

# Collect the Critters

## Doves

Part 1 – November 24, 2013



You alive? Or, you just livin'? 'Cause, **livin' is temporary, but alive is forever.** That's what the Dove says. So, you in the game? 'Cause, **if you're not in the game, you're just livin'.** That's what the Dove says!

Wow! Lots of you have been playin' like crazy this week! Just being the church! Encouraging each other in God's Word! [www.hpWordPlay.com](http://www.hpWordPlay.com) was on fire! So many of you posting great thoughts and ideas! Did you get your verses and go dove hunting? I had an epic week! I discovered a book in the Bible called: Dove!



The word 'pit bull' makes us feel differently than 'poodle'. And, hunting down the doves in God's Word gives us a grasp of what the Jews would've felt, and thought, watching or hearing about the dove that descended landed on Jesus.



Why would the Holy Spirit appear as a dove? John the Baptist said Jesus came to baptize us in the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:8) But, why a dove? What's it mean? What does the dove say? Doves symbolize many things, like peace and purity and gentleness ... but, **did the Spirit descend, as a dove, to testify about itself, or about the One on whom it landed?** Jesus later says ...



"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things ... he will testify about me. ... He will not speak on his own ... He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." – John 14:26a; 15:26b; 16:13b, 14 NIV



I think the Spirit descended, as a dove, as a sign. **Jesus is the Spotless Lamb; but, did you know He's the Spotless Dove (or Pigeon)?** Pigeon and dove are interchangeable, synonymous terms.<sup>1</sup> We focus on the sacrificial lamb. But, the Law<sup>2</sup> allowed those who couldn't afford a lamb, most likely a majority of Jews, to substitute two doves as a sin offering and a burnt offering.

<sup>1</sup> **American Dove Association:** "The term 'dove' and 'pigeon' are one and the same and are used interchangeably. The word pigeon usually denotes a larger bird and dove a smaller bird." [www.doveline.com/html/dove-information](http://www.doveline.com/html/dove-information)

<sup>2</sup> "If he cannot afford a lamb, he is to bring two doves or two young pigeons to the Lord as a penalty for his sin—one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering." – Leviticus 5:7 NIV

Even Mary and Joseph, presenting baby Jesus at the Temple, couldn't pay the price of the lamb; (Luke 2:24) but then, put that way who could? **Jesus is the true and better Dove; He's the ultimate substitute sacrifice who takes away our sin and makes us eternally alive ... as opposed to just livin' ... that's what the Dove says.**

The image of a dove as a substitute sacrifice was incredibly common, deeply engrained, and big business! Remember when ...



Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. – Matthew 21:12b NIV

Why their benches instead of their tables? He wasn't about to harm those poor, senseless doves. They reminded Him of us!

Israel's arrogance testifies against him ... Ephraim **[Israel]** is like a dove, **easily deceived and senseless** ... – Hosea 7:10-11a NIV



Tell me if that doesn't sound like us! **Doves continually put themselves in harm's way.** Doves feed off the ground. Predator comes, takes one out, the rest fly off only to almost immediately return to feed in the very same spot!



**Doves are oblivious to the dangers around them.** "That cat'll never come back ... I'll bet." **They build in the worst places.** And **they're horrible homemakers; did you know Doves have dysfunctional nests!**

Game Bird Gazette says **doves generally prefer nesting in more exposed areas, making them easy prey.** But, **the really senseless doves (even by their standard) have no homing instinct.**



**I could use a renewed homing instinct.** Thankfully, God also said ...

I will not come in wrath. **[Ephraim/Israel]** will follow the Lord ... like doves from Assyria. I will settle them in their homes," declares the Lord. – Hosea 11:9-11 NIV

This isn't our home! The lights aren't even on!

We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead. We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. – Isaiah 59:9b-11a NIV

This is what Jesus willingly descended into, dove into (spelled dove), our mournful darkness: a blind world of shuteye and shadow, men of mist and vapor deceived into thinking that this is the life.



