupt, so all the branches were being corrupted. The judgment of God had to fall, therefore, upon the whole tree, root, and branch—the whole of Israel.

Israel lost the first battle with the Philistines, so they told themselves that the reason they lost was because they did not have the Ark of the Covenant with them. They sent to Shiloh for the Ark. Eli should have seen the hand of God's judgment, but he did not, and if he did, as I suspect, then he did not care. He was so complacent that he even sent the Ark with his two transgressing sons to the battle front. When Israel saw the Ark of God, they shouted for joy—"Surely the presence of God is with us; now we will win!"

My beloved readers, IF GOD COMES IN OUR CAMP WHILE WE ARE IN SIN, THEN WE ARE DEAD MEN. God is not against people—He is against sin, and sin among the Christians is worse in His sight than sin among sinners. The worst thing a sinning church could have is the presence of the Lord in their midst. This is the word of the Lord:

*Ex 23:20-21 "BEHOLD, I SEND AN ANGEL BEFORE THEE, TO KEEP THEE IN THE WAY, AND TO BRING THEE INTO THE PLACE WHICH I HAVE PREPARED. BEWARE OF HIM, AND OBEY HIS VOICE, PROVOKE HIM NOT; FOR HE WILL NOT PARDON YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS: FOR MY NAME IS IN HIM."*

We all know the story of what happened to Israel under Moses in the wilderness; how they transgressed against God time after time, and how God's presence in their midst destroyed them all with the exception of Caleb and Joshua.

Now in the time of Eli the priest, the Ark of the Covenant was brought by sinful Israel as a defense against the sinful Philistines. God had to choose between two sinful armies—He chose the Philistines, and that day the armies of Israel were routed before them; Eli’s two sons (*Hophni* and *Phinehas*) were slain; and the Ark of God was taken.

When the news got to Eli, he fell backwards from his perch at the gate and broke his neck. *Phinehas*’ wife, who was pregnant, bowed down and had a premature birth, and scripture says that she died and that in her dying moments:

1Sam 4:21 “...*she named the child ICHABOD* (‘no glory’), *saying, THE GLORY IS DEPARTED FROM ISRAEL...*”

2Pet 2:4 “*For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*”

5 “*And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*”

6 “*And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*”

7 “*And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked...*”

Too often, we misunderstand God’s longsuffering, thinking it is slackness. The judgment of God has been upon us in a measure and we have not perceived it, and it is now about to fall upon us in even a greater measure. Maybe we will take heed when the judgment is strong upon us.

*ICHABOD* is written all over the doorposts of our institutions and upon the plans and schemes of our evangelistic efforts. The very gifts of the Spirit, which were designed of God to lift the Church, are used for fund raising and kingdom building. The wrath of God cannot tarry long against a people gone mad in their imaginations to commit evil, and blind in their complacency.

In the fourth chapter of Daniel, *King Nebuchadnezzar* and the whole Kingdom of Babylon had come to a point in time when judgment was ripe. God warned them by various means, but it seemed to no avail. He had received a dream which Daniel interpreted, but that did not stop him from going the extra mile, which would bring him to the threshold of God’s

judgment. One day, he crossed over. Exactly twelve months after the interpretation of the dream, Nebuchadnezzar, being lifted up in pride, spoke the words that “broke the camel’s back”:

Dan 4:30 *“Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?”*

31 *“While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.”*

32 *“And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”*

This sign, which occurred in Babylon over 2500 years ago, is today part of the *Ichabod* that is upon us. The spirit of pride and arrogance has built itself an *“image of jealousy”* (Ez 8:3,5) in the doorway of our hearts, so that God might go far away from His temple. The judgment, therefore, is that people who are supposed to be good Christians are submitting to other spirits, and are slowly but surely losing out with God.

In the New Testament, much reference is made of the judgment of God upon the sins of the people of Israel under the law for rebellion, idolatry, witchcraft, disobedience, etc. The punishment, therefore, upon those who receive the blood of Jesus and the Holy Ghost in this time, will be much greater if they transgress after the same manner. There is a mixture in the Church at this time, which is greater than all the apostles had in their day. They indeed made reference to the peril of the *“last days,”* and spoke words like *“the mystery of iniquity”* (this is a subtle, undermining, destructive spirit operation which would try to engulf the Church in our time).

