

Atmospheres, Environments and Ecosystems

Write down three words...

Atmospheres:

- the envelope of gases surrounding the earth or another planet
- the pervading tone or mood of a place.

Environment:

- the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.

Ecosystem:

- a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Leviticus 14: 33-57 - The Law Concerning Contaminated Houses

³³ And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: ³⁴ “When you have come into the land of Canaan, which I give you as a possession, and I put the leprous plague in a house in the land of your possession, ³⁵ and he who owns the house comes and tells the priest, saying, ‘It seems to me that *there is* some plague in the house,’ ³⁶ then the priest shall command that they empty the house, before the priest goes *into it* to examine the plague, that all that *is* in the house may not be made unclean; and afterward the priest shall go in to examine the house. ³⁷ And he shall examine the plague; and indeed *if* the plague *is* on the walls of the house with ingrained streaks, greenish or reddish, which appear to be deep in the wall, ³⁸ then the priest shall go out of the house, to the door of the house, and shut up the house seven days. ³⁹ And the priest shall come again on the seventh day and look; and indeed *if* the plague has spread on the walls of the house, ⁴⁰ then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which *is* the plague, and they shall cast them into an unclean place outside the city. ⁴¹ And he shall cause the house to be scraped inside, all around, and the dust that they scrape off they shall pour out in an unclean place outside the city. ⁴² Then they shall take other stones and put *them* in the place of *those* stones, and he shall take other mortar and plaster the house.

⁴³ “Now if the plague comes back and breaks out in the house, after he has taken away the stones, after he has scraped the house, and after it is plastered, ⁴⁴ then the priest shall come and look; and indeed *if* the plague has spread in the house, it *is* an active leprosy in the house. It *is* unclean. ⁴⁵ And he shall break down the house, its stones, its timber, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall carry *them* outside the city to an unclean place. ⁴⁶ Moreover he who goes into the house at all while it is shut up shall be unclean until evening. ⁴⁷ And he who lies down in the house shall wash his clothes, and he who eats in the house shall wash his clothes.

⁴⁸ “But if the priest comes in and examines *it*, and indeed the plague has not spread in the house after the house was plastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the plague is healed. ⁴⁹ And he shall take, to cleanse the house, two birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. ⁵⁰ Then he shall kill one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water; ⁵¹ and he shall take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet, and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times. ⁵² And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird and the running water and the living bird, with the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet. ⁵³ Then he shall let the living bird loose outside the city in the open field, and make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean.

⁵⁴ “This *is* the law for any leprous sore and scale, ⁵⁵ for the leprosy of a garment and of a house, ⁵⁶ for a swelling and a scab and a bright spot, ⁵⁷ to teach when *it is* unclean and when *it is* clean. This *is* the law of leprosy.”

- Before God brought the children of Israel into the “promised land” he gave a specific instruction.
- **Deuteronomy 6:10-15** - ¹⁰ “So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, ¹¹ **houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig**, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—¹² *then* beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ¹³ You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. ¹⁴ **You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you** ¹⁵ (for the Lord your God *is* a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.
- The people would fashion idols as worship to their false Gods and put them in the walls of their cities and houses.
- God knew that this would **spiritually contaminate** certain houses.

1. Atmosphere is important

- 1st thing God created
- **Jesus in Nazareth**
 - **Mark 6:4-6** - But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” ⁵ **Now He could do no mighty work there**, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. ⁶ **And He marveled because of their unbelief**. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.
- **Jairus Daughter**

- **Mark 5:35-40** - While He was still speaking, *some* came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house* who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." ³⁷And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, **and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly.** ³⁹**When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."** ⁴⁰**And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside,** He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying.
- **Blind Man in Bethesda**
 - **Mark 8: 22-25** - ²²Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. ²³**So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town.** And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. ²⁴And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." ²⁵Then He put *His* hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. ²⁶Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "**Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town.**"
- **Blessing Houses**
 - **Luke 10:3-11** - Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. ⁵But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶**And if a son of peace is there,** your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. **Do not go from house to house.** ⁸Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. ⁹**And heal the sick there,** and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.'

2. Atmosphere attracts spirits

- Atmospheres create environments and environments create ecosystems
- Example Babylon and Greece in the book of Daniel
- Man of Gadara – living in the tombs among the dead filled with demons
- Mark 3 – Man with the withered hand in the synagogue
- **James 3:16** - For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

One of the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit is "the discerning of spirits"