

## **The Land's Not Ours**

‘A little boy was visiting friends who lived in the country. This was his first visit out of the city, and he was fascinated with how different life was on the farm. When it was time to gather eggs, the farmer invited the boy to go with him. The boy eagerly agreed. As the farmer began collecting the eggs, the boy watched for a while and finally asked, “Why do you have to come all the way out here to get eggs? Why don’t you just get them out of the refrigerator like my mom does?”’

You all laughed, right? You all do know where eggs come from? “The grocery store” you say? For any who might not yet know, eggs come out of the back end of living chickens, before they become fried chicken, or similar! We who actually grew up on farms distrust city folk, for most city slickers don’t know the real birds from the bees! Which is a big reason why the little boy visiting the farm sounds so like the young’uns rioting in the streets of many of our cities these days. They truly don’t know where anything comes from! Which is why, instead of “‘peaceful’ protestors”, “justice seekers”. “anti-racists” or “Black Lives Matter”, “anti-fascists” or “Antifa”, they’re really “spoiled brats”. You’ve seen the vast majority of these virtue-signaling youngsters (and some oldsters, too) are not Black but White. No matter their age,

they have the social maturity of children, in the so-called terrible twos and threes. They mostly operate on feelings and emotions, unable to understand facts and reality, living in a future make-believe world they're told by their leaders will arrive if they follow them. In a real sense, they're most to be pitied, and more importantly, prayed for, for they're searching for the meaning of life in all the wrong places, because they've been brainwashed by the devil to believe that all that is historic, traditional, good and Godly is abhorrent, oppressive, "racist" and "intolerant". When Lord Jesus answered the disciples that the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven are children, those with "childlike" faith, He was showing them a trusting child who was humble, obedient to parents and the ways of God, who knew whose authority he lived under and to Whom he relied on for his daily bread and life itself.

Now, if these "spoiled brats", most from wealthy families, actually were exiled to a real farm, in the middle of nowhere, with no vehicle, cut off from Schnucks and Amazon and internet connections, how many would actually survive? I surmise that a year or two living on a farm would teach many of them what life is really all about. Truly, all the unrest and upheaval being fermented by organized groups of marxist communists, who travel from city to city, gathering local "usual idiots" to carry on the banner of lawlessness and anarchy, would come to an end if the spoiled brats had to work to survive. No billionaires funneling millions transporting stockpiles of food, water, weapons to every city in which

some kind of alleged police brutality occurs, to support and sustain them, to pay for their plush hotel stays until it's time to move on to the next city, leaving another burned out, bombed out, ravaged, looted, and pillaged city behind them.

These “useful idiots” don’t realize that they neither own or are owed anything. For everything they think is theirs by right or theft, was never theirs to begin with. As Christians, we know “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him. For He laid the earth’s foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths” (Psalm 24:1-2). Father God first created the earth, this planet. He then created the cosmos, the vastness of empty space. He then gathered together the waters on this ball of water into separate places, creating dry land masses. He then planted new plants, trees, all kinds of vegetation. To sustain them, the next day of creation He filled the “firmament” of empty space with the innumerable stars and galaxies, and hung in place our sun and our moon. He then filled the earth’s waters with aquatic life and covered the dry land with animals and creeping things, both great and small. Finally, as the pinnacle of life on earth, He created Man, male and female He created them. The point is, God didn’t create the first thing in all creation, the earth, to be a decorative centerpiece on His heavenly coffee table! No, He made it first, and then fashioned an entire universe around it of incomprehensible beauty and majesty to reflect in microcosm the minutest part of His infinite glory. But it was pointless without

putting life created in His very image to populate the earth, and steward His magnificent planet teeming with blessed life.

So from the get go, we should know that absolutely nothing belongs to us. Not even our own lives. Everything we supposedly “have”, is on loan to us. As Job said in 1:21, “I came naked from my mother’s womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!”. Not just our stuff, but the very ground on which we live. The land on which we walk and live exists to keep us alive. The land belongs to us as much as the air and the oceans and space’s vastness belong to us. It doesn’t!

God teaches us in His directives to the Promised Land. In Ezekiel 36:28-30, we read: “And you will live in Israel, the land I gave your ancestors long ago. You will be My people, and I will be your God. I will cleanse you of your filthy behavior. I will give you good crops of grain, and I will send no more famines on the land. I will give you great harvests from your fruit trees and fields, and never again will the surrounding nations be able to scoff at your land for its famines”. Earlier, in verses 8-12, God speaks directly to the Promised Land’s mountains and hills: “the mountains of Israel will produce heavy crops of fruit for My people—for they will be coming home again soon! See, I care about you, and I will pay attention to you. Your ground will be plowed and your crops planted. I will greatly increase the population of Israel, and the ruined cities will be rebuilt and filled with people. I will increase not

only the people, but also your animals. O mountains of Israel, I will bring people to live on you once again. I will make you even more prosperous than you were before. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I will cause My people to walk on you once again, and you will be their territory”.

Ezekiel is a prophet and his entire book is prophetic. And it's coming true before our eyes. Have you been paying attention? The people of Israel are coming back to the Land. It's called “aliyah”, the return of Jews from all over the world back to The Beautiful Land. In 1867, our own Mark Twain vividly described it in his best-seller *Innocents Abroad*: “Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince. The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent”. But what then was sorrowful, barren and fruitless, is now filling up with more and more Jews and the Land, the Mountains, the Valleys, are happily blossoming, producing fruit to sustain the lives of God's people who've returned. The pesky China virus has even accelerated the pace of “aliyah”. Despite most air travel being curtailed, flights bringing Jews from the Diaspora have been landing in Israel one after the other, as the Chosen People seek refuge in their God-given Land. Thanks to your generosity, I saw this first hand two years ago, eating the fruit of apple orchards, just picked off the trees by our tour guides, as we road in our

bouncy, bumpy all-terrain jeeps near the Golan Heights. I heard singing echoing off the Tel Aviv airport walls of both Christians and Jews who had just deplaned as they expressed their joy of coming Home! For God has deeded this Land to His People, both the Jews and us grafted-in spiritual descendants of Abraham.

For this all applies to the One New Mankind. Deuteronomy 32:8 reports: “When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when He divided up the human race, He established the boundaries of the peoples”. Indeed, our inheritance as Americans is this land from “sea to shining sea”, but only on loan, not to deal with as we please. The Promised Land is not for Israel, the United States, the United Nations, or anyone else to do with as they please. Least of all the Palestinians, some descendants of the ancient Edomites who lived south of Dead Sea, in what is now Jordan. They coveted the highlands of Israel and Judah, and though briefly in history took over those lands as God punished His people with deportation for their unconscionable sins, the Land was never at peace again until its own People lived upon it.

So it is with us, in this land. It’s not ours, it’s the Lord’s. He has deeded it to us to care for, to be its salt and its light. Darkness has come to many of our cities. It’s our duty to pray it back with both our words and actions. Pray back the darkness. Pray back the curtains, that the Light of Christ may flood in once again as never before! For it will be ours by His right when Christ Jesus returns in majesty to rule and reign for a thousand years!