God smote Nebuchadnezzar with the heart of a beast in order to teach him godliness. He became a beast for seven years. He ate grass, he lived in the field, and we can assume that his other mannerisms changed to be beastlike, also. He lost interest in governing Babylon, and was only interested in the greenness of the grass, and the things that beasts count precious. A wedge of gold would mean nothing to him in this condition. He had lost all human qualities and interests. God gave him the heart of a *beast*. (Dan 5:21)

The basic difference between man and beast does not lie wholly in the anatomical difference. God gives every man a spirit to lead him back to God. God meets man, Spirit to spirit. Man has the capacity to contain

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good and evil, but God gives the power, through the Spirit, to choose good and refuse evil. When man is led by his soul (the mind, emotions, will, and desires) he is in the Adamic man, and will submit to other spirits. This Adamic nature (which is described in Ezekiel 1 as four *beasts*) must be changed in order to please God. Therefore, because man has a free-will choice, he can exercise his right to become a beast if he so desires; only, he has to reject the Spirit of God working in the spirit of the man, and accept the offices of other ministering spirits which minister death. If his desire is to preach, he will get a religious spirit that preaches. If his desire is to prophesy, he will get a religious spirit that prophesies.

The person who is deceived does not know that he is deceived. It takes the discernment of the Spirit to discover deception. It takes the Holy Spirit to discern the difference between the spirit of divination and the spirit of prophecy. God's two witnesses in the earth, the *Spirit* and the *Word*, will always agree.

*Mt 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*

*22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?"*

*23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

### **DIVINATION IN THE CHURCH**

The spirit of *divination* is a religious spirit that works under the cloak of deception. It poses as the Spirit of God in many instances, making vague and insinuating suggestions. In Ez 13:16-23, there is record of how it worked among the prophets of God in Israel. In the case of *Ahab*, four hundred prophets of God were taken by the spirit of divination by permission of the Lord (1Ki 22:6, 22). The result of the operation of this spirit will be the fruit of confusion, dissension and division.

*Ro 16:17 "Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."*

*18 "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."*

The spirit of prophecy must glorify God and edify the Church:

1Co 14:3 *“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”*

Prophecy in the Church, therefore, must be judged.

There is another scripture, which would be well for us to look into:

1Jn 4:1 *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

2 *“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:”*

3 *“And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”*

The story of Nebuchadnezzar had a good ending, because what God set out to teach him was learned by him:

Dan 4:37 *“Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”*

This was the last act of Nebuchadnezzar that was recorded in Daniel, but his son *Belshazzar* never seemed to have learned the lessons of his father. In Chapter 5, therefore, it is recorded that he took the holy vessels from the house of God and used them for drinking wine, as he praised the gods of gold and silver and brass and iron and stone.

The hand of God appeared and wrote on the wall. The astrologers with the spirit of divination could not read the writing. Daniel read it:

Dan 5:25 *“...MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN...”*

The interpretation:

Dan 5:26 *“...MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it.”*

27 *“Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.”*

28 *“Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and the Persians.”*

*Ichabod* was written on the kingdom and on the man himself.

Let us, for a moment, look at what caused him to receive such a harsh judgment from the Lord:

(1) Pride and arrogance. There is a lot of this among us, especially those of us who believe we are pastors, or instruments of God that cannot be wrong. The tendency is to say, “God speaks, whenever we speak.” Through pride and our imagination of “special favor” from God, we become despotic in our rulership. We do not see the Body of Christ—we only see our exalted position as ruler:

Pro 16:18 *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

(2) Belshazzar’s desecration of the holy vessels was a blatant act of arrogance. In their revelry and haughtiness of spirit, he forgot the lesson of his father, that *“the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men.”* God’s judgment was swift and terrible. That very night, he was cut off. There is a certain handwriting on the wall in this end time, wherein God is beckoning to us to respect His sovereignty.