[So, on the cross, He took on our sorrows and suffering]

... I moaned like a mourning dove. My eyes grew weak as I looked to the heavens. I am troubled; O Lord, come to my aid!" – Isaiah 38:14b NIV

His eyes grew weak. Curious. **Why did Jesus need to be filled with His own Spirit?** To see! Isaiah (11:2-3) says, "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him," and "He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes." He became like us. (Heb 2:17)



When 12-year-old Jesus went to the Temple, His own Spirit was dwelling behind the veil, in the Holy of Holies, where even He wasn't allowed to enter! In Solomon's love song, He says of her ...

Your eyes behind your veil are doves. – Song of Songs 4:1a NIV [And, she later replies ...] His eyes are like doves by the water streams – Song of Songs 5:12a NIV



There came a day when the Dove flew the coup, departed from the Temple, descended at the Jordan, and transferred into Jesus.

Just as Noah's dove was the first creature to set foot on solid ground. As the water recedes from Jesus, **the dove is the first to find rest on the Rock.** He's our home. That's what the Dove says. Most didn't hear, didn't fear, didn't care. Senseless Doves.

[Jesus said] A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." – Matthew 16:4a NIV



[What's the sign of Jonah? Jesus said]

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." – Matthew 12:40 NIV

But, it's far more than that. Because, **the Hebrew word for dove, is Jonah!** (Strong's H3123 - Yownah) **Jonah's name was "Dove".** The book of the Bible we know as, "Jonah", was known to the Jews as: "Dove"

**The Dove, at Jesus' baptism, speaks of the One who baptizes in His Holy Spirit and brings the senseless truly to life!** That's what the Dove said to every Jew, who saw the sign of Jonah descend from the sky and land on the Fisher of Men.

[Jesus said] The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, [i.e. the Dove] and now one greater than Jonah [i.e. the Dove] is here. – Matthew 12:41 NIV

**Jonah was at the mercy of the great fish God appointed.** (Jonah 1:17) **Jesus is the fish! No one takes His life; He lays it down.** (John 10:18)

**He's come, as the ultimate Jonah/Dove to be consumed for our sake.** This is the great reveal that all the doves were building to!

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. – Isaiah 60:1-2 NIV



There used to be a wrecking yard on this corner. We moved here when I was two. I grew up collecting dead bugs under a fiery orange neon sign on the second story. You can see it in the picture. Years ago, I found it in an attic, broken, and took it to be repaired. The man said, "Let's see if there's any life in it." And then, he did the most amazing thing. He held an electric wand just over the glass, and a section of my childhood buzzed and flickered to life!



**This sign is just like us: invisible vapor in a glass tube.** Paul calls us, "jars of clay". (2 Cor 4:7) Same difference. Looks like nothing's in there. We're dead in our sin. Cut off. Disconnected. No power. Nothing.

This wand is like Jesus. And, when you invite Him into your heart, this is what it means to be baptized in His Holy Spirit.

"Wrecking and used parts." That's us. **We're just empty jars of clay, animated temporarily by the power of God's Holy Spirit.** So, use your time wisely. **Don't be senseless.** This isn't your home. Don't be oblivious to the obvious. **Every glass tube is going to break, the vapor will dissipate.** If we reject Jesus, He submits to our will. I'm out. **That's the power the enemy: not light. Not just the absence of power, but the absolute unavailability of it as well.** Jesus comes near: neon! Away: ne-off! The choice is yours.

Now, everything I've said is true ... except for this wand. I couldn't find that tool! So, Ken's just flipping a switch. This is just a toilet brush that I wrapped in gaffer's tape. We're so easily deceived. But, just as I revealed my deception, **Jesus has revealed the enemy's toilet brush trickery. He's made us aware of the devil's schemes; so, you're no longer senseless.**

**We're given the power to be sly as serpents, yet gentle as Doves.** (Mat 10:16) **So that, when our glass is broken, our form will remain. And we will shine the light of His love forever more!**