

# HOUSES



Every living creature has been given a home by God according to its needs. Nests, burrows, dens, waterways and buildings are just a few of the shelters that God provides for the needs of His creation.

Houses protect us from the weather and give us a comfortable place to rest. Houses also protect us from those who would do us harm.

What can we learn from God's creation of houses?

We are comfortable in our houses even if they are not fancy. We are protected from the weather and from harmful people. Jesus, however, gave up His home in heaven to come to live on earth. Jesus did not have anyplace but heaven to call home. When Jesus was on earth, He had no home and no protection from harm at all. Jesus tells us this in Matthew 8:20 when He says, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." Jesus did not come to earth as the God He is so that He could be worshipped. Jesus came to earth so that He could earn the forgiveness of our sins and provide a home with Him in heaven for all eternity. Jesus never put His hopes on anything in the world but always focused His thoughts on heaven. Jesus was setting an example for us to follow.

Houses are used in the Bible as word pictures to teach us lessons in Godly ways. When Jesus came to the Temple in Jerusalem He was angry at the way some people used religion to hurt others. They turned the Temple (Church) into a marketplace instead of a place of worship. In John 2:16 we see Jesus scolding these people when He says, "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" In Matthew 21:13 Jesus scolds these people with the words, "My house will be called a house of prayer but you are making it a den of robbers." God wanted His house (church) to be a place where people could be safe and learn of His great love. This is a lesson about our Christian faith also. When we hurt others it makes them think that our faith in Jesus is wrong. We should act in a loving way toward others so that they will see that our faith in Jesus is a good thing and want to learn more about Jesus.

The Bible uses houses to give us a hopeful picture of eternal life in heaven with Jesus. In John 14:2-3 Jesus talks about our heavenly home when He says, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it

were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." What a wonderful picture of heaven this is! We will live in a wonderful home with Jesus forever! In heaven we will live in a place where we will never be afraid or hungry again as the Bible teaches us in Psalm 36:7-8, "How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights." Psalm 23:6 gives us the beautiful picture of eternal life when it says, "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

God provides us with a home on earth so that we can be comfortable and safe now and have an idea of the wonderful home waiting for us in heaven. With so much to look forward to, we should rejoice in our Savior Jesus and live the way the Bible teaches

us in Joshua 24:15, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