In Jude there is this exhortation to the church:

Jude 1:3 *“...It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

4 *“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

19 *“These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.”*

(3.) The appearance of the hand is a type of a ministry, which speaks the word of the Lord concerning His judgments. Only the Spirit of the Lord can interpret the writing in our time, as it was in Daniel’s time.

(4) Three words were written on the wall. One was uttered twice: “Mene.” It was no known language. The astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers were men of learning from various parts of the ancient world, and they fairly well knew all the spoken languages. One thing they all agreed upon was that it was no known language, therefore, Daniel was called. I will make bold to say that God wrote what we call “*tongues*” on the wall of Belshazzar that day. It meant judgment. “*God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it*” is the message of ICHABOD, and it is being

written on the walls of the whole church system that refuses the Lordship of Christ:

2 Thes 2:10 *"...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."*

11 *"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."*

The worst part of this situation is that while man is reigning supreme upon the throne of his own heart and the hearts of God's sheep, he is shouting the loudest, "Jesus is Lord."

### **THE FALL OF MODERN BABYLON**

Re 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."*

When an airplane falls from the sky, the passengers do not have to fall individually one by one, but they all fall because they are in the plane. It is so, therefore, that some of the people in the fallen system do not even know it is fallen.

Let us look in this verse at what the Word says is the fall:

(a) She *"is become the habitation of devils"* (demons).

(b) *"The hold of every foul spirit."* Just as hell is described as the dwelling place of devils, so also is *Babylon*.

(c) *"A cage of every unclean and hateful bird."*

Before we attempt to describe the three conditions stated above, let us describe the word *"Babylon."* In the heart of God, this name embodies the epitome of all that is rebellious, satanic, and diabolical. In the ancient world, this word signified "The kingdom of *Baal*." *Baal* was *Nimrod*. *Nimrod* was the first *antichrist*, the first man to build a city contrary to God's order, and the first man to invent an army to fight against other humans.

In Revelation 17, God describes *Babylon* as a ecclesiastical system or a church. This means that God had once called this people out from the world to be His bride. In our time, this world church is more world than church, so Revelation 17:5 calls her *"THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS."* Many church organizations will tell you that this is the Roman Catholic Church, but upon closer scrutiny, one will easily discover that it includes all the churches which have man as their head instead of Jesus Christ.

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### **THE GREAT FALL**

(a) *THE HABITATION OF DEVILS.* The Church is supposed to be the habitation of God, and the Spirit of God should dwell in her, but there are things which men can do to drive the Spirit of God far away from His tabernacle.

Re 2:5 *“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”*

The candlestick, or *lampstand*, represents one of the seven churches, which comprise the whole Church in the earth. If God removes the *lampstand*, or the branch that holds the lamp, then that church will lose its mandate as a church, and will be nothing but another religious organization. This passage seems to be saying that it is therefore possible that a church can lose its mandate.

Christ is the *Head* of the Church, and leadership should be under Christ so that He remains sovereign. This is God’s divine order. The Church must always be reminded that Satan is always contending for the rulership of God’s people. This was his challenge to God, recorded in Isaiah:

Is 14:13 *“For thou hast said in thine heart, I WILL ascend into heaven, I WILL exalt my throne above the stars of God: I WILL sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:”*

14 *“I WILL ascend above the heights of the clouds; I WILL be like the most High.”*

Ps 48:2 *“Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”*

The people of God must always watch for that spirit that exalts itself above everyone.

There are many voices in the earth today, but one can always watch for the fruit to determine whether it be of God, self, or the devil. The Church in its present fallen state is having difficulty recognizing the Master’s voice. Jesus said, *“My sheep hear My voice...and follow me,”* therefore, we know that there are those who are hearing the voice of the *true Shepherd*, and who know it as being different from the voices of the shepherds who speak out of their own minds or follow other spirits.

### **NICOLAITANISM**

In Revelation 2, mention is made of the “*Nicolaitans*.” This is a word in the Greek derived from (“*nicos*” = rule; victory), and (“*laos*” = people). The word means “ruling over the people.” It is the revered teaching of the Church, but God says that it is a system and a doctrine that He hates. (Re 2:6, 15) In laying down the principles of the Church, God clearly states in Matthew 20:25-27 that there is no hierarchy in the kingdom of God:

Mt 20:25 “*But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.*”

26 “*BUT IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant);*”

27 “*And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant (slave).*”

This was occasioned when the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him, asking that her two sons be placed on His right and on His left.

The apostle Peter, exhorting the elders to feed the flock of God, thought it pertinent to remind them of the words of Jesus Christ; that they were not called to be “...*lords over God’s heritage,*” but examples to the flock. The Spirit of God knew that the time would come when men would own the people of God and exploit them.

1Pet 5:2 “*Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*”

3 “*Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*”

This answer is pertinent for us today. God’s good order is divine order, which means that the only people who should be over a congregation are those whom God has set over it. It also means that a man must be the head of his household, as Christ is the Head of the Church, and a man should love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. The woman should not be the head of the household, but a partner with her husband. If man is head of the Church, then the woman can be the head of the house (contrary to God’s divine order). The spirit of deception works very strongly in this area.

(b) *THE HOLD OF EVERY FOUL SPIRIT.* The spirits of lust, divination, Jezebel, Baalam, seduction, denominational divisions, and the like, find a

ready home in a church that recognizes another head beside Jesus Christ. The picture is mirrored in Ezekiel 8.

In the first verse the symbolism is strong:

Ez 8:1 *“And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.”*

Six is the number of man, and five is the number of the ministry. God was about to reveal *“the house to the house,”* man to man, the wickedness of the *elders* (ministry) of Israel.

In this eight Chapter in Ezekiel, God showed the prophet the *“north gate”* of the temple with the *“image of jealousy”* standing in the entry, which was the goddess of sex, Astarte (Aphrodite in Egypt). An image of lust was taking the place of God in their worship.

Verses 10-12 speak of the horrible abominations which were worshipped by Israel in the dark, *“in the chambers of their imagery (the soul).”*

The Church is purported to worship God, but in reality, the Lord said,

Jn 4:24 *“GOD IS A SPIRIT; AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM, MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.”*

He also said that some worship, *“Ye know not what.”* Could it be that the gods of the ancient world are still being worshipped secretly in the *“chambers of their imagery”* in the hearts of men who refuse to worship God *“in spirit and in truth”*? GOD DOES NOT ACCEPT WORSHIP WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES, EITHER TO RULE OR TO CONTROL.

The spirits that ruled Babylon are still present in the earth today, causing men to depart from the *“spirit and truth”* worship which God demands. Until the spirits that rule Babylon are overcome and cast out by the true saints of God, there will be this *“image of jealousy”* which provokes God to jealousy in the door of the temple.

Ez 8:14 *“Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD’S house which was toward the north: and, behold, there sat women WEEPING FOR TAMMUZ.”*

*Tammuz* is the name for the Babylonian god of sex. Forty days before the feast of *Ishtar* (what we now call “Lent”), the women would fast and afflict their souls and weep for the death of *Nimrod*, who is *Tammuz* in his role as a sex object. On the morning of the feast of *Ishtar* (Aphrodite in Egypt),

they would rush out with garlands and dancing, and enter into horrible sexual orgies, which was called “sacramental fornication.”

The Greek word translated Church is “*ekklesia*,” which means “called out” (Called out from the world). Unfortunately, the Church has not come out of the world, neither has the world come out of the Church. One writer aptly puts it: “The Church is so worldly, and the world is so churchy, that you can hardly tell the difference.” God has set a standard for the Church in holiness and righteousness:

1Jn 2:15 *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

16 *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”*

17 *“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”*

There is a distinct line drawn between the world and the Church in the light of being “*in the world but not of the world.*” Jesus, in His prayer said:

Jn 17:15 *“I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.”*

He was asking the Father not to take us out of the world, but to take the world out of us.

(c) *THE CAGE OF EVERY UNCLEAN AND HATEFUL BIRD.* In Leviticus 11, the scripture speaks of birds that are *unclean* and that should not be eaten. “Eating,” in scripture, means to become one with by fellowship. We see Jesus Christ quoting Leviticus 11, which explains its symbolic meaning:

Jn 6:54 *“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

Let us look at what is stated in Leviticus 11 concerning the eating of unclean birds:

Le 11:13 *“And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination.”*

Leviticus 11, from the 13th to the 23rd verse, describes four types of *fowls* that are *unclean* unto us. Birds in Scripture represent Christians, because they defy the law of gravity to rise above the earth and to fly. The symbolism of this to us in Christ means that in the first place, we must

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live above the world, by the Spirit; and in the other sense, the true followers of Christ cannot be one with those who are unclean. You will notice that these birds are divided into four categories.

- (1) Predators that feed on live prey (Verse 13).
- (2) Vultures and their kind—birds which eat carrion (Verses 14-15).
- (3) Birds of night that see in the dark but that cannot see in the light (Verse 17).
- (4) Birds that creep, going on all four (Verse 20).

**(1) PREDATORS:**

Let us remember that a part of the *Ichabod* that is written on the walls of our spiritual institutions are the evil birds that are caged up in them. Predators, therefore, represent those who followed Jesus for the “bread and fish,” but could not endure sound doctrine. Judas, one of the twelve, sold Him for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. Just as the hawk or the eagle plucks its prey on the wing, so does the predator find sustenance among Christians. There is a difference between the *shepherd* and the *hireling*. The hireling has a price and can be bought.

**(2) VULTURES:**

Vultures eat dead things. Teaching false doctrines, using music, psychology, beautiful edifices, and many attractive worldly programs in order to hold a congregation, falls under this category.

**(3) BIRDS OF NIGHT, WHICH SEE IN THE DARK, BUT CANNOT SEE IN THE LIGHT:**

The spirit of divination would fall under this category. This is a religious spirit, which will always be able to pinpoint wrong in others, and to accurately see the darker side of the future, and tell a lot of true things, but CANNOT SEE CHRIST. It cannot discern the doctrines of the Kingdom of God, and cannot discern the Body of Christ.

**(4) BIRDS THAT CREEP, GOING ON ALL FOUR:**

Birds should fly. A bird with token wings was not born to fly. The scripture says, “Do not eat,” which means, do not be one with such. This is a depiction of a type of Christian who cannot be spiritual, but dwells in the carnal realm (earth bound).

The Church must be “one,” but should not obtain oneness by compromise. For instance, the basic doctrine of Christianity is salvation by *the blood of Jesus Christ*. The first station in the tabernacle in the wilderness is the *brazen altar* in the *Outer Court*. This signifies that the first step into salvation is the quickening of the soul by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:1 “*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*”

It is *the blood of Jesus Christ* that makes us one, and no joining or organizing is going to do it. Ecumenism, therefore, will not and cannot produce oneness. Christ is the Head of the church.

### **HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?**

Ro 12:1 “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*”

2 “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”

It is not too late for the people of God to repent and turn from the world and its ways, and be transformed by the renewing of the mind to the will of God. This article is being sent out with a prayer that those who read might receive deliverance while it is still possible.

Re 18:4-5 “*AND I HEARD ANOTHER VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS, AND THAT YE RECEIVE NOT OF HER PLAGUES.*”

5 “*FOR HER SINS HAVE REACHED UNTO HEAVEN, AND GOD HATH REMEMBERED HER INIQUITIES.*”

*ICHABOD* being written on the church system is a long-time situation, but what is new is that it is coming to its fullness at this time. We cannot afford to sit by complacently, since God requires repentance of us. Someone will ask, “What am I to repent of?”

The answer is simple:

REPENT OF THE VERY GARMENTS SPOTTED WITH THE WORLD;  
 REPENT OF NOT WALKING IN THE WORD OF LIFE WHICH YOU HAVE  
 RECEIVED, FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT WALK IN THE TRUTH WHICH  
 THEY HAVE RECEIVED, WILL RECEIVE THE LIE WHEN IT COMES.

Not walking in the truth is tantamount to rejecting the truth. Remember, “*STRONG DELUSION*” must come to those who will not practice that which they have received (2 Thes 2:9-12).

May the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, richly bless this word to your hearts.

